



Doncaster's All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy 2021- 2024

Foreword



Raymond Humphryes - Choice for All Doncaster (CHAD)

I have been happy to be involved from the start of the Learning Disability and Autism Strategy, where we visited lots of services including day services and college, asking the views and opinions of people about what was important to them.

I personally feel it is very important for people to have a voice about what is good, not so good and have the opportunity to suggest any changes they feel will help them in the future. This information needed to come from the people, as they are the experts by experience.

The strategy will be there for everyone to view and make sure people's voices have been heard.



Councillor Rachael Blake, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Doncaster Council

I couldn't agree more with Raymond's comments in his foreword. This strategy is for people living in Doncaster who have a learning disability, for people who are autistic and for family and friends involved in their lives who provide support where it is needed. The strategy and the actions within it are meaningless if they are not fully informed by the views of the people we are here to serve.

The people we are here to serve aren't defined by any diagnosis they have or by any services they receive. They are equal citizens with rights in every aspect of Doncaster life and who already make a powerful contribution to our Borough. Our strategy in a nutshell is to emphasise these rights and to provide more of the opportunities that are available to others who live, study and work in Doncaster.

The last year has been a difficult one and Covid has affected a great many things. However I am pleased to see progress already reported against the priorities set by the Doncaster people who worked with Council and NHS leads on the strategy. There is so much more to do though. The strategy sets out our agreed priorities for the next three years and we will work with Doncaster people with a learning disability, autistic people and family carers every step of the way to ensure the words in this strategy continue to be accompanied by actions.



Dr David Crichton – GP, Vice- Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Clinical Chair of NHS Doncaster CCG

The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted more than ever the requirement for a more focused approach to look at the needs of people with Learning Disability and Autism. This development of a joint health and care strategy for Doncaster is vitally important. It confirms a commitment to diagnose individuals in a timely fashion, holistically assessed for care, with an ultimate goal of allowing people to lead to a fulfilling and healthy life.

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1. Introduction

Doncaster's All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy 2021-2024 was jointly developed by Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG, in partnership with statutory and non-statutory partners from across Doncaster, and people with lived experience of Learning Disability and / or Autism during 2018/2019.

Since the Strategy was developed and the priorities defined, five key work-streams have been set up to develop plans and progress key activities to address the five priorities, and three key cross cutting themes. The Doncaster Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Boards respectively have provided regular monitoring and challenge of the delivery, to ensure the plans deliver what people with lived experience need, want and expect from them.

The partnership is making progress in delivery of the plans, and this document aims to provide an update of the context in which the Strategy is being delivered, a review of the progress being made, and outline the next steps for each of the work-stream areas.

2. Outcome from Engagement Activities

In development of the Strategy, Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG commissioned SpeakUp and Inclusion North, to plan and facilitate engagement exercises to gain the views, experience and preferences people with lived experience to inform the development of the strategic plans.

As part of the process, people with lived experience agreed a Vision Statement to describe the aim of the strategy and its delivery plans, with 16 underlying principles, which formed the foundation of the Strategy development.

2.1. Vision

During the development of the Strategy, people with lived experience agreed to adopt the vision statement from the Transforming Care Programme, as the overarching vision for this programme:

“We believe that children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or autism have the right to the same opportunity as anyone else to live satisfying and valued lives, and to be treated with dignity and respect. They should have a home within their community, be able to develop and maintain relationships, and get the support they need to live healthy, safe and rewarding lives.”¹ (Transforming Care 2015)

2.2. Key Principles

In Doncaster, we will strive to ensure that people with learning disabilities and/or autism should:

- 1 Have access to a timely diagnosis in line with national guidance
- 2 Have a safe, happy and healthy childhood, accepted for who they are, supported to have self- worth and to develop skills and talents
- 3 Be encouraged to hope for the same things in life as other citizens-work, family life, relationships, own home

¹ NHSE (2015) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/service-model-291015.pdf>

