

Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Front Sheet:

Directorate and Service Area:

Social and Community Services: Adult Social Care (Learning Disabilities)

What is being assessed:

Learning Disabilities – manage pressures by 2017/18 within the resources available in the medium term plan (16SCS2)

Responsible owner / senior officer:

Robyn Noonan – Area Service Manager Learning Disability

Date of assessment:

November 2014

Summary of judgement:

In order to reduce the cost of the Learning Disability services it is proposed that the Council will have a greater focus on our statutory responsibilities and working with providers to deliver care and support with increasing efficiency in line with the Big Plan Joint Commissioning Strategy. We propose to continue the existing plans of supporting people in their own homes in the community rather than in residential settings in the most efficient way we can.

This work will impact on the way support packages are provided to people with learning disabilities. The impact is minimised by working in close partnership with providers of support and housing, and by involving people with learning disabilities and their representatives in decision making and planning about their support needs. This approach has delivered successful outcomes for a number of years, increasing efficiency and delivering positive outcomes (e.g. increased independence and confidence) for people with learning disabilities. It does not impact disproportionately on any particular group within this population as people of all ages are supported from the same pooled budget arrangements between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, and access to service is based on the same eligibility criteria without regard to any other characteristics.

Detail of Assessment:

Purpose of assessment:

This assessment has been carried out to consider the impact of the proposal to reduce the cost of the Learning Disability service through more efficient delivery of support, as part of the Council's budget setting process.

Social Value

Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934¹ might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:

The overall strategy is to support and promote strong communities so that people live their lives as successfully, independently and safely as possible.

At present the Learning Disability Resource Allocation System (the system used to allocate funding to meet people's support needs) and the Learning Disability panel leads to the consistent allocation of personal budgets for adults with learning disabilities who have eligible support needs.

As most people with learning disabilities are already in established services, there is limited opportunity to plan support within the target personal budget level set by the Resource Allocation System. As a result there are a number of situations where the cost of support is in excess of this target personal budget level.

In order to reduce the costs, Adult Social Care Services (Joint Commissioning and Learning Disability Teams) are working with providers of care and support to find ways to deliver support in a more efficient way whilst still meeting the assessed needs of individuals.

Proposals:

The Council is already working with providers of care and support to explore ways of delivering support in a more cost effective and efficient way. This is being achieved through better use of assistive technology to replace paid support; development of supported living properties to deliver greater economies of scale and to support people in their own homes in the community rather than in a residential setting; increased use of community resources; decommissioning of services which are no longer affordable as well as developing new and improved services which meet the needs of individuals, offer a quality service and are affordable within personal budgets.

This approach has proved successful for a number of years, increasing efficiency and delivering positive outcomes (e.g. increased independence and confidence) for

¹¹ [EC Procurement Threshold for Services](#)

people with learning disabilities. It is proposed to continue this approach to be able to deliver further savings required to meet the budget pressures facing the Council. We will continue to work in close partnership with support and housing providers and by involving people with learning disabilities and their representatives in decision making and planning.

Evidence / Intelligence:

Learning Disability Services have been working successfully with providers for a number of years to deliver savings through more efficient delivery of support. The number of people choosing to live in supported living in a community is increasing whilst the number of people living in registered care is decreasing. Feedback from this work has been largely positive from service users, staff and providers and as well as delivering efficiency savings, is providing added benefits of greater choice, independence and confidence for people with learning disabilities. This feedback is evidenced through high levels of satisfaction in Oxfordshire compared to other areas and from the Managing with Less Money workshops. Service users and their families are consulted about any changes to their services.

'The Big Plan' is a joint plan between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group that sets the direction for Learning Disability services in Oxfordshire. This plan is built on strong engagement and feedback from providers and people with disabilities, and has helped to shape our approach so far. The refreshed plan is due to go out for consultation on the 10th November 2014. The priorities and actions identified through public and stakeholder consultation will further refine our plans for delivering more efficient services.

