

Learning Disability Commissioning Strategy 2013- 2018

Accommodation and Support

SUMMARY

1. Why do we need a Commissioning Strategy?

This document is about the services that we provide to people with a learning disability in Flintshire and sets out how we want to see them developed for the next 5 years.

Our vision is based primarily on what people with a learning disability told us they wanted and the views of their families as well as the providers who currently support people in Flintshire.

2. Who currently uses our services and how much do we spend on them?

- People with learning disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria for services make up approximately 0.32% (483) of the population in Flintshire.
- 48% (214) of people are aged 40 or over.
- 45% (202) of people live with their relatives (a parent or sibling).
- 38% (123) of people are living with someone else (excludes hospital and relatives).
- There is a range of different provision from Adult placement, single occupancy, shared supported housing etc. with the majority (40%) living in some form of shared provision.
- For 2012-2013 the annual spend on in-house supported living for **54** people will be **£4,452,091.00** and we will spend **£2,847,679.00** on contracts with the independent sector for **52** people. Choosing to commission supported living services from our in-house provider is clearly costing us a lot more.

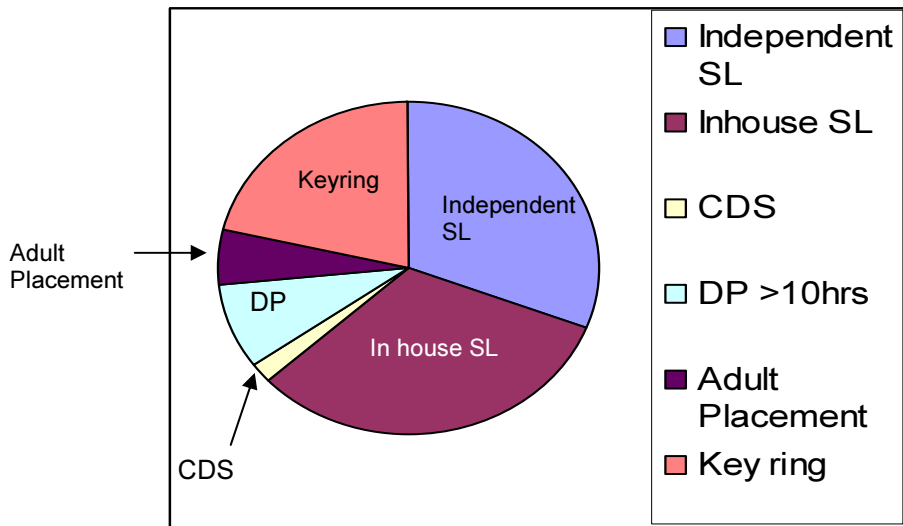
3. Our vision for the future

- Our vision is that people with a learning disability have a range of different types of accommodation available to them and that through individualised support planning, people are enabled to be as independent as possible with 'just enough support' to promote their wellbeing and ensure they are safe.
- Our vision is that we retain a viable but reduced in-house service to ensure we retain experience within this service and continue to be well placed to provide support to Independent sector providers as necessary .

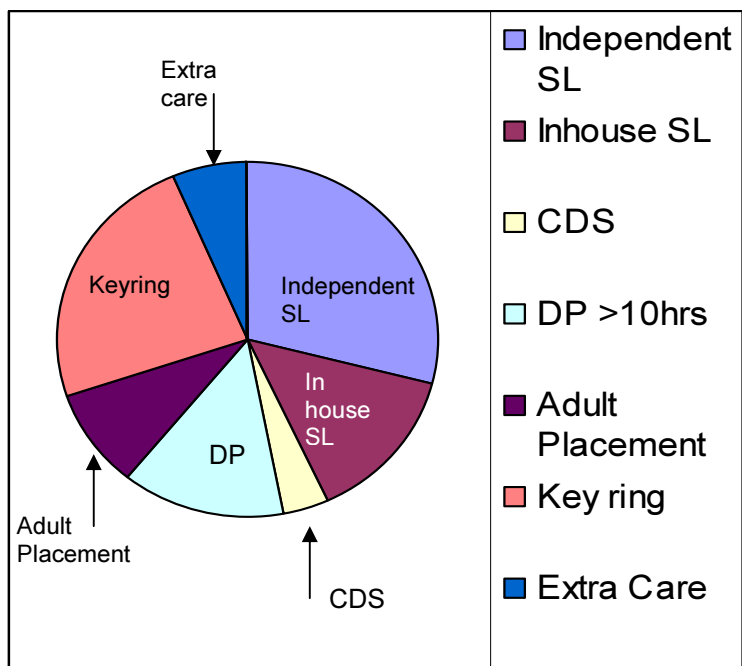
4 Where are we now and where do we want to be in 5 years time

Broad graphic illustrations of how we see services in 5 years time in terms of volume and model.

