

Physical & Sensory Impairment (Health Social Care & Well Being Strategy)

The Cardiff Local Service Board (LSB) brings together the leaders of public services in the City. It aims to make these organisations work better together and improve services. The LSB includes:

- Cardiff Council
- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- South Wales Fire & Rescue Service
- South Wales Police
- Voluntary Action Cardiff (VAC)
- Welsh Assembly Government

To help these services work better together, they decided to choose goals that they will all work towards. These are:

1. People in Cardiff are healthy
2. People in Cardiff have a clean, attractive and sustainable environment
3. People in Cardiff are safe and feel safe
4. Cardiff has a thriving and prosperous economy
5. People in Cardiff achieve their full potential
6. Cardiff is a great place to live, work and play
7. Cardiff is a fair, just and inclusive society.

If all public services work toward these goals together, they should be able to share resources and improve the quality of life for everyone in Cardiff.

The Cardiff Health Alliance agreed to use these 7 goals to develop the Health, Social Care & Well Being Strategy (HSCWB) for 2011 to 2014. The Cardiff Health Alliance is a partnership of the Council, the University Health Board and the Voluntary Sector. It works to improve the health and well being of people in Cardiff.

The Health Alliance recognises that it is important to support people with a physical and/or sensory impairment. The HSCWB Strategy includes a section

on this. The Physical and Sensory Impairment Advisory Planning Group (APG) wrote a draft of this section. The APG includes professionals from the Council, the University Health Board, the voluntary sector, community education, and the Community Health Council.

We would like you to read this draft section before the Critical Friends Group meeting. We would like you to tell us if you think anything is incorrect or if something is missing.

Introduction

This section shows how the APG wants to make improvements for anyone with a physical and/or sensory impairment and who are over 18 years old.

The APG uses the Social Model of Disability. This says that 'impairments' are medical issues belonging to an individual. It also says that 'disability' relates to barriers imposed upon people with impairments. For example, if a person is unable to access a building, it is the building that is disabling the person and not the impairment.

Measures

The APG agreed that we would want to see improvements in these areas:

- The number of people with an impairment in employment.
- The number of professionals within partnership organisations who have completed the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) training.
- The number of adaptations fitted in homes for helping people to stay independent and safe.
- How long people have to wait to move into suitable accommodation.

The APG also agreed that they should start to measure:

- Incidents of hate crime that have occurred because of somebody having an impairment.
- How well rehabilitation and reablement (helping people to get better after a period of ill health) services have helped people.
- Information about how we have improved the quality of life for people.
- The amount of buildings or public spaces that are not accessible to everyone.

The APG know that these are not the only things that could be measured, but they decided these were the most important areas.

Background

When trying to make things better in these areas, it is important to remember:

When supporting people to live independently, some people may only need a little help for a short time. Others might need more help for longer. It is important that we do not give too much support because people may become dependent on services when they do not need to be. It is also important we do not give too little.

Making sure that people can be part of their local community if they choose to. This means that we may have to improve access to buildings or services. We may need to provide support to enable people to access local facilities. It also means that we need to challenge negative attitudes that people may have towards people with an impairment.

Everyone should have an equal opportunity in life.

Employers must make 'reasonable adjustments' to recruitment processes, work arrangements and the working environment in order to accommodate disabled people. An employer who does not will be guilty of discrimination, unless they can justify their actions.

Some areas of Cardiff have more people living there with chronic conditions such as stroke and respiratory disease. These areas may need more health facilities.

Some people find it difficult to maintain a healthy weight and this means that services need to have special equipment available.

Cardiff has a significant migrant population with specific health, social and cultural needs that require consideration.

Cardiff has a resident prison population. There are people released from prison who have health and disability needs. Following release, some people have lost some of their skills that they need to support themselves.

It is always more difficult for people with physical and sensory impairments to find work, and the current economic conditions may make this even more challenging.

There is now more public awareness and understanding of the types of abuse that vulnerable people can experience. Protection Of Vulnerable Adults

(POVA) is a formal process for investigating any incidents, and there has been an increase in the number of cases being reported. We want to improve the protection of vulnerable adults and make it as easy as possible for people to report their concerns.

Modern technology has given people better opportunities to live independently. We want to make more of this available to people depending on the availability of funding.

People with physical and sensory impairments have the right to have appropriate housing at appropriate times in their life. Therefore it is important that there is a choice of accommodation available.

The APG would want to make changes in all these areas, but it is very important to remember that services will have less money. They will need to think very carefully about how they can do this.

Partners

Services can make changes by working with other services. Some of the organisations who can help by working together are:

- Cardiff Council including Adult services; Children services; Schools & Lifelong Learning; Housing & Neighbourhood Renewal; Direct Services; and Leisure & Play.
- NHS.
- Cardiff Health Alliance.
- Third / Voluntary Sector
- Commercial employers
- Care & Repair
- Employment agencies
- Further education.

Changes should be made by working with service users and carers and listening to their experiences and ideas.

What are we going to do?

- The APG decided that they will develop actions in these ways:
- Improve use of home adaptations and use advances in modern technology when possible. This can help people to remain independent and safe in their own home. It also helps to reduce the number of people who have to stay in hospital when they do not need to.
- Make more use of projects that support people into employment. Make more use of rehabilitation through work or volunteering. Improve how we work with employment agencies to develop work opportunities for people.
- Do more awareness raising about disability rights and equality and diversity issues. This helps to improve public understanding and knowledge and reduces negative attitudes.
- Continue to educate people on issues of abuse and public protection
- Continue to increase the choice and variety of accommodation available when possible. This includes respite, nursing home and residential care. For example, a recent extra care housing scheme in Cardiff, is a good example of a joint public and housing sector project. It provides a high standard of care and support and is located centrally in the community.
- Continue to make use of services from Third / Voluntary Sector partners to meet specific needs.
- Continue to make day services more community based and look for more opportunities for people to develop new skills and have new experiences.
- Promote healthier lifestyles because this may reduce the number of people with chronic illnesses later in life.