



LDIAG NEWS

Feb 2007

Welsh Assembly Government's Learning Disability Implementation Advisory Group

This month's newsletter looks at the group's ideas where money should be spent and the roadshow in South Wales.

What should money be spent on?

The group have been thinking about where money should be spent in Learning Disability services.



The ideas had to fit in with other Welsh Assembly Government documents.

Ideas included: support people to become more independent so they don't need as many staff.

If people who are sent a long way away from home for services are brought home it would save a lot of money.



The most important thing to spend money on is accommodation.

Money should be spent on giving people more choice of what to do in the day.



Money should be spent on helping people find jobs.

LDIAG on the road South Wales

Lots of people told us about what was happening in their lives.

People talked about how difficult getting about was.



People told us about worrying that hospitals would not know they had epilepsy, if they had a fit.



There are cards you can get for your wallets explaining about your illness. Thanks to everyone who came.



Written with All Wales People First.
For more information
mailto:lis.walters@learningdisabilitywales.org.uk
029 20681173 Take a look at the group's website
<http://www.ldiag.org.uk>





Learning Disability
Implementation
Advisory Group

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This month's newsletter looks at the group's investment priorities in learning disability sector and the on the road event.

Financial Priorities draft document

The Minister asked the group what their recommendations for financial priorities were to tie in with the draft Policy and Practice document. He explained that resources were limited and that any proposals had to fit with other key policies like: Designed for Life and the draft "Fulfilled Lives, Supportive Communities" In deciding on their priorities the group also bore in mind that the number of people with learning disabilities is increasing.

The group have suggested a number of areas of provision that could be made more cost effective. One area is reducing the reliance on staff within supported accommodation. Recent research has shown that partial rather than full support for people with lower support needs can contribute to greater independence. Another way of improving cost effectiveness is resettling people who have been put in out-of-area placements they have not chosen to be in. Resettling people back close to their families, if that is where they would rather be, would make considerable cost savings.

The group felt the financial priorities were expansion of available supported accommodation. Over the last 15 years more and more people with learning disabilities live at home with their families. It has been estimated that 1,700 adults live with carers aged 70 years and over. Also the group would like investment in expanding employment and other daytime occupations. Whilst day services have been changed the reform is not complete to date. The group welcomes the funding of Annual Health Checks and stresses how important it is that the results of the health checks are acted on, and access to health checks and follow up action is monitored. The LDIAG would like to set up a group to develop a self assessment tool for local authorities so local authorities can assess the resource investment. Workforce planning, the LDIAG would like to see moves to improve the status of the workforce for example clear career paths.

LDIAG on the road South Wales

It was a wild and wet day. The wind howled around the Stebonheath Centre, Llanelli as people braved their way to the LDIAG on the Road event. Thanks to all of you who made it over to talk about the group's work and let us know what is happening for you. Lots of people talked about things that were affecting them around health. People raised concerns about what would happen to them if they had an epileptic fit and how people in hospitals would know that they had epilepsy. The National Society for Epilepsy have cards that people can keep in their wallets and hospitals will always check people's wallets. There are also lockets you can get. Other people talked about having no real choice of day opportunities. An example was given of people working all day, every day making fire alarms for £1 a day. People were asking what good practice there was around Wales. Issues about how difficult transport was were also raised and people depicted situations where they were spending all their money on taxis just to be able to get about.



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