



Learning Disabilities

Who used our services in 2013/14?

- 620 people with learning disabilities are currently known to the Community Learning Disability Team, 339 who are eligible to receive services.
- 673 people with learning disabilities are identified on GP registers: 62 with profound or complex needs, 128 are aged under 17 years, 506 are 18-64 and 39 are aged 65+.
- There were a small number of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLs) applications concerning people with learning disabilities which were responded to accordingly, however we are seeing an increase following the outcome of the Cheshire West Supreme Court ruling. There are dedicated 'Best Interest Assessors' now working on dealing with the increase.



£12.9m was spent on services for people with learning disabilities including care and support, our in-house services, staffing, and our commissioned contracts (for example, our Supported Living schemes).

What services are available for people with learning disabilities?

- There are a range of day opportunities available and a maximum capacity of 109 placements in supported living schemes locally.
- There are five residential and care homes in the borough providing support for around 60 people with a learning disability (including 80 Gascoigne Road which offers support for those with more complex needs). There are an additional 33 people living in care homes outside of the borough.
- The Council has a range of in-house services including the **Maples** (a day centre that provides and organises activities that help people with learning disabilities to achieve their goals and ambitions), and **Heathlands** (which provides day services and activities for adults with learning disabilities who require intensive care and support). Additionally, the Council has an integrated **Community Learning Disability Team**, a team of social workers, nurses, doctors and therapists who work with people with more severe and complex learning disabilities and who are eligible for Adult Social Care from the Council.



The Borough has an ambitious transformational programme called '**Fulfilling Lives**' which is aimed at encouraging independence, choice and control and expanding the number of opportunities available to people with a learning disability to ensure that they have the same life chances as everyone else.

What do people with learning disabilities think of social care services?

Based on the 2013/14 Adult Social Care survey:



- 86% of people with learning disabilities felt that they had as much control over their daily lives as they wanted or adequate control over their daily lives;
- 86% of people with learning disabilities said that care and support services made them feel safe;
- 77% of people with learning disabilities said they were 'extremely satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the care and support they receive;
- 64% of people with learning disabilities felt that they have as much contact as they want with people they like;
- 52% of people with learning disabilities found it easy or very easy to find information and advice about support, services or benefits.

These are good results for people feeling in control of their lives, for people feeling safe and satisfied with the support they receive. The low score for social contact and access to information reaffirms the Council's commitment to the Fulfilling Lives programme.

During consultation on the Local Account with the Learning Disability Service User Forum, service users told us that they were particularly concerned about uptake levels for health screenings for people with learning disabilities. There were concerns that service users are not attending appointments and that some people are not aware of the importance of screening. Additionally, service users were concerned that not everyone with a learning disability was appearing on GP registers in the Borough.

Health screening and GP registers will form some of our plans for 2014/15 in the work that we are doing in learning disabilities.

What did we achieve in 2013/14?

- ✓ The **Fulfilling Lives programme** which started in 2012, is continuing to expand the range of meaningful opportunities available for people with learning disabilities.
- ✓ **Relish@BLC** opened in March 2013, a café that provides an opportunity for adults with a learning disability to gain the work experience and interaction with the public for them to take into further employment opportunities. Relish is also the venue for '**Stars in the sky**' which provides friendship groups and nightclub events across the whole of London and Essex making Relish a premier learning disability venue!
- ✓ **Developed traineeships** for people with a learning disability aged 16 -25 in partnership with Barking and Dagenham College. Six trainees completed the programme in 2013/14 and a new cohort is starting in 2014/15.
- ✓ The 'Welcome to our World' (WOW) Autism Unit based at Heathlands achieved an **excellent rated accreditation** from the National Autism Society.
- ✓ The **ELF Project**, sponsored by the Public Health Programme, started in September 2013 aiming to improve the health of people in Barking and Dagenham who have a learning disability.



ELF participants in the weight loss programme

ELF stands for 'Eat well, Live an active life, Feel sustainable lifestyle changes, including helping service users to access screening and health care services, choose and prepare healthy food and helping them to become more active. Highlights so far have included cookery demonstrations, local nature walks, dance aerobic sessions and a bespoke weight loss programme.



