

# **Learning Disabilities Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (March 2014)**

## **Summary of Key Findings and Strategic Actions**

### **Demography**

#### **Key Findings**

- There are 1,400 estimated number of people with learning disabilities known to services (administrative prevalence)
- There are 6,116 estimated number of people with learning disabilities (true prevalence)
- Median age of death for people with learning disabilities is 51.5 years which is significantly lower than the life expectancy in men and women
- Main conditions associated with learning disabilities deaths are degenerative conditions, downs syndrome and cerebral palsy.

#### **Trends**

- By 2030 the numbers of people with learning disabilities are predicted to increase by 24% in those aged 35-44 years old and 26% in those aged 55-64 years old
- By 2030 the numbers of people predicted to have moderate or severe learning disabilities is predicted to increase by 25% in each of the 25-44 and 55-74 year age groups and by 64% in those over 85 years of age
- By 2030 the numbers of people with a moderate or severe learning disability living with a parent are predicted to increase by 31% in the 55-64 age group
- It is estimated that by 2030 there will be 2,056 people aged 18-64 with autism, an increase of 13% from the number predicted in 2012

#### **Strategic Actions**

- Plan for a rise in number of people with learning disabilities in Sandwell.
- Focus on interventions that can increase quality of life and life expectancy.
- Identify the estimated 4,000 plus people potentially with learning disabilities and ensure that their health and social care needs are being adequately met

## **Children and Education**

### **Key Findings**

- Approximately 1,625 children in Sandwell were at the School Action Plus stage of assessment of Statement of Education Needs (SEN) or have a Statement of SEN and have a primary Special Educational Need (SEN) associated with learning disabilities
- 395 children in Sandwell have a Statement of SEN and a primary associated with learning disabilities
- SEN associated with learning disabilities is more common among boys (1,137) compared to girls (408)
- Overall, 98% of children with moderate, 18% each with severe and profound multiple learning difficulties were educated in mainstream schools. These rates were declining among children with severe learning difficulty
- As would be expected, children with SEN associated with learning disabilities had poorer educational attainment than their peers
- For children with Profound Moderate Learning Disabilities (PMLD) increased rates of absence were accounted for by increased rates of authorised sessions. For children with Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) increased rates of absence were accounted for by increased rates of unauthorised absences
- Children with a primary SEN of MLD were more likely to be excluded than children without SEN. Children with a primary SEN of PMLD were less likely to be excluded than children without SEN
- The highest rates per 1,000 young people with a learning disability on the child disability register were in Wednesbury North, Hateley Heath, Greet Green & Lyng and Old Warley wards

### **Strategic Actions**

- Focus services to supporting families with children who have a range of Learning Disabilities. This would include help to support education opportunities.
- Need to better understand issues around transition of children from school to adulthood
- Need to raise awareness of learning disabilities in schools and 'statementing'

## Health Services

### Key Findings

- There are over a thousand (1,219) people with learning disabilities on GP practice lists
- GPs are recognising more people with learning disabilities on their practice lists, 3.5 in every thousand in 2012
- About 26% of people with learning disabilities received a health check in 2012/13 which is an increase on previous years
- The proportion of admissions to general hospitals as emergencies was 45.7% for people with learning disabilities
- Hospital admission for an ambulatory care sensitive condition is often used as an indicator of deficient primary care. Over the period 2005-9 there were
  - 99 admissions of people with learning disabilities for the non psychiatric ambulatory care sensitive conditions of gastric-oesophageal reflux disorder (GORD), epilepsy and constipation
  - 7 admissions of people with learning disabilities for the psychiatric ambulatory care sensitive conditions of schizophrenia, schizotypal and delusional disorders
- In 2008/09, 18.53% of episodes of general hospital care in Sandwell for individuals who are known to have learning disabilities specifically recorded the persons learning disability
- There were 75 episodes of psychiatric inpatient care during the period 2005/09 for individuals known to have learning disabilities of which 61.98% were in people where LD was specifically recorded
- Over the period 2005-9, 10 (2.17 per 1,000 people) people were admitted to hospital where the primary reason for admission was challenging behaviour

### Strategic Actions

- Examine the reasons for higher than expected emergency admission to hospital
- Continue to promote access into NHS health checks for people with Learning Disabilities and consider other similar programmes.
- Raise awareness of learning disabilities amongst general practitioners
- Ensure that there are no hospital admissions where primary reason is challenging behaviour

