

By: Kevin Lynes, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Services
Oliver Mills, Managing Director, KASS

To: Cabinet – 16 June 2008

Subject: **“BETTER DAYS FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING
DISABILITIES IN KENT”**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report:

1. Restates the current Members agreed strategy (1999) for the Modernisation of Learning Disability Day Services.
 2. Restates the refreshed and accessible strategy for consultation “What makes a good day?” and the questionnaire.
 3. Provides brief detail and outcomes of the consultation programme.
 4. Requests approval from Cabinet for publication and launch of new strategy for Kent “Better Days for People with Learning Disabilities in Kent”
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Introduction

1. (1) In March 1999 Members were advised of the outcomes from an extended consultation on Day Services for people with a learning disability. Since the report Kent Adult Social Services has implemented many changes to the services it commissions and runs to meet the strategic objectives and address the identified shortcomings.

(2) Kent has a range of services that are well developed, forward thinking and active, but at the same time other services that have not recognisably changed over the past few decades. It is accepted that there needs to be greater consistency across services in Kent to ensure all people with learning disabilities are able to have greater choice and lead fulfilled lives.

(3) In April 2007 a presentation was made to ASSPOC detailing a refreshed and accessible strategy to improve days for people with learning disabilities in Kent. The strategy has implications not just for Kent Adult Social Services but also on all directorates of KCC, especially Communities and Children, Families and Education.

(4) A consultation on the strategy "What makes a good day?" took place between August and November 2007.

(5) Both the strategy "What makes a good day?" and accompanying questionnaire "Your say on what makes a good day?" were designed and checked with the assistance of people with learning disabilities.

Policy Context

2. (1) A re-launch and a well managed implementation of this refreshed strategy will support KASS/KCC to achieve a number of its aims within the following documents/policies.

- Our Health, Our Care, Our Say
- Valuing People and Valuing People Now
- Active Lives
- Towards 2010
- Supporting Independence Programme
- PSA 2 target 9 (employment)
- Individualised Budgets and Self-Directed Support
- Employment Strategy (LD)
- Modernising Learning Disability Day Services in Kent

(2) Ensuring people with learning disability are able, as full citizens, to access mainstream services including leisure, adult education and work opportunities is the responsibility of all parts of the Local Authority and its partners.

(3) Consultation on "What makes a good day?" took place just prior to the launch of the national consultation document Valuing People Now. "What Makes a Good Day" has a large number of similarities to Valuing People Now and will help Kent's implementation of Valuing People Now.

Consultation

3. (1) The consultation involved

- Presentation and discussion at District Partnership Groups
- Two large workshops for East and West Kent
- Two Member's briefings
- Agreement of Partnership Board
- Presentation to Modernisation Board, ASSPOC and Chief Officers Group
- Support of people with learning disabilities to ensure all documents were accessible
- Distribution of 4,500 draft documents and questionnaires
- Creation of online questionnaires
- Events at most of Kent's day services for people with learning disabilities
- Events with a number of advocacy organisations
- Meeting with families and carers
- Discussion with commissioning teams

(2) The work was undertaken by the Business Change Manager/Project Team/County Project Board, in conjunction with Kent Partnership Board for people with a learning disability, lead individuals and organisations.

(3) During consultation a number of Members requested that the agreed document be presented to full Council.

Findings

4. (1) 4,500 copies of the draft document "What makes a good day?" were circulated to day services, District Partnership Groups, Members of KCC, District Councils, Integrated Teams, all Departments of KCC, Schools, Adult Education, Voluntary Organisations, PCT's, providers of day and residential services, Advocacy Services, and Carers groups

(2) We received 375 questionnaires complete. It is believed that a number of these were completed as group activities but they have only been counted as a single entry unless it has been stated otherwise. Over 80% of the questionnaires were returned as filled by people with a learning disability, with the next largest group represented by families/carers.

(3) 96% agreed we consulted with the right people

(4) 95% agreed with the vision statement

(5) There was strong agreement with the 6 Key Principles with each having a minimum of 89% agreement, however, it was suggested that 2 of the principles were combined.

(6) There was strong agreement with the "9 signs of a good day," with each having a minimum of 79% agreement.

(7) Although agreement levels were very high The Good Day Programme has amended the draft document to improve the strategy further in line with the comments and feedback we received.

(8) Findings of the consultation were presented to and discussed at ASSPOC on 29 January 2008.

Comments and Feedback

5. (1) The consultation generated a great deal of comment and feedback, a few examples follow:-

(2) Some comments on the Vision Statement

"Although we have come a long way in teaching people about accepting us with learning disabilities as "normal" human beings. There is still much more work to do."

"Having the right information to inform choice is important."

"We need to make sure everyone, even those with high support needs, are supported."

(3) Some comments on the 6 Principles

"As long as the money is spent on the right thing and everyone has a say in how it is spent."

"There is a lack of supported employment availability."

"We should decide what to do with the money."

(4) Some comments on the "9 signs of a good day."

"When I sit in by myself all the time, time goes very slowly. When I am left sitting on my own at the centre it makes me feel sad. I would like to go to college but not just to do the course they want me to do like bloody life skills every year!"

"STOP SEGREGATING PEOPLE"

"Please can I have a job? I worked hard to learn the bus route. I worked hard at work. I enjoyed earning some money to buy Dr Who magazines. I use the public bus service, when I used the minibus for day centre it was unreliable."

(5) Some overall comments

"This seems like a really good plan. I hope everyone can stick to it."

"It was difficult to understand - Big Words."

"What makes a good day? Being listened to, not dictated to! Good, regular respite to recharge OUR batteries."

Redrafting the Strategy

6. (1) The consultation concluded and the strategy has now been redrafted using the information gained during the consultation period. The Good Day Programme undertook this work with the support of a number of people with learning disabilities.

(2) The final draft document is written in an accessible format and we will look to create a number of other formats – DVD, audio and different languages on demand.

(3) The attached final draft documents were presented to and approved by Kent's Partnership Board for People with learning disabilities 8 May 2008.

(4) Further to Cabinet agreement the strategy will be formally launched and published.

Conclusion

7. (1) The paper is to present the document "Better Days for People with a learning disability in Kent" to Cabinet.

(2) The strategy is viewed as a refining and redefining of previous strategies in 1999 and 2003. The new strategy provides a countywide framework to support local programmes of change and improvement.

(3) Although the majority of the feedback and comments are very supportive there is still a great deal of work to be done to change people's attitudes and perceptions of people with learning disabilities. There is a need to ensure that satisfaction with services is monitored as change is implemented.

(4) This process has again shown that the best advocates for people with learning disabilities are people with learning disabilities themselves.

Recommendations

8. (1) Cabinet is asked to agree and approve the document "Better Days for people with learning disabilities in Kent"

(2) Cabinet is advised that KASS will monitor levels of satisfaction with services, from both people with learning disability and family carers, as changes are implemented

Appendix

Appendix 1 – "Better Days for people with learning disabilities in Kent"

Background Papers

Review of Day Services for people with a Learning Disability	March 1999
Modernisation of Learning Disability Day Services in Kent	May 2003
"What makes a good day?"	ASSPOC Jan 2008

Author: Dee Watson
(Business Change Manager)
07740 184588