- 4 Be safe in their community and free from the risk of discrimination, hate crime and abuse
- 5 Should live in a family home or their own home with people they chose to live with unless there are exceptional circumstances why this can't happen
- 6 Have access to a good education and learning throughout life
- 7 Aspire/hope to have a paid job and be supported to achieve this
- 8 Be supported by family carers/relatives whose own needs, rights and views have been fully considered and are supported in their caring role
- 9 Have equal access to good health care and be supported to live healthy lives
- 10 Have highly personalised support, which is built up around people's strengths, their own networks of support and in their local community
- 11 Be supported to access universal and early support services, where their needs are understood, they are accepted for who they are and reasonable adjustments are made
- 12 Have the information they need to access social care and health services and universal services
- 13 Have a planned and smooth transition from child to adult life
- 14 Have a fulfilling and healthy later life with the same opportunities as other older people
- 15 Expect health and social care to work together with others to make the best of resources, working hard to achieve fully personalised support
- 16 Have their views and wishes in the centre of planning and shaping support

The Vision and Principles are central to the plans developed to deliver the priorities identified within the strategy.

2.3. Priorities for Doncaster

Taking all the information from engagement, national and local policies and initiatives as outlined above, 16 areas of work to improve services, support and life opportunities, were identified. To ensure that progress is made on the key priorities, people with lived experience were asked to prioritise the areas that will have the biggest impact. Five areas were identified:

- a. Diagnosis of Autism
- b. Education and Inclusion
- c. Employment
- d. Needs of Carers and Short Breaks
- e. Housing and Support

A further three areas of high importance were identified which need to be addressed by each of the work areas identified above:

- a. Health Inequalities
- b. Young people in Transitions
- c. Transforming Care Programme (supporting people to live their best life in the community)

COVID-19 and its impact on people with LD&A and from Black Asian and minority ethnic groups will be added to the Health Inequalities plan, with an aim to reduce the impact and promote health and wellness for these groups of people.

During 2020, significant progress was made against each priority, as plans were developed and actions taken. Section 3 below, provides a summary of the key messages people shared with us, the key actions taken so far, and the immediate next steps being taken to move plans on.

The summaries are taken from the existing plans that are in place to drive forward some big changes. The plans are regularly reviewed and updated, as information and guidance change, but the focus remains on the priorities people told us were important to them.

2.4. Remaining Priorities – How They are Being Addressed.

The Strategy and subsequent delivery plans recognise the five areas as key priorities along with the three cross-cutting themes. Of the remaining eight work areas, three relate to client groups whose needs are addressed within the existing plans (older people, people with autism and people with complex needs).

Short Breaks is incorporated into the Family Carers priority due to the natural linkages and overlaps, as is the Carer Strategy refresh. Day Opportunities in part is addressed via the Family Carers and Short Breaks work and within Education and Employment.

Formal work on Early Help, Prevention and Health & Wellbeing is yet to start, significant work to address Early Help Prevention and Health and Wellbeing are being addressed elsewhere across the Council, for example through Communities and Localities.

Links across the Council and other partners exist and continue to develop to ensure that all opportunities to progress access and representation for People with learning Disability and / or Autism are made.

Following agreement of the strategy refresh, it is planned to undertake a stocktake of all plans, further identification of opportunities across the system, and alignment with existing system wide developments. This will enable a refreshed, prioritised and timetabled programme of work to be defined.

3. What we have done so far

3.1. Diagnosis of Autism

The Autism Self-Assessment Framework undertaken in 2018 identified that waiting times for assessment was longer than reported in 2016 and appear to be increasing beyond the 18 weeks target.

The engagement exercises identified the same issues that people are waiting longer times for assessment. People with lived experience, families and carers confirmed that for most people, a confirmed diagnosis is very important to them as it can help access the support in all areas of life, but that waiting times can be too long.

Further work needs to be undertaken to ensure that diagnostic pathways are robust and work well for all, and an individualised post diagnosis support is offered.

