

Greater Manchester Health & Social Care Partnership
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Our Ref: LPS/PS

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Letter sent via email

GM LA Leaders, CEOs and DASS; CCG Chairs and AOs
Cc.NHS Trust CEOs; CEO, GMCVO; Chair, PCAG

Dear Colleague

Implementation of the Greater Manchester Learning Disability Strategy

On 13 July, the Health and Care Board signed off a new GM Learning Disabilities Strategy which highlights a number of priorities identified by people with a learning disability; thank you for your organisation's support in developing and agreeing the strategy, and the commitment from you that represents. As a summary those key commitments are:

Strategic leadership	Coproduction and leadership to reduce inequalities experienced by people with a learning disability
Advocacy	Supporting people and their families to speak up for themselves
Bespoke commissioning	Embedding person-centred planning approaches and new commissioning arrangements for people who need the most support
Good health	Reducing health inequalities by improving access to health services, screening and reasonable adjustments; implementing learning from LeDeR
Belonging	Supporting people to make friends and have relationships
Homes for people	Ensuring people have a choice about where they live and which kind of housing they live in and are supported to live as independently as possible. This includes expanding shared lives provision to 15% of the LD population by 2022
Employment	Enabling more people to obtain paid employment and supporting young people to consider their employment options during transition. A GM target of 7% of people with LD in employment by 2020 has been approved as part of the Strategy
Workforce	A skilled workforce and quality providers that know how to support people and demonstrate humanity and values
Early support for children and young people	Ensuring children, young people and their families get early help and support which meets their needs
Justice system	Ensuring offenders are being represented, treated fairly and supported not to reoffender; ensuing victims have a voice

To progress implementation of the priorities to and thus ensure the strategy starts to make a difference to people's lives and to get some actions underway we are asking all localities to work with their local LD Partnerships Boards and seek active participation and commitment to action. We would like all localities to develop delivery plans for the strategy. If you already have a clear learning disabilities plan at local level it provides an opportunity to refresh it to ensure that it embeds the commitments that we have all now made at GM level.

We are also posing a collective 100 day challenge from 17 September where at local and GM level we look at positive changes that can be made against the Strategy objectives over that time period. This would enable us to show people with a learning disability and their families that we have worked towards change within 6 months of the strategy being approved.

In particular, one of the priorities which I am keen for all localities to make a real difference is employment. Given our record of the Partnership on programmes such "Working Well", I was both shocked and disappointed at the average GM LD employment figure of 4.4% and although I believe updated figures recently published show an improvements, GM is still behind the national average, which itself is pitiful. I am therefore personally going to champion this stream of work.

At GM the Partnership and Combined Authority will be working together to develop plans which will support local delivery and represent our contribution to the 100 day challenge. Warren Heppolette, Executive Lead for Strategy and System Development at GM HSCP, and Mark Warren, Managing Director Health and Adult Social Care Community Services in Oldham, will be leading this work. Examples of GM work that are already in our plans includes exploring additional resources for supported employment, working with providers on new commissioning models and improving quality and developing GM policies and campaigns with Shared Lives providers to support expansion. We will confirm our 100 day challenge in due course.

Please can you confirm what your local delivery arrangements will be for the LD Strategy, including the team that will be supporting this, and the action you will be taking for the 100 day challenge by Monday 10 September. Please send your responses or any queries to Lucy Malcolm, Programme Manager for LD at GM HSCP, Lucy.Malcolm2@nhs.net.

Thanks for your help. Let's really go for this and see what difference we can make even within the difficult resource context which we face.



Lord Smith of Leigh
Chair: Greater Manchester Health and Care Board