

Learning Disability Services and Issues

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Area Committee with information on the current services provided for Adults with a Learning Disability in the MAKI area, the issues Social Work Adult Care Team are currently addressing within these services and other concerns known to be important to service users and carers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Area Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

3.0 DETAIL

3.1 Team Structure and Performance

There are 42 Learning Disability clients in Mid Argyll, 34 in Kintyre and 6 in Islay case managed or care co-ordinated by MAKI Adult Care as part of the wider Learning Disability Network of specialist health and social work professionals. There are 3 clients living in residential care, the remainder are living in the community. The Team Leader (Learning Disability) is part of the MAKI Adult Care management team that reports to the Area Manager. Team Leader (Learning Disability) covers both OLI and MAKI, line managing the operational team of 1 Social Worker and 1 Community Care Assistant each in Mid Argyll and Kintyre. The Mid Argyll and Kintyre Social Workers currently care manage 3 of Islay Learning Disability clients and the remainder of 6 Islay clients are care co-ordinated through the generic Islay Social Work team.

With the enactment of Self Directed Support in April 2014 the operational Learning Disability staff have been carrying out reviews which identify indicative budgets and develop support plans based on collaborative work to identify agreed outcomes and choices made about how these can best be achieved.

Pyramid records performance of the assessment and case management team as consistently on or near target in respect of referrals and assessments. In

August there were no referrals which took over 5 days to allocate and two assessments which took over 28 days. The Team Leader had not completed a file audit, and it is acknowledged this target has consistently not been met due to service delivery priorities.

There are 3 registered services provided by Adult Care in MAKI, Woodlands Resource Centre, Lochgilphead Resource Centre and Greenwood Housing Support Service. There is one manager for these three services, with teams of staff in each location. Resource centres provide a base for day support services, in Lochgilphead in August 2014 to 17 clients and in Woodlands to 20 clients. Greenwood has 6 tenancies available with housing support, one is currently vacant following a tenant being supported to move out into their own flat in the town. The success of this transition was noted in the recent Care Inspection report.

3.2 Key gaps in service

There are 3 service providers delivering 554.25 hours (431 Housing Support and 123.25 personal care) in Mid Argyll and 383.75 (297.5 housing support and 86.25 personal care) in Kintyre. There are 369.75 hours delivered via direct payments and internal homecare on Islay. There is no specialist service provider actively delivering services on Islay, despite the framework appointing 3 Learning Disability providers. Quality Assurance are working with the Team Leader Learning Disability to seek to develop a sustainable service on the island.

The team is also aware of a small number of young people on the autistic spectrum whose current and future needs may best be met by providers who can provide specialist support but who will certainly require very person-centred support to be developed if they are to remain or return to their community. The Team Leader proposes to work with specialist providers who can deliver community based services as an alternative to residential options outwith Argyll and Bute area to help ensure the new Autism Strategy delivers measurable service and outcome improvements, particularly for young people transitioning to adult services.

3.3 Greenwood Inspection Report

Greenwood was inspected on 28th May 2014 and received a poor draft inspection report. The report is not yet finalised and published on the Care Inspectorate website, but Area Committee are being informed now of its findings and the work that has started to address the identified areas for improvement.

The grades given were Care and Support 2 (weak) with two statements inspected resulting in 4 requirements and 5 recommendations, Staffing 3 (adequate) with 1 requirement and 3 recommendations and Management and Leadership 2 (weak) with 3 requirements. This is a significant drop in grades over the previous inspection in 2012, just following the change in registration of Greenwood from a care home to tenancies with housing support/care at home, when the service was awarded 4 (good) across each area. It would seem there is an extent to which the drop in grading has been impacted by the move from locality based inspectors to inspectors with specialist remits, however it is

important to note that raising the standard of inspection is welcomed and we want to work with inspectors to improve the service to the benefit of service users.

Whilst the report acknowledges that the core staff group is very stable and are knowledgeable about individual service users, in addition to requirements and recommendations, many areas of improvements are also identified in the narrative. The report highlights that the change from a care home to current combined housing support/care at home service is very complex and demanding and that the change has not been monitored and evaluated in a structured fashion.