You Said	We Did	Our Next Steps
<p>“Getting a diagnosis is really important, because this can support people in all areas of their life”.</p>	<p>Currently 91% of children are diagnosed within 18 weeks.</p> <p>We aim to further improve the waiting times for diagnosis of Autism so that more children are diagnosed within 18 weeks.</p>	<p>For Children Ensuring that children and young people on the autism, attention deficit disorder and other neurodevelopmental pathways have their needs identified and met in a consistently timely manner and post diagnosis support is a focus for the future</p>
<p>“It is important to get the right information and support in a way that works best for you, during and after diagnosis”</p>	<p>Over the past year, NHS Doncaster CCG with Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDASH) have been working together look at ways to improve diagnosis of Autism for Adults.</p>	<p>For Adults: Once RDASH plans are approved by NHS Doncaster CCG, RDASH and the CCG will start to put their plans in place, to move towards reducing waiting times:</p>
<p>“It is important to get a diagnosis close to home, and not to have to wait a long time for a diagnosis”</p>	<p>This involved partners working together to develop and agree an action plan² which included the development of clear and consistent Diagnosis pathways, with post diagnosis support.</p>	<p>1. NHS Doncaster CCG to consider the proposed plans in February 2021.</p>

²Doncaster Council and Doncaster CCG (2020) Doncaster Autism Delivery Plan.

	<p>The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic means it has been difficult to implement the changes and see more people in a reasonable timeframe. RDaSH was able to provide a limited Autism Diagnosis Service until June 2020.</p> <p>Since July 2020 the Autism Diagnosis Service has reopened fully and seeing as many people as before. Work is ongoing to reduce the waiting list.</p> <p>RDaSH has now developed a plan, which describes what they need to make the improvements to pathways to diagnosis, which has been sent to NHS Doncaster CCG, and will be considered by the CCG in February 2021.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Work through how to deliver the plans by June 2021 3. Should additional workforce be required, the recruitment will be completed by September 2021 4. Diagnosis training will be completed by November 2021 5. The waiting list for Adult Autism diagnosis to be within NICE guidance - date to be confirmed.
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3.2. Education and Inclusion

Education and Inclusion were identified as a key priority by many families during the engagement exercises. People were concerned that there is not enough provision for children with a learning disability and/or autism in Doncaster, and that more is needed to support teachers, parents and children with lived experience of learning disability and autism with stronger links to employment.

Young people in the Borough want universal access to services and opportunities across the Borough, better information sharing between partners, and improvements in how we communicate with them; this includes information on services and events available to them.

You Said	We Did	Our Next Steps
Teachers in schools don't always understand the needs of children with learning disabilities, autism or both	Children and Young People's services launched the local 'Graduated Approach' to meeting need. The Graduated Approach makes sure that teachers identify and remove barriers to learning that children experience, and put in place effective special educational provision in order to meet their needs.	In early 2021, to ensure that the graduated response to meeting special educational and disability needs is delivered coherently and consistently and where possible locally.
Further work needs to happen within mainstream schools to ensure all staff have the knowledge and skills to support people with learning disabilities, autism or both within education. There needs to be an emphasis on making reasonable adjustments that can support children and young people to achieve.	Pathways in place to support employability and life skills for young people with severe and moderate LD; and Post 19 progression, integrates support with CALDT to support transition out of Education.	Ensuring that Doncaster's secondary schools provide curricula and teaching that effectively meet the needs of students who have SEND so that they make good progress and are well prepared for their next stage in education and future employment
There needs to be more careers advice and help into work	In order to support children and young people throughout the pandemic, there has been a focus on providing positive activities over the school holidays. This has focused on face to face and virtual activities and has supported emotional health and wellbeing, Work has been undertaken to ensure all these activities are inclusive, with some focused exclusively for children and young people with SEND.	Whist still in the consultation phase, the 2030 Education and Skills Strategy will be a crucial strategic driver in ensuring we have an inclusive education system . A key cross cutting principle of this work is equitable and inclusive learning, as well as a focus on best start, skills and pathways and a model for post 16 education.
People needed to support to develop skills and independence		
More after school activities		

	<p>In September 2020, The Bader Academy, a new special school for children and young people with Communication and Interaction Difficulties, opened in Doncaster. The school aims to meet the needs of children and young people aged 5-19 years with an Education, Health & Care Plan and a primary diagnosis of Communication & Interaction Difficulties, primarily High Functioning Autism and Asperger's, with related Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs.</p> <p>The curriculum delivered will ensure that all children and young people attending have a flexible, personalised education that helps them achieve their potential, not just focusing on education but employment and independence.</p> <p>A strategy group has been set up specifically to plan for the needs of young people who are moving from children's to adult services and employment. The group is making sure that there are strong links between the education and employment strands of the SEND programme</p>	
Better transport to help children stay local		
Residential school is not good for some children		
There needs to be better links between education and employment, with bespoke employment advice and greater work experience opportunities for young people to access across Doncaster.		
There needs to be a greater focus on functional skills and supporting children and young people to gain these skills		

3.3. Employment

Being able to secure, maintain and develop in employment is an important aspiration for people. To be able to contribute and feel valued is central to health and wellbeing. People who participated in the engagement exercises ranked this area very highly.

