

Appendix One

Expert Members comments for the report to the Health and Wellbeing Board

Being involved in the Learning Disability Partnership Board

We are pleased that we are able to have our say at the Board and the Sub-groups. Sometimes in the past it has not always been easy for us to get our voice heard. However, there have been some changes made and we now get the information we need to be able to prepare better for meetings. This means that we are more able to speak up about particular issues that affect us.

We are pleased that the Living Well Sub-group has started. This affects how the majority of people with learning disabilities spend their days. It is important that we have the chance to influence this. The challenge now is to make sure the group runs effectively.

Easy Read and accessibility

It is good that the Council is now trying to make sure that all documents that come to people with learning disabilities are written in a way that we can understand. We are pleased that other documents are also being put into easy read. This means we are better able to have our say about issues.

We are still worried about the decision to use on-line assessments. We hope that the pledges made at our Parliament about Future Lives and the internet are fulfilled properly.

We need assurance that in the drive to use the internet for more and more things that people with learning disabilities do not get left out. We need training on using the internet, but also commitment that other ways to communicate can still be used.

We understand that things need to change and we may not always like what is happening. But it is really important we are properly included in discussions about changes. The move for people to buy services from providers instead of the Council is a big change for many people. We need the same information

about this as our families get, after all it is us that use the services and not our carers.

Another worry for us is that our new Personal Budgets may not be enough to give us the amount to services we need. This will mean we end up with not as much choice as we would like.

Draft Commissioning Strategy

It is very good that the Commissioning Strategy has been written and in a way that we can understand. It sets clear plans for the next three years. It will help the Learning Disability Partnership Board and its sub-groups become more effective.

We want you to make sure that we will continue to be able to have the chance to influence decisions. It is often harder to consult with people with learning disabilities, but our voice needs to be heard in our right, not just through our families.

The commitment made by the Health and Social Care to fund work such as our Health Checkers / Locked Hospital Projects and the People's Parliament is very positive. In different ways, both projects have been able to hold decision makers to account. One of our Health Checkers said, "It is important that we highlight things that the health services aren't doing so well as we can help make it better for people with learning disabilities."

The Principles laid out in the Strategy are excellent. The challenge will be to make sure that they happen in these difficult times, but also that are done in partnership with people with learning disabilities and their families.