Alternatives considered / rejected:

Re-procurement of supported living contracts - this forms an element of the savings plans but needs to work hand in hand with setting the Resource Allocation System at an affordable level. Support providers continue to work successfully with Joint Commissioning and the Learning Disability Teams to reduce the cost of support whilst maintaining quality of provision. Hourly rates of services continue to reduce and support packages have been reduced where this is appropriate. Re-procurement in this situation would not deliver significant efficiency savings on its own as the workers would have TUPE rights and any new providers would need to deliver a similar level of service. Joint working with support providers, however, allows services to be reconfigured in ways which reduce cost, deliver efficiency savings and improve individual outcomes.

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

This proposal impacts primarily on people with a disability, particularly people with a learning disability who are supported by the Council. It does not impact disproportionately on any particular group within this population as people of all ages are supported from the same pooled budget arrangements between the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group, and access to service is based on Fair Access to Care criteria without regard to any other characteristics.

Risks	Mitigations
There is a risk that by reducing expenditure through the Resource Allocation System, people could find they are unable to purchase sufficient services to meet their needs.	Existing practices will be maintained. There is a system in place to review personal budget allocations where the person is unable to meet their needs. Transitional funding is being paid to ensure no sudden reductions are required which would lead to loss of service. People with learning disabilities are consulted prior to any change and are provided with information so that they understand the reason for change. The families and advocates of people with learning disabilities are consulted. If people with learning disabilities do not have capacity, best interests processes are followed.
There is a risk that family carers could be unable to access sufficient respite support if the Resource Allocation System reduces personal budgets.	Existing practices will be maintained. Carers are entitled to a carer's assessment and can access carers' services. There is a system in place to review personal budget allocations where the person is unable to meet their needs. Transitional funding is being paid to ensure no sudden reductions are required which would lead to loss of service. The families and advocates of people with learning disabilities are consulted in relation to reassessments and support planning.

Impact on Staff:

Risks	Mitigations
As providers become more efficient in their delivery of support, there is less room for management of day to day variations in need which may lead to pressure on care management services.	Plans take into account predictable variations in need so that providers are able to manage this variation. Working with providers in developing plans will ensure that potential issues are identified at an early stage and can be responded to appropriately

Impact on other Council services:

Risks	Mitigations
Decisions to reduce funding of some service users could increase the risk of legal challenge if it leads to people thinking they have insufficient resources to meet their assessed needs	Documented assessments of need and support plans are undertaken, as are risk assessments of individual circumstances. Impacts of decisions will continue to be kept under review as changes are implemented. Existing practices will be maintained. There is a system in place to review personal budget allocations where the person is unable to meet their needs. Transitional funding is being paid to ensure no sudden reductions are required which would lead to loss of service. People with learning

	disabilities are consulted prior to any change and are provided with information so that they understand the reason for change. The families and advocates of people with learning disabilities are consulted. If people with learning disabilities do not have capacity, best interests processes are followed
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Impact on providers:

Risks	Mitigations
As providers work with the Council to deliver greater efficiency in service delivery there is a risk that the quality of services will be compromised as providers become 'leaner'.	Provider contracts give clear standards. These are monitored by Joint Commissioning. The need to deliver quality services is taken into account in planning changes so that quality is not jeopardised.
Some providers may go out of business due to reductions in funding.	Monitor carefully to ensure good supply of support is available.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

By making the best use of support available in the local community working jointly with support providers to deliver the most appropriate support. Development of supported living in the community has received positive feedback from family carers, service users and providers. This type of approach also opens up opportunities to a range of local support providers and creates more opportunities for work and volunteering.

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

Local support in the community increases benefits of greater choice, independence and confidence for people with learning disabilities. The reduction in the use of registered care enables communities to come together in a more supportive way that improves the wellbeing of service users and increases awareness, understanding and support of their needs within the community.

Action plan:

Action	By When	Person responsible
Continue the current approach to creating efficiencies by working with service users, carers and providers and develop a savings plan for the next 4 years	Jan 2015	Robyn Noonan
Monitor delivery of savings projects, feedback from reviews and complaints and impact on providers through the Savings Board	Monthly monitoring via the Savings Board	Robyn Noonan

Monitoring and review:

Person responsible for assessment: Robyn Noonan, Area Service Manager
Learning Disability

Version	Date	Notes (eg Initial draft, amended following consultation)
1	1st November 2014	Initial draft