

Learning Disability Policy - Strategic Action Plan 2021-2026 – Draft for Discussion and Consultation – January 2022

This action plan sets out the Welsh Government's overarching strategic agenda for the development and implementation of learning disability policy for the current term of government, 2021 to 2026. An accompanying delivery plan will be developed which will contain specific actions with timelines for each commitment. Developed in collaboration and consultation with Welsh Government policy leads, the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG) and key stakeholder partners, this action plan identifies and prioritises the key areas, actions and outcomes that will be pursued over this period. Building on the success and the momentum of the Improving Lives programme, the action plan aligns fully with Welsh Government Programme for Government commitments, incorporating Improving Lives legacy actions. Key issues identified by the LDMAG in their Policy Priorities report submitted to the Welsh Government in May 2021 and priority actions focussing on helping services and people with learning disabilities as we continue to emerge from ongoing pandemic restrictions.

The action plan (and associated delivery plan) is a living document and will be updated to reflect any changes to priorities and circumstances as they arise. It is designed to be flexible and contains actions that can reasonably be expected to be achieved given the ongoing focus on pandemic recovery and limits on available resources

It is not intended that these plans be a complete record of all policies affecting people with a learning disability. A formal review of the action plan will be undertaken at the end of the second full year, in spring 2024.

Priority Areas

- Overarching/Cross Cutting; including cross-government activity that may not sit in one specific area.
- Covid Recovery
- Health; Including Reducing Health Inequalities and Avoidable Deaths.
- Social Services and Social Care;
- Facilitating Independent Living and access to services through Increased access to Advocacy and Self Advocacy Skills, Engagement and Collaboration;
- Education including Children and Young People's Services.
- Employment and Skills.
- Housing – Appropriate housing, close to home, access to joined-up services.
- Transport

Key Themes

Ensuring the views of people with a learning disability, their families & carers and third sector stakeholders are included in the development of all Welsh Government policies is a fundamental principle and full engagement with these groups and individuals will take place whenever possible.


All relevant information and guidance will, wherever possible, be provided in an accessible format with the use of Easy-Read documentation being promoted and encouraged in communications issued by Welsh Government and our partners.

No.	Strategic Priority Area	Tasks/Actions	Outcome
1 Overarching and Crosscutting			
1.1	Publication of a new five-year Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan	Develop and publish an overarching, cross-government strategic action plan and associated delivery plan for learning disability policy. To include appropriate, measurable, outcome focused actions, monitoring arrangements, reporting agreements and periodic review. Published by March 2022 and reviewed after two years.	The needs of people with a learning disability are met through the development and implementation of Welsh Government policy over the full term of government.
1.2	Continued commitment to an inclusive and fully accessible Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group for people with a learning disability	To hold at least four meetings a year, and sub groups where required. Meetings are inclusive and accessible for people with a learning disability. To include agreed annual review and evaluation of Terms of Reference and procedures.	A fully inclusive and accessible meeting environment which meets the needs of all members.
1.3	Equality and Inclusion	In year one WG and LDMAG will review the impact and effectiveness	Welsh Government learning disability

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	<p>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</p> <p>To ensure the needs of first language Welsh speakers are met in the design and delivery of services and support</p>	<p>of current policies to ensure that the needs of individuals with a learning disability in protected or disadvantaged communities are being met.</p> <p>Where gaps are identified take action –to ensure that Welsh Government policies fully meet the identified needs of people with a learning disability.</p>	<p>policies fully meet the needs of people with a learning disability with protected characteristics</p>
1.4	<p>Scope the costs and benefits of establishing a National Learning Disability Observatory for Wales</p>	<p>Work with Improvement Cymru and partners to explore the feasibility of establishing a Learning Disability Observatory for Wales</p>	<p>To support the development of a comprehensive body of evidence to inform policy decision making and service planning.</p>

<p>1.5</p>	<p>Promote Positive Behavioural support (PBS) and Trauma informed care in health, social care and education. To include implementation of the 'Reducing Restrictive Practice Framework published in July 2021</p> <p>https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-07/reducing-restrictive-practices-framework.pdf</p>	<p>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. To include appropriate monitoring, recording and reporting.</p> <p>Work with sectors to ensure they consider and agree actions to support effective implementation of the Restraint Reduction Framework in childcare, education, health and social care.</p>	<p>Improve services for people with a learning disability</p> <p>Greater awareness amongst commissioners, providers and practitioners of person centred planning to reduce restrictive practices, promote person-centred planning and prevent harm.</p>
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1.6	Joint working, co-production and collaboration	Gather views from people with learning disabilities, families and carers on what Wales should look like for them in 2033, if the programme is to be a success.	Ensuring the needs and opinions of people with a learning disability, their families and carers are fully considered in the development of policies.
2. COVID Recovery and Wellbeing			
2.1	To promote and improve Wellbeing amongst people with learning disabilities.	LDMAG to 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.	A national framework for social prescribing which delivers a vision of social prescribing in Wales that is of a consistent high quality standard across the country.
2.2		Welsh Government to work with LDMAG and other partners to determine the priorities for action for a renewed strategic approach to well-being, in a new learning disability delivery plan.	Integrated and dedicated activities delivered <u>by local authorities</u> for children and young people to support the physical, emotional and social wellbeing through suitable activities including leisure and sport.
2.3	Ensure that the Covid recovery needs of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers are	Welsh Government to work with	Development of appropriate, person-
2.4		LDMAG and other stakeholders to	

