

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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JOINT ADULT LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2019 - 2024

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Summary

The Medway Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019 - 2024, developed by Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, brings national and local legislation together and ensures that the needs of people with learning disabilities sit at the heart of all we do in addressing inequalities and improving outcomes. The pandemic has resulted in many changes across the workforce therefore a review is required to ensure the Strategy and its actions remain relevant. The review will also consider proposals from Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group for a new All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy.

1. Budget and policy framework

- 1.1. In 2001 The Department of Health's white paper 'Valuing People'¹, set-out guidance on the future expectations of services in communities for people with learning disabilities. Further legislation and guidelines including Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 2007, Equality Act 2010 and Nice Guidelines NG11 (2015), NG54 (2016), QS142 (2017), NG96 (2018), NG93 (2018)) have to date driven the agenda forward.
- 1.2. The Care Act 2014² sets out a range of statutory duties for Local Authorities, including a number related to the prevention agenda. It requires all Local Authorities to, work in partnership to provide, or arrange services, facilities, resources, or take other steps, towards preventing, delaying or reducing the development of need for care and support. These statutory duties include people with learning disabilities.

¹ Valuing People: A New Strategy for Learning Disability for the 21st Century:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/valuing-people-a-new-strategy-for-learning-disability-for-the-21st-century>

² The Care Act 2014: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

- 1.3. The national plan, Building the Right Support (2015)³ also gives a framework within which local community services for people with learning disabilities are to be developed and the reliance on secure inpatient hospital is to be reduced.
- 1.4. The NHS long Term Plan (2019)⁴ sets out specific actions that the local health and social care economy must address to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

2. Background

- 2.1. Medway Council and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (now Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group after merging in April 2020) worked together to develop the 'Medway Adult Joint Learning Disability Strategy 2019 - 2024'. Its aim was to bring together all key relevant statutory and partner organisations within Medway to address inequalities and ensure person-centred accessible services are available for residents.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1. The pandemic has prompted a review of the Strategy to establish if it requires amendments to ensure it is still fit for purpose.
- 3.2. The review of the Strategy will also take into consideration the work of Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group who are developing proposals for a Kent and Medway 'All Age Learning Disability & Autism Strategy'. A senior level steering group has been set up to develop the all age strategy and includes representation from Medway Council.
- 3.3. Work is ongoing to establish how the existing Adult Learning Disability Strategy will link in with proposals for a new all age strategy. This work will need to establish if the existing adult strategy is still needed in its current form.
- 3.4. It is proposed that a full update be presented to the Board in November 2021.

4. Risk management

4.1. Table of risk and mitigation:

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
The adult learning disability strategy requires review.	The pandemic has changed working practices and job roles which may mean the current strategy requires amendments to ensure it delivers the agreed outcomes.	Review the strategy and action list to ensure it is still relevant.

³ Building the Right Support 2015: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ld-nat-imp-plan-oct15.pdf>

⁴ NHS Long Term Plan: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-term-plan/>

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Potential existence of two strategies covering adult learning disability.	Two strategies covering adult learning disability would need to be aligned to ensure consistency.	Work with Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure strategies are aligned or to agree that the new all age strategy will supersede the existing strategy.

5. Financial implications

5.1. There are no financial implications for Medway Council arising directly from this report.

6. Legal implications

6.1. The Care Act 2014 sets out a range of statutory duties for Local Authorities, including a number related to the prevention agenda. It requires all Local Authorities to, “work in partnership to provide, or arrange services, facilities, resources, or take other steps, towards preventing, delaying or reducing the development of needs for care and support”.

6.2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out the legal duties of the Department of Health, Public Health, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS bodies to reduce health inequalities. As such it requires local health and social care bodies to action to address health inequalities.

6.3. The Equality Act 2010 sets out the equality duties for all public sector bodies to integrate the advancement of equality into day to day business. The Act protects people with protected characteristics including those with disabilities from discrimination in the workplace and wider society.

7. Recommendations

7.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note this report and agree that a full update be presented to the Board on 18 November 2021.

Lead officer contact

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Appendices

None

Background papers

[Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019-2024](#)

[Briefing to Members \(following HASC January 2021\), Kent and Medway CCG proposal for a new All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy](#)