

Joint Commissioning Strategy for Disabled People's Services

Briefing Paper

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Local Health Board are working together to develop a joint commissioning strategy for disabled people's health, housing and social services. This will build upon and form a more detailed development of the work that has started as part of the modernisation of social care services.

The aim is to gain a clearer idea of the services we need to meet the needs of the increased numbers of disabled people living in Neath Port Talbot in the future. We will consider both the services that we need to increase, and those we need to reduce. The strategy will help us to decide how best to invest our resources to modernise our services in the future.

The development of the strategy will concentrate on the overall configuration of services across the county borough. It will help us to decide whether we need to make changes in the type of services provided, and whether the locations of different services across the county are sensible. The strategy will be concerned particularly, but not exclusively, with services for disabled people and those with a sensory impairment, who have been assessed as meeting moderate, substantial or critical need via the Community Care Eligibility Framework. And who are of working age that is 18 to 64 years of age, however links will be made to strategies for disabled children and older people

Work on the strategy will involve an analysis of current and future population needs, what good practice is happening elsewhere, and will look at what the Welsh Assembly Government requires from us.

We will develop the strategy on close collaboration with provider agencies, clinicians, professional staff, patients/service users and carers about the kind of services we are looking to develop in the future. We will also carefully consider previous consultations and recent feedback about the experiences of patients/clients of existing services.

We have asked a team from The Institute of Public Care, at Oxford Brookes University, to help us develop the strategy. IPC is experienced in carrying out research and evaluation in health, housing and social services. A project team from the Council and LHB has been formed to coordinate the work.

The Draft Strategy will be developed between October 2007 and June 2008, during this time at key stages, consultation with key stakeholders will take place. This consultation will seek the views via different medians such as the

completion of questionnaires, sharing of documentation, undertaking interviews and by holding seminars and meetings.

Updates regarding progress of this work will be posted onto the Neath Port Talbot Social Care Partnership website, the address for this site is; www.ssiacymru.org.uk/scip

We would be very grateful if you would help us by contributing when asked, or indeed, if you wish at any time, by contacting any member of the project team, whose names are enclosed. You can also contact myself if you would like more details of the activities involved in the development of the strategy.

Many thanks in advance for your contribution.

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