

Guidance: Commissioning accommodation and support for a good life for people with a learning disability



Executive summary

Developing improved and progressive practice

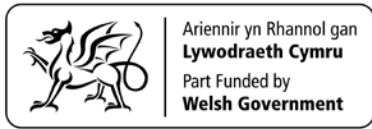
National Commissioning Board

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CLILC • WLGA


This guidance document has been commissioned by:



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This document is also available in Welsh and Easy Read.

Purpose

This guidance has been commissioned by the National Commissioning Board (NCB). The purpose of this document is to:

- provide guidance and explore options on the commissioning of accommodation and support services for a good life for people with a learning disability.
- challenge and redefine the accommodation and support model to a more person-centred , flexible set of principles ; offering a 'support for a good life' approach. This approach seeks to enable people to consider a wide range of places to live and deliver the support person want and need.
- build upon the overarching guidance on 'Commissioning Services for People with Learning Disabilities' published in November 2017.
- contribute directly to Welsh Government's 'Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme', which includes a recommendation to increase accommodation options closer to home, through working collaboratively with health boards, local authorities, housing providers and third sector social care providers.
- ensure effective investment with the resources available by developing up-to-date and appropriate services rather than investing in models of service delivery that are outdated.

Audience

It is primarily aimed at people and organisations that have duties and responsibilities to engage with people with a learning disability and unpaid carers to commission accommodation and support.

However, it is also aimed at all stakeholders involved in the provision of support across all sectors and most importantly people with a learning disability and unpaid carers at the centre of support.

Principles

It embraces the principles of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014, the Equality Act 2010 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of people with a Disability

Supported living

The traditional 'supported living' model is often associated with small group homes with three or four people sharing accommodation, living in an ordinary house in the community. It enabled the closure of large scale institutions and provided the next step towards independent living and community based settings.

We should celebrate the achievements of support for living services. In Wales we are proud of our efforts to move away from institutional care and, as supported living services have developed, they have demonstrated a capacity for providing effective care and support to people with a very broad range of needs including those with more intensive needs.

However, there is a danger that it can become a 'one size fits all' approach and can create the same institutional culture that we have attempted to move away from. Support for living can become distorted so rather than genuine choice and control, people find themselves living in residential care by default.

12 questions

This guidance aims to challenge this and explore the range of options available to people with a learning disability

The guidance is structured so that stakeholders can consider the 12 key questions in the document and reflect on their current and future position based on the answers

The 12 questions are;

Person centred pathway

Question 1: What should you be commissioning?

Answer: Good lives.

Question 2: How are people making this happen?

Answer: Using person-centred practices and co-production, which is central to the Social Services & Wellbeing Act 2014.

Question 3: What should your commissioning activities achieve for people with a learning disability?

Answer: They should protect rights, promote well-being and support independent living.

Accommodation and support for a good life

Question 4: What type of housing should you commission?

Answer: Ordinary housing / apartments in the community

Question 5: What is the best model for accommodation with support for good living?

Answer: The best support for living means that a person lives in his or her own home and can choose who provides their care and support

Question 6: What accommodation standards should support for living services comply with

Answer: The long-established REACH standards

Good quality support

Question 7: What does good quality support look like?

Answer: Its person centred and has several key elements.

Question 8: How do we develop innovative and progressive procurement processes?

Answer: Ensure that co-production and good relationships are central to any process.

Strategic commissioning

Question 9: What is strategic commissioning?

Answer: Person centred approaches should inform and drive strategic commissioning activities.

Question 10: How do you commission effective services for people with a learning disability including those with more intensive needs?

Answer: Integrated and collaborative commissioning.

Question 11: Question: How do you know you are improving well-being?

Answer: By measuring outcomes.

Question 12: How can you maintain sustainable support for living services?

Answer: Ensure that there is a consistent and robust methodology for costing accommodation and support for people with a learning disability

What happens next?

In order to realise and take the principles and recommendations of this guidance further so that it does not become a redundant document, it is important to identify what happens next. On this basis the following actions are required:

- a. The guidance will be officially launched on the 5 March 2019.
- b. The NCB would like to take the views of the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) and prioritise this guidance through their work programme.
- c. The NCB will work with the Welsh Government's Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme and implementation team to take this work forward and ensure that it is a priority.
- d. Identify a 12 month follow up implementation support programme to Regional Partnership Boards and all relevant stakeholders to measure effectiveness of the guidance. This will involve the NCB and appropriate Welsh Government officials.
- e. Develop a communication and engagement plan through Welsh Government, NCB and all stakeholders to cascade the guidance.

- f. As part of the monitoring programme, a toolkit will be developed that identifies all the key recommendations in the guidance to provide direction to the regions and a bench mark for progress of developments.
- g. In order to measure effectiveness, a follow up event is recommended in March 2020 of all stakeholders across Wales.

Areas of further work highlighted in the document include:

- a. Develop a greater understanding of the differences and benefits of different models of support.
- b. Improving Lives Programme to consider working with stakeholders to update and tighten definitions for national statistics in relation to support for living services.
- c. Explore potential contribution of Shared Lives.
- d. Development of protocol for out-of-county placements.
- e. National approach to taking forward a market analysis together with the development of market position statements and a consistent reporting framework designed to provide regular information as a matter of routine to Regional Partnership Boards and their partners including providers.
- f. Hold externally facilitated workshop with commissioners and providers to:
 - Explore procurement options including their advantages and disadvantages.
 - Measure procurement options against improving outcomes for people with a learning disability and their families as well as the effective use of resources.
- g. Develop methods for measuring outcomes as they relate to support for living services.
- h. Development of toolkit to facilitate a rational approach to fee setting.
- i. Develop a greater understanding of the benefits of assistive technology.

This guidance has been coproduced by a wide range of individuals representing the following organisations;

- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
- All Wales People First
- All Wales Forum
- Ategi
- Cartrefi Cymru
- Community Lives Consortium
- Conwy County Council
- Cymorth Cymru
- First Choice Housing Association
- Flintshire County Council
- Garland Independent Social Care Advice
- Learning Disability Wales
- National Commissioning Board
- North Wales Social Care and Well Being Services Improvement Collaborative
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Local Government Association

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