



**Health Select Committee  
15<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Report from the Director of Policy  
and Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Health Services for People with Learning Disabilities Task Group  
Report**

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Health Services for People with Learning Disabilities Task Group that are being presented to the Health Select Committee for endorsement.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Health Select Committee endorses the recommendations set out in the task group report.
- 2.2 That the report is forwarded to the Executive for approval.

**3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 On the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2009 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.
- 3.2 The members of the task group were Councillor Eddie Baker, Councillor Ruth Moher and Councillor Emily Tancred, who chaired the group.
- 3.3 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.

## **4.0 Key findings of the task group**

- 4.1 This review was commissioned because Brent Carers who look after people with a learning disability spoke to local councillors about the difficulties they faced when using general health services with the person that they cared for.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 The final recommendations of the task group can be found on page seven of the task group report

### **Contact Officers**

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