**Briefing on the Welsh Government Learning Disability Delivery and Implementation Plan 2022-2026 – November 2022**

On the 27th October 2022 the Welsh Government (WG) published it’s Learning Disability Delivery and Implementation Plan 2022-26. It is a ‘live’ document and will be updated regularly. Progress against delivery of the plan’s actions will be monitored and evaluated annually by the independent Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG). It will also be formally reviewed by Welsh Government in the spring of 2024.

**The full publication can be viewed** [**here**](https://gov.wales/learning-disability-delivery-and-implementation-plan-2022-2026)

**Strategic Priority Area 1 - Overarching and Crosscutting**

**Actions -**

* **Equality and Inclusion - To consider the impact and effectiveness of learning disability policies on people with learning disabilities, their families and carers in the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic community**
* **To ensure the needs of first language Welsh speakers are met in the design and delivery of services and support.**

-In year one WG and LDMAG will establish a Task and Finish Group to review the impact and effectiveness of current policies to ensure that the needs of individuals with a learning disability in protected or disadvantaged communities are being met – by April 2023.

- Where gaps are identified, WG will consider and implement actions that ensure policies fully meet the identified needs of people with a learning disability – by April 2024.

-Following completion of the initial phase of work in relation to race equality, WG will explore the impact of current and developing policies on people with learning disabilities from groups who share protected characteristics – from April 2024.

* **Promote Positive Behavioural support (PBS) and Trauma informed care in health, social care and education.**
* **Ensure the Welsh Government’s Reducing Restrictive Practices Framework principles are promoted, understood, and embedded in training and services across health, social care, education and childcare.**

-WG will work with stakeholders and service providers to ensure the Framework principles are promoted, understood and embedded in training and services across health, social care, education and childcare. This work will also include ensuring the inclusion of appropriate monitoring, recording and reporting – by April 2024.

- WG will undertake a series of pilot/test schemes to identify the most appropriate methods of delivering this commitment across various areas of the public sector – During 2023-24.

 - WG will launch animation (and accompanying communication plan) to raise awareness of the Framework for commissioners and providers – Summer 2022.

- WG will launch the animation to raise awareness for people using settings and services and the people that matter to them – Summer 2022.

**Strategic priority area 2 – Covid recovery and wellbeing**

**Actions –**

* **Social Prescribing and Loneliness and Isolation - to promote and improve Wellbeing amongst people with learning disabilities.**

- LDMAG will contribute to a national task and finish group to understand how social prescribing could aid Wales in its recovery from Covid-19 and introduce an all-Wales framework to roll out social prescribing to tackle isolation. **The RCSLT has submitted a** [**response**](https://www.rcslt.org/policy/wales/#section-2)  **to the WG consultation on the national Framework for Social Prescribing in October 2022.**

* **Ensure that the Covid recovery needs of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers are recognised and supported within the Welsh Government’s national Covid Recovery Programme**

-WG will work with LDMAG and other stakeholders to contribute to review, evaluate and to consider lessons learned about the impact on restrictions to people with learning disabilities, their families, and carers during the COVID-19 Pandemic – Ongoing.

**Strategic priority area 3 – Health and Social Care**

**Actions –**

* **Implement recommendations from the 2020 review of Adult Specialised Services ‘Improving Care-Improving Lives’.**

 - WG will respond to the need for medium secure provision in Wales identified by the scoping review undertaken by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (who commission all medium and high provision on behalf of health boards in Wales) – By April 2023.

- LD Specialist Inpatient Audit Cycle – WG will learn from the NHS Wales Delivery Unit’s quarterly specialist service inpatient and Deeper Dive audit cycle to support sustainable development of community services and reduce any inappropriate and lengthy stays in a hospital facility. Reporting system & Improvement plans in place by Dec 2022.

- Right Sizing LD Community Services – WG will support the development of a piece of “right sizing” work for Learning Disability Services, in order to facilitate the implementation of “care closer to home” and reduce any unnecessary hospital stays for people with an LD – By April 2024.

* **Learning Disability Education Framework for healthcare staff.**

-WG will improve services and ensure reasonable adjustments are made that meet the needs of people with a learning disability accessing services. This will be achieved through the roll out, monitoring and evaluation of the three-tier Learning Disability Education Framework for healthcare staff. Tier 1 to be launched in Spring 2022 with tiers 2 and 3 to follow from April 2023.

 - WG will work with partners to develop the Tier 2 and Tier 3 training for NHS staff – Scoping work to commence from October 2022.

* **Supporting parents with a learning disability**

-WG will ensure increased understanding and awareness of the needs of parents with a learning disability across services, ensuring parents with a learning disability receive improved support with a subsequent reduction in children being taken into care. This will be achieved through the development, publication and launch of bilingual national guidance for Children’s Social Care Services on best practice about how parents or soon to be parents with a learning disability can be best supported so families stay together and children thrive. By Autumn 2022.

 - WG will develop and publish accompanying guidance for parents with a learning disability. By Autumn 2022.

**Strategic priority 4 - Advocacy, Self-Advocacy, Engagement and Collaboration**

**Actions –**

* **To promote voice choice and control for people with learning disabilities and their carers. To include advocacy and self advocacy and digital inclusion.**

-WG will work with stakeholders to explore and review best practice and different models of advocacy support, in order to develop advocacy services for adults in line with Commissioning Guidance – Commencing October 2022.

* **Digital inclusion and use of technology**

-WG will work with partners and stakeholders to review the appropriate use of technology and digital options to maximise engagement and build & improve connections for people with learning disabilities – From April 2023.

**Strategic priority 5 – Education, Children and Young People**

**Actions –**

* **Children and Young People’s Learning Disability Services**

-WG will work with stakeholders and service providers to improve collaborative working in the provision of children’s services, including transition services, for people with learning disabilities across health, social care and education – From April 2022. **We will keep an eye on this action following our engagement with the WG transition guidance last year.**

-WG will work with partners to consider the scope of this work and develop appropriate plans exploring best practice, gaps in provision, potential service improvements, and a plan for delivery and implementation of integrated learning disability services for children and young people – From April 2022 to April 2025.

* **Additional Learning Needs –Implementation**

-WG will establish a national ALN steering group in September 2022 to provide strategic direction information, and advice to support ongoing implementation of reforms. Ongoing – group has been established and work has commenced. **We will keep a close eye on these developments and seek to feed in.**

-Estyn will conduct a thematic review of the ALN system with scoping proposed to take place in summer 2022 and field work in the autumn term with a view to publication in spring 2023. Ongoing.

- WG will implement phased legislative commencement and movement of children to the new system over three years from September 2021. Ongoing.

 - WG will appoint implementation leads in March 2023 to provide ongoing strategic support to the sector. Ongoing.

 - WG will develop and promote the national ALN professional learning pathway. Ongoing.

**Next steps** - We will continue to horizon scan to look at developments and seek opportunities to influence for the profession. Please do get in touch to share your thoughts. We can be contacted on wales@rcslt.org

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