Participants at the LDPB Away Day 2013

- ✓ 80 Gascoigne Road residential home was recognised as providing good quality, safe services for people with learning disabilities following **an unannounced inspection by the Care Quality Commission**. 80 Gascoigne was completely refurbished to create a new unit for six people with behaviour that challenges to support the commitment from Winterbourne View that people are able to receive the care and support they need as close to home as possible.
- ✓ The **Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB)**, a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board was refreshed. The LDPB is the strategic group for issues relating to learning disabilities and includes carer and service user representatives within its membership, as well as representatives from commissioned organisations who provide services in the Borough.

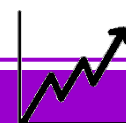
- ✓ A **successful training programme** was commissioned by the Council and delivered by Carers of Barking and Dagenham to support ageing carers in thinking about the future when they may no longer be able to care for their loved ones. Good feedback was received by attendees.
- ✓ The Council hosted a successful week of events for national **Learning Disability Week** which was held between 19 and 25 August 2013. The theme was 'bringing people together to celebrate family life and developing strong family networks in local communities.' Events included a Family Sports Day at Jim Peters Stadium and a Community Day hosted by Mencap. Service users told us that the sport 'taster' sessions that were offered during the week gave them the 'fitness bug' and that it raised the profile of physical activity amongst service users.
- ✓ In response to the government's final report into the events at **Winterbourne View** Hospital Barking and Dagenham has produced a [plan](#) to ensure high quality care and support services for all people with learning disabilities or autism and mental health conditions or behaviour described as challenging. It sets out a programme of action to transform services so that vulnerable people no longer live inappropriately in hospitals and are cared for in line with best practice.
- ✓ The Council is working with the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) and local opticians to ensure that people with a learning disability get the eye care that they need. The initiative is called '**Bridge to Vision**'.
- ✓ During 2013-14 the **volunteer driver scheme** was started up to enable both people with a learning disability and older people who cannot use public transport to get around the Borough. So far, the scheme has recruited 16 volunteers, 9 drivers and 7 befrienders, delivering 47 journeys per week.



Sport taster sessions at LD Week 2013

How did we perform in 2013/14?

- Throughout the 2013/14 financial year 134 learning disability clients accessed their care via a direct payment, a 23% increase when compared to the 109 in the previous year.
- The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with family has increased from 77.8% in 2013/13 to 85.3% in 2013/14; this far exceeds the London average of 68.5%.
- The proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment has increased from 5.4% in 2012/13 to 6.7% in 2013/14



Examples of our plans for 2014/15

- Improve screening uptake and communication with healthcare services for people with a learning disability. The Learning Disability Service User Forum has asked the Council to tailor the theme of Learning Disability Week 2014 around healthy lifestyles, with events centred on topics such as healthy eating, exercise and living independent lives. We will also be continuing to develop the ELF project, particularly working with health partners to improve screening uptake.
- Deliver awareness training and ensure reasonable adjustments within universal services to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities
- Deliver and develop the Challenging Behaviour action plan
- Develop and refresh the Borough's Adult Autism Strategy (due to be refreshed in 2014/15)
- Continue to deliver the Fulfilling Lives programme, particularly in improving information and advice, access to local community services and improving the uptake of personal budgets.
- Build on the training delivered by Carers of Barking and Dagenham and develop a range of support for ageing carers who are caring for ageing service users.
- Develop further projects, including 'Urban Vintage', a vintage shop at the Maples which combines a furniture renovation project and vintage clothing supplied by the Osborne Partnership.



Urban Vintage at The Maples

- Build on the work of the volunteer driver's scheme and establish a Transport Forum and a travel training initiative with the local Police and Transport for London to support people with learning disabilities travelling independently in Barking and Dagenham.
- Establish a project to work with 12 people with behaviour that challenges in seeking employment opportunities.

Do you agree with what we have said above about learning disabilities?

Take part in our Local Account questionnaire and tell us what you think!