Main areas requiring change are in relation to paperwork, recording, training, and encompassing all of the specifics the need for a detailed and effective quality assurance system. Some of the issues identified raise the question of whether the current registration is the most appropriate or needs to be reconsidered. The Service Manager (Learning Disability) is currently reviewing the service in terms of clarifying appropriate registration and appropriateness of model of care.

A detailed action plan has been submitted (see Appendix 1) to the inspectorate by the Unit manager with assistance of line and Service Manager (Learning Disability) and the Unit manager and staff are working on the required improvements.

3.4 Financial pressures

In addition to provision of registered services, the support for Learning Disability clients is mainly financed through the Supported Living budget, with support for carers funded through the respite budget. In common with other areas of the authority, both these budgets were projecting significant overspends at the start of the financial year with commitments made in previous years far exceeding available budget. Area Managers were tasked with bringing down these budgets into line.

August budget monitoring for the Learning Disability Supported Living budget 2014 shows a projected overspend of £35,938. Savings have been achieved since the start of the year, however we have also needed to put in new support to new and existing service users. There is also an expectation that 4 young people will be making the progression into adult services during the remainder of 2014/15 putting additional pressure on these budgets.

The Learning Disability respite budget had a projected overspend of over £25,669. This was brought into line by reducing the allocation for some carers bringing in a saving of £10,761 and increasing the budget by cancelling a block purchased bed in Auchinlee. The authority aims to provide carers with notification of their annual allocation by end of May, this was delayed in MAKI this year until early June following clarity about 2014/15 budget position and careful consideration of risks around reducing allocations. This budget is now on track, however as intimated above the Team Leader (Learning Disability) is

aware of young people who will be transitioning whose carers will require respite so the situation will remain challenging.

3.5 Sleepovers update

Members considered a report on Telecare potential to maximise independence by replacing some sleepovers at the end of 2013. The limited success of work to encourage clients and carers to consider this option was noted. There have been a small number of further reductions in 2014 but there remain 51 nights per week delivered or paid for through direct payment as sleepovers in the MAKI area. This equates to a total spend of £132,600 this year. Sleepovers continue to be subjected to desk top review by the Team Leader (Learning Disability) who would ask case manager to carry out review with clients should there appear to be a potential capacity for a change to use of Telecare and CARR GOMM response.

3.6 Independent Living Fund (ILF)

Independent Living Fund is additional money for service users to support social inclusion and assist people to remain in the community in which they live. Eligibility is dependent on a service user being assessed and in receipt of support worth at least £340 a week or £17,680 a year. This can include Direct Payments or services provided e.g. going to a day centre. ILF is administered by the Department of Works and Pensions and there are currently 15 Learning Disability clients in MAKI who receive ILF.

There have been plans for significant changes in the way ILF is delivered and administered. The current scheme is to close in June 2015 and has been closed to new users since 2010. The Scottish Government announced in April 2014 that the Scottish Independent Living Fund (SILF) will be set up to commence in July 2015, to be run by the third sector.

For Learning Disability clients ILF payments are usually administered by a person's main carer, usually a close family member and payments usually contribute a substantial proportion of the overall cost of a person's care package. Learning Disability team are aware that there is some anxiety and frustration amongst MAKI carers about the lack of clarity about a range of issues such as whether individual payments will continue or be reduced, whether eligibility criteria or what payments can be used for will change.

There is also some concern about how ILF funding will dovetail with new Self Directed Support (SDS) approach and arrangements for the delivery of social care. Since SDS remains in the early stages of implementation there are some concerns evident as to whether changes in support packages may reduce the total monetary value of support and have implications for eligibility of ILF/SILF. The Council's Self Directed Support Officer is the local authority link to the Independent Living Fund and has already contacted all clients in receipt of ILF to provide initial information about the forthcoming changes and provide a point of informed contact for service users/carers.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Policy	None.
4.2 Financial	Overspending local budgets require to be brought in online, requiring concerted efforts to ensure maximised use of available resources and careful targeting of to minimise risk and meet client outcomes.
4.3 Legal	None.
4.4 HR	None.
4.5 Equalities	None specific to this report.
4.6 Risk	None
4.7 Customer Service	None

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Greenwood Service Improvement Plan