

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

18 NOVEMBER 2021

UPDATE ON KENT AND MEDWAY ALL AGE LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM STRATEGY

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Summary

This report provides an update on current progress of the Kent and Medway 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.
- 1.3. 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 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>

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

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. 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.

2.2. This was welcomed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2021. An all-age approach to supporting individuals with learning disabilities and autism was also welcomed, particularly as it renewed focus on the transition from child to adult.

2.3. A briefing paper was submitted to Health and Wellbeing Board Members in August 2021 updating them on progress. This included:

- The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi) had been commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group to help find out what people's priorities are for a good life and to understand what helps or prevents people achieving good outcomes.
- A Kent and Medway steering group was set up to provide leadership and oversight of the project. Medway Council commissioners attend these meetings.
- NDTi were meeting with stakeholders including Medway Council commissioners and adult social care staff to understand current services.
- NDTi would continue with engagement activities until Autumn 2021. A report on findings would then be shared.

2.4. The Health and Wellbeing Board requested that a full update report be submitted in November 2021.

3. Progress update October 2021

3.1. NDTi have completed the engagement phase.

3.2. NDTi connected with 91 people with a range of perspectives, settings and roles. 33 people were from Medway and 42 people from Kent. 16 people described themselves as both Kent and Medway as they currently work in both areas or have lived in both areas.

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

Table 1: People who participated in engagement with NDTi

Roles/ views	Numbers	Kent	Medway	Both	Age groups
Autistic people- individual interviews	4	2	1	1	Adults
People with learning disabilities- individual and groups	12	7	5	-	YP and Adults
Mixed LD/ A groups	15	12	3	-	YP and Adults inc older people
Families	12	6	6	-	4- CYP and 4 adults and 2 older people
Health professionals various roles	16	2	8	6	Mixed
Social Care - various roles	10	4	4	2	Adults
Community and Advocacy	5	2	2	1	3 CYP 2 Adults
Leaders and commissioners	14	7	4	3	Mixed
NHSE Regional	3	-	-	3	Mixed
Total	91	42	33	16	

3.3. NDTi asked people “*if you had a magic wand what would a good life look like. What things currently help you or others get that life, and what things get in the way?*” Responses have been summarised in Appendix A. Some key themes that are emerging from autistic people, adults with learning disabilities and their families include the need for the right support at the right time, connection and acceptance, independence, being listened to and access to job opportunities. Key themes from health and social care staff include people and systems talking to each other, wanting to spend less time on paperwork and more time with people, the right training, more staff and the need for a clear shared vision across the system.

3.4. The views and opinions of participants have been added to the reading and information NDTi gathered prior to engagement. This includes almost 30 different documents including strategies, pilot reports and surveys.

4. Next Steps

4.1. NDTi will draft a next level theme list, which ties together the messages from across all the different groups. This will be shared with the steering group in November 2021.

- 4.2. NDTi will have met with the lived experience board in October 2021 to provide an update on progress and check that this makes sense to people, or if there are gaps or issues that have been missed.
- 4.3. The steering group and the lived experience board will discuss and decide what the priorities should be for the ICS based on what has been learnt. This will be drafted into a strategy document which can be shared and communicated and will inform the actions for the ICS from next April.

5. Risk management

5.1. Table of risk and mitigation:

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Potential existence of two strategies covering adult learning disability.	Medway already has the Medway Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019 – 2024.	<p>The existing strategy has been fully considered by NDTi. The new all age strategy will include both Kent and Medway children and adults with learning disability and autistic people, building on and improving the current strategy.</p> <p>To avoid duplication, it is anticipated that the new all age strategy will, when complete, supersede the existing strategy.</p>

6. Financial implications

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

7. Legal implications

- 7.1. 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”.
- 7.2. 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 take action to address health inequalities.
- 7.3. 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.

8. Recommendation

8.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note this report.

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Appendices

Appendix A – NDTi Engagement Summary

Background papers

Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019- 2024:
<https://democracy.medway.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=57597>

Health and Wellbeing Board April 2021
[Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019 - 2024](#)

Health and Wellbeing Board August 2021
Briefing note on Joint Adult Learning Disability Strategy 2019 - 2024