Now



In 5 Years Time



5 How we will achieve this vision

5.1 We will ensure that social workers and other professionals adopt the ethos of promoting independence and positive risk taking. We will develop a 'move on' culture with all new service users, based on an initial assessment of the persons current abilities and strengths and working towards maximising their potential to be as independent as possible and live a fulfilled life.

5.2 We will review and refocus our in-house Supported Living Service and configure it as the 'first stop' on the 'move on' pathway for young people with disabilities coming through transition from children's services. This 'first stop' assessment provided by the in-house Supported Living Team will establish an accurate baseline of need and skills which in turn will lead to a 'right size' package to enable the individual to move on to a more individualised type of accommodation and support arrangement. It is logical that we refocus our in-house Supported Living Service in this way as it is consistent with our directorate's ethos around providing services that focus on reablement and recovery.

5.3 For those existing tenants already supported within in-house Supported Living Services the 'active support' approach will be introduced in order to maximise skills for independent living and offer opportunities for a 'move on' to alternative accommodation as appropriate. **Our target for the next 5 years is for 10% of people currently in our Supported Living Service to move on.** We will also start on a gradual path to reduce our in house Supported Living Service in recognition of it's high comparable costs and move towards increasing the range of independent living options available in the independent sector. **Our target for the next 5 years will be that 30% of in-house Supported Living Service will be redesigned.** The decision as to which of our 23 properties will be externalised will be based on an agreed criteria which will include existence of voids, cost of running the property, stability of staff team, and proximity of properties to other properties to capitalise on economies of staffing. We will seek to decommission some properties where there are voids and only 1 tenant as these are not economically sustainable.

5.4 Direct payments/ Citizen Directed Support will be the default method used to enable individuals to have control and choice about how their support services are organised. **Our target for the next 5 years will be a 50% increase in the number of people accessing a direct payment/ CDS as a substantial part of the care package** ('Substantial' for this purpose is defined as 'over 10 hours of personal assistant support per week')

5.5 We will work in partnership with independent providers to shape and develop the external market to provide supported living options, therefore over time our reliance on in-house provision will become less. *(See Ty Neath outcomes section to box 3 in LD Strategy).*

5.6 We will seek to promote and nurture existing social enterprises as a future viable consideration for commissioning as in accordance with Council priority.

5.7 As part of this refocus we will review the use of Telecare and seek to use it effectively to support people to be independent and safe overnight. **All new Supported Living arrangements will have a telecare assessment and we aim are aiming for a 10% increase year on year in the use of telecare equipment.**

5.8 Extra care is a joint housing and support solution for carer and the person with a disability; we will ensure that the two planned schemes include tenancies for people with disabilities. We will capitalise on the skills in the dementia part of the service.

5.9 We want to work with housing partners to ensure tenancy agreements are flexible enough to respond to the changing needs of people with learning disabilities.

5.10 We believe very strongly that local area co-ordination must be part of our 'move on' approach. We want people with a learning disability to be active citizens within their local community and not solely reliant upon paid workers for social contacts. Therefore we intend to commission a community development and integration service and extend this across Flintshire. **The first network will be in 2014/2015 based in the South Locality, with a roll out on a locality basis within 5 years.**

5.11 We will also review current short break provision and explore opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring authorities on developing different models such as adult placement. **We will double our adult placement provision within the next 5 years.**

6. What Next?

6.1 We will be producing a Market Position Statement based on this strategy which will clearly state that our direction of travel is and will be our 'calling card' to providers which includes established social enterprises to work with us.

6.2 We will develop a Contractual Agreement with our in-house Supported Living Service to ensure that they deliver the outcomes we expect and drive forward our new 'move on' service model. This strategy will go through a robust accountability gateway which includes equality and Welsh language.

7. Conclusion

This strategy has provided a strong rationale based on the best information we have that we need to act and do things differently if we are to:-

- Give people what they want, which is more independence, choice and control over their lives, with access to a range of housing options.
- Respond to our changing needs and trends.
- Deal with the challenging costs of in-house Supported Living Services.
- Embrace the personalisation agenda.
- Have a Supported living service placed on a 'level playing field' with other providers (via a Service Level Agreement.)

Our Council, like others, is facing unprecedented financial challenges and rising expectations, as such we have to do 'better with less'. Our ultimate goal is therefore to provide the best possible services in terms of accommodation and support options with the money we have available.