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	recognised and supported within the Welsh Government's national Covid Recovery Programme	contribute to review, evaluation and to consider lessons learned about the impact on restrictions to people with learning disabilities, their families and carers during the COVID-19 Pandemic.	centred policies for people with learning disabilities to maximise opportunities for Covid recovery.
3 Health and Social Care – Including the commitment to the delivery of the Improving Lives legacy health actions			
3.1	Implement recommendations from the 2020 review of Adult Specialised Services.	<p>Establish a multi-agency/stakeholder national group to advise and oversee delivery of the national plan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">  2022-01-06 Draft LD National Specialist Se </p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce admissions through crisis prevention. 2. Ensure access to high quality, safe and effective specialised care as close to home as possible. 3. Support individuals to return home/close to home as soon as possible. 4. Minimise the need for individuals to be placed in units in England by scoping the need for medium secure provision in Wales.
3.2	<p>Mortality Review and Medical Examiner Service (MES) The new Medical Examiner Service (MES) is being rolled out across Wales.</p>	Ensure that deaths of individuals with a learning disability are reviewed as part of the new mortality review system and that lessons are identified and shared appropriately.	Provide accurate, robust mortality data that will drive development of policies that help reduce avoidable deaths.

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		<p>Contribute to the development of a “Learning from Deaths Framework”, ensuring learning disability issues are reflected appropriately.</p> <p>Work with partners to establish a proportionate and appropriate process for the systematic review of deaths of individuals with a learning disability.</p>	
3.3	Learning Disability Education Framework for healthcare staff.	<p>Roll out, monitor and evaluate 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 2022.</p> <p>Explore options for adapting and widening out this training to Social Care and other services.</p>	Improve services and ensure reasonable adjustments are made that meet the needs of people with a learning disability accessing services.
3.4	Establish learning disability specific quality and safety standards for learning disability adult specialised services.	Develop evidence based quality and safety standards for implementation across Wales.	<p>Strengthen consistent approaches to service delivery across Wales.</p> <p>Improve evidence based practice in service delivery.</p>
3.5	Increase access to Health Checks for people with a learning disability.	Review health board approaches to delivering health checks, identify effective approaches and disseminate learning across Wales.	Improve health outcomes and reduce mortality rates through the earlier identification, diagnosis and treatment of health conditions.

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		Develop national standards for the delivery of health checks.	Improve the consistency of approach to delivering health checks across Wales.
3.6	Undertake an options appraisal to establish a digital platform to support the comprehensive implementation of the Health Equalities Framework (HEF) across Wales.	Undertake phase 1 in 2022-23 – user research – to inform development of a specification for the platform.	Establishment of a digital system for inputting, collating and analysing data on the impact of services on the health and well-being of the individual. Establishment of a Wales-wide local and national reporting system.
3.7	Physical Health – Undertake improvement projects to reduce health inequalities, premature and avoidable deaths.	Develop policies and/or guidance to address emerging health issues and improve how mainstream NHS services identify and respond to the needs of an individual with a learning disability: Priorities include: The identification, diagnosis and treatment of constipation, Priority access to vaccinations and improve access to screening	Reduce health inequalities and avoidable deaths through improved service provision.

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		services, secure widespread use of the health profile, Additional Learning Needs tools, review use of the flagging system and use of the care bundle	
3.8	Loneliness and Isolation - ensure the ongoing work on tackling loneliness and social isolation continues to link with our learning disability improvement priorities.	Explore the prevalence and causes of loneliness and isolation for people with a learning disability.	Better understanding of the prevalence and causes of loneliness and isolation for people with a learning disability and action taken to improve inclusion and involvement.
3.9	New approaches to day services, respite care and short breaks	Implement the actions in the Delivery Plan that support Priority 3 of the Strategy for Unpaid Carers: supporting a life alongside caring, including working towards a better understanding of how a break from caring can be accessed, funded and delivered	Improved access to flexible respite and short break options that promote inclusion and well-being
3.10	Enabling integrated care and support through Direct Payments and CHCs.	Explore the interface between Direct Payments and CHC to maximise impact and effectiveness for people with a learning disability, their families and carers.	Improved outcomes through better, integrated person-centred care, support and treatment. .
3.11	Supporting parents with a learning disability	Develop, publish and launch bilingual national guidance for Children's Social Care Services on best practice about how parents or soon	Increased understanding and awareness across services. Parents with a