## **Adult Social Care**

### **Key Findings**

#### **People with learning disabilities known to Sandwell SMBC**

- 759 (as at 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013) people were known to adult social services receiving service provided or commissioned by the authority
- 57% were men compared to 43% women
- 6% of those known had a carer
- 6% of those known had hearing and 12% visual impairment
- The majority of people receiving services were in the age groups 20-29 and 45-49
- The numbers of men receiving services was high in all age groups except in women aged 35-39 and 70-79
- 84.3% of people with learning disabilities were of white ethnic group, 9.7% Asian and 4.3% black
- The majority (30.1%) were receiving day care services followed by residential 18.9% and supported living 14.9%
- The highest rates of learning disability per 1,000 population were in Wednesbury North, Greet Green and Lyng, West Bromwich Central wards

## **Adult Social Care**

### **For residential social care service**

- Of the 695 adults with LDs reported by the local authority to be in some form of accommodation in 2012/13, adults were most commonly reported living permanently with family or friends (320 people, 46%)
- 515 adults (74% of the total number in some form of accommodation) were reported to be in permanent accommodation in 2012/13: they were most likely to be living in registered care homes (135, 19% of the total), supported accommodation/lodgings/ group home (160, 23%), or registered nursing home (30, 4%)
- The total number of adults with LD in residential care increased from 190 (2006/07) to 230 (2012/13)
- The number of adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ admitted to local authority supported residential care in 2012/13 was 5
- The number of adults with learning disabilities aged 18+ using short term residential services supported by local authority was 10 in 2012/13

- In 2012/13, the largest component of local authority expenditure on residential services for people with learning disabilities was on residential care placements (£8.589 million), followed by supported and other accommodation (£4.739 million) and nursing care (£3.115 million). Supporting People expenditure in 2012/13 was £1.157 million
- In 2012/13 the average unit cost of nursing care for adults with learning disability was £2,006 per week or (£104,312 per year)
- In the 2012/13 the average unit cost of residential care for adults with learning disability was £1,136 (£59,072 per year)

### **For Community social care**

- In 2012/13, 570 adults with learning disabilities were using local authority funded community services. These included
  - 340 adults using local authority funded day services
  - 310 adults using local authority funded home care
- In 2012/13, the local authority was spending £4.3 million on day services for adults with learning disabilities
- In 2012/13, the local authority was spending £4.97 million on home care for adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64

### **For Social care assessment and review**

- In 2012/13, there were 510 existing adult clients with learning disabilities who had undergone completed reviews
- In 2012/13, the local authority spent £2.319 million on assessment and care management for adults with learning disabilities

### **For direct payments and personal budgets**

- In Sandwell, the proportion of adults with learning disabilities receiving direct payments was lower compared to the West Midlands and England
- In 2012/13, 360 adults with learning disabilities were using direct payments or self directed support
- In 2012/13, Sandwell local authority was spending £1.224 million on direct payments for adults with learning disabilities

### **Employment**

- In 2011/12, 5.8% of adults with learning disabilities were reported to be in some form of paid employment which was lower compared to the West Midlands and England

## **Abuse of Vulnerable Adults**

- Referral rate of 212 per 1,000 for abuse of vulnerable persons in Sandwell in 2011/12 was higher compared to the West Midlands (138 per 1,000) and England (112 per 1,000)
- No alerts concerning adults with learning disabilities were reported in 2012/13
- In 2012/13, 165 completed referrals were reported
- The most common type of alleged abuse in adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 in 2012/13 was physical abuse (40%), followed by neglect (26%), emotional / psychological (14%)
- There were no reported allegations of multiple abuse in people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable groups
- The most common relationship of alleged perpetrator to vulnerable adult was social care staff (42%), another vulnerable adult (30%) and family member (15%)
- In 2012/13, around 82% (135) of referrals were made by social care staff. Other sources of referrals included health care staff (12%)
- The most common outcome of referrals was continued monitoring (26%), counselling / training / treatment (21%), no further action (18%), and disciplinary action (15%)

## **Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards**

- In 2011/12, 8 completed applications were made under Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) concerning adults with learning disabilities. Most of these (75%) were made by the local authority with 25% made by the PCT
- 5 (62.5%) applications were granted

## **Carers**

- The number of carers receiving assessments / reviews increased by 21% from 115 in 2011/12 to 145 in 2012/13. Of the completed assessments in 2012/13, 5 involved the carers of adults with learning disabilities who were aged 65 or over
- The number of carers receiving services increased by 8% from 115 in 2011/12 to 125 in 2012/13. The number of carers receiving information and advice decreased by 75% from 5 in 2011/12 to 20 in 2012/13

## **Strategic Actions**

- Identify services that support independent living and reduce reliance on social care services
- Monitor success of specialist employment support provision launched in April 2013
- Promote employment opportunities and skills development for people with learning disabilities
- Find employment for people within existing day opportunity services
- Enhance and expand the range of employment opportunities and vocational support for young people leaving school or college
- Reduce risks to vulnerable people and promote effective safeguarding measures across all agencies
- Continue the work supporting carers for adults with learning disabilities.

