



Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee 16th February 2011

Report from the Director of Strategy, Partnerships and Improvement

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Health Services for People with Learning Disabilities Task Group Follow Up

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee has asked for an update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the health services for people with learning disabilities task group. The task group was carried out in 2009/10 and its findings were reported to the Executive in September 2010.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to set up a task group to consider concerns amongst carers about the difficulties that people with learning disabilities face when accessing health services.
- 1.3 The members of the task group were Councillor Eddie Baker, Councillor Ruth Moher and Councillor Emily Tancred, who chaired the group.
- 1.4 The task group took evidence from a wide range of witnesses including:
- Chief Executive, Brent MENCAP
 - Assistant Director for Community Care, Brent Council
 - Head of Service for People with Learning Disabilities
 - Head teacher, Hay Lane School
 - Head of Diversity, Brent Council
 - Brent Carers
 - Deputy Director, NHS Brent
 - Deputy Director Partnership Commissioning, NHS Brent
 - Support for Living Project in Ealing.
- 1.5 During the task group's work Brent carers reported a number of on-going difficulties when using services such as hospitals, dentists, GP's and opticians. There can be a lack of awareness about learning difficulties and a failure to implement reasonable adjustments which would make these services accessible to all patients.
- 1.6 The task group found that there is a project in Ealing called Treat Me Right! that has developed a range of measure to improve the experience for patients with learning disabilities when they use Ealing Hospital. They have produced information in easy to read formats, such as the complaints policy and admission information as well as

provide staff training on working with people with a learning disability. One of the main recommendations of the task group is that NHS Brent develops a similar model for Brent Hospitals.

- 1.7 The final recommendations of the task group can be found as an appendix to this report, with the original comments from service areas and an update since the recommendations were accepted.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the update on the health services for people with learning disabilities task group and question officers on the progress made to date in implementing the recommendations

Background Papers:

The health services for people with learning disabilities task group report is available on request.

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