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		to be parents with a learning disability can be best supported so families stay together and children thrive.	learning disability receiving improved support and a reduction in children being taken into care.
3.12	Review of the Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014	Welsh Government to complete work on the review of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. Work with LDMAG to ensure the views and experiences of people with learning disabilities are reflected in the outcomes of the review to address identified gaps in provision.	Ensuring the aims and objectives of the Social Services and Wellbeing(Wales) Act 2014 meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and their parents and carers
3.13	Social Care Workforce	Welsh Government to work with partners to support workforce planning to ensure the recruitment and development of a resilient, appropriately trained workforce.	Provision of services that fully meet the needs of people with a learning disability, their families and carers.
3.14	Carers and Carers Policy	Welsh Government to ensure the needs of carers(including sibling carers) of people with learning disabilities and carers with learning disabilities are understood and are being addressed consistently across Wales.	The needs of carers of people with learning disabilities and carers with learning disabilities are understood and accessible support is available.
4 Advocacy, Self-Advocacy, Engagement and Collaboration			

No.	Strategic Priority Area	Tasks/Actions	Outcome
4.1	To promote voice choice and control for people with learning disabilities and their carers. To include advocacy and self-advocacy and digital inclusion and support for sibling carers.	Welsh Government to work with stakeholders to explore and review advocacy support, in order to develop advocacy services for adults in line with Commissioning Guidance.	People with learning disabilities have their voices heard, are listened to and are supported to make choices and control their own lives.
5 Education, Children and Young People			
5.1	Children and Young People's Learning Disability Services	Welsh Government to work with stakeholders and service providers to improve collaborative working in the provision of children's learning disability services, including transition services, across health, social care and education.	To provide a consistent, accessible and easily understood, wales-wide approach to children's services across the public sector.
5.2	Additional Learning Needs –Implementation-	Ensure the needs of learners with learning disabilities are represented at a national ALN steering group which will co-create an accountability framework to ensure successful implementation of the ALN Act.	<p>Evaluation of the extent to which stakeholders are compliant with the provisions in the ALN Act and the initial effects and impacts of the Act.</p> <p>Assessment of the extent to which the ALN Act has achieved its intended outcomes.</p>
6 Employment and Skills			

No.	Strategic Priority Area	Tasks/Actions	Outcome
6.1	To improve access to employment, training and support for people with learning disabilities to remain in the workplace	Develop appropriate employment policies that fully incorporate the needs of people with a learning disability.	Improve employment opportunities for people with a learning disability.
6.2	Supported Apprenticeships	Maximise opportunities for people with a learning disability to access apprenticeship schemes.	To achieve and maintain apprenticeship starts for disabled people at above 10%.
7 Housing (including provision of joined up support within health and social care to ensure provision of appropriate housing, as close to home as possible.			
7.1	Promote Regional Partnership Boards engagement with stakeholders to ensure inclusion of the voice and views of people with a learning disability.	<p>Ensure RPB needs assessment and planning arrangements include meaningful engagement with key stakeholders including those with a learning disability.</p> <p>As part of Welsh Government's 'Rebalancing Care and Support' work programme, work with RPBs to promote and facilitate coproduction and inclusion of service user and carer voice in service design and delivery.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen, carer and third sector reps are supported and enabled to make a full contribution to the work of RPB boards. • The views of disabled people are represented at board level and across the wider regional partnership. • Co-production is embedded in the work of RPBs, and people with learning disabilities are able to be fully engaged in the work of the regional partnerships at all levels.

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7.2	The Regional Integration Fund -	Ensure the needs and views of people with learning disabilities are fully taken into account in future co-ordination of the new Regional Integration Fund revenue and Capital programmes	Alignment of revenue and capital fund guidance, planning and decision making processes to maximise opportunities for delivering integrated/seamless support to people with learning disabilities in their own home or community
7.3	Housing and Accommodation – voice and control in decision-making.	Improve choice and control for people with learning disabilities including where they live and who they live with, within community housing, supported living and private tenancies.	People with learning disabilities are living in housing which meets their needs and promotes their well-being.
8 Transport			
8.1	People with learning disabilities have improved access to public transport across Wales which meets their needs	Ensure services operated by public transport providers meet the diverse needs of users. Including ensuring accessibility of timetables in all areas of Wales, through engagement with experts by experience on developing policies such as Active Travel and the Wales Transport Strategy.	Public transport meets the needs of people with learning disabilities to fully engage in their communities