While there are local schemes in place, many people feel they are sometimes difficult to understand, or are not joined up. In addition, some employers may have limited understanding or awareness of learning disability and autism.

The Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) requires Local Authorities to report on the proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment. From an identified cohort of 793 working age people with learning disabilities during the year 2019/20, 12.5% were in some kind of paid employment. Doncaster's performance at that time was 11th highest in England and highest within the Yorkshire and Humber region.

We have no clear information on the number of people with autism (who do not have a learning disability) in paid employment. We know however, from national information that numbers do not compare favourably to the general population; the National Autistic Society reports that:

- Only 16% of autistic adults in the UK are in full-time paid employment, and only 32% are in some kind of paid work
- Only 10% of autistic adults receive employment support, 53% say they want it.

You Said	We Did	Our Next Steps
Employers need to understand learning disability and autism and how they can make reasonable adjustments to help people sustain their employment	There are significant links between the Education and Inclusion plan (which addresses the needs of young people reaching their full potential in both education and employment) and the Employment Plan, which has a greater focus on Adults, and increasing the available opportunities for Adults and Young people transitioning into adulthood and employment market.	Make sure that the Children and Young People's Employment Plan, Education, and Inclusion Plans are all working together.
Doncaster Council and Doncaster CCG need to take the lead on employing individuals with learning disabilities, autism or both.	We have started to identify and map out all of the schemes, opportunities and projects provided by companies across Doncaster	Once the mapping exercise is complete, we will develop a list of all the opportunities that can be shared with people.
There need to be greater opportunities available to people to move into work should people wish to do this so that individuals are not volunteering for life.		We will be working with people with lived experience to list where there are gaps in support services so plans can be made to meet unmet support needs.

<p>There needs to be bespoke employment support for people with learning disabilities, autism or both to support people into work</p>	<p>that will help people with learning disability or Autism to enter the workforce.</p>	<p>We will make links to the Your Life Doncaster Website to make the information available to all, and make sure it meets the needs of people with Learning Disability and Autism.</p>
<p>The culture needs to change to ensure that there is aspiration to work from a young age and this is embedded in transition and support planning.</p>	<p>We are mapping out the employment support services available to people with learning disability and Autism.</p>	<p>Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG to work with partners to look at opportunities to develop internships/ vacancies and volunteering opportunities</p>
<p>All people should be supported to make an economic contribution to Doncaster as this brings benefits in terms of social, cultural and health rewards.</p>	<p>Several Proposals are being developed to progress access to employment options, including development of internships at Doncaster Council and Doncaster CCG</p>	
<p>More supported employment opportunities.</p>	<p>The Autism Plus Employment Support service is now offered on-line to help more people access the service during the pandemic, and those who struggle to get to the office.</p>	
<p>There needs to be better links between education and employment, with bespoke employment advice and greater work experience opportunities for young people to access across Doncaster.</p> <p>Aspirations of children and young people should be raised with there being an expectation that children and young people with learning disabilities, autism or both will move from education into work or continue further education at university</p>		

3.4. Carers and Short Breaks

Unpaid or Family Carers play a vital role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of those they care for. Carers have the statutory right to an assessment that addresses carers' well-being, mental and physical health. If the carer has eligible needs, a support plan will be developed to meet their needs. Adult carers can access support through the Doncaster Carer Reach-Out Service commissioned by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. Young or sibling carers can receive help from Doncaster Young Carers Service.

Short Breaks (sometimes called respite care) support Carers to take a break from their demanding role and responsibilities whilst the person/people they care for is looked after in an environment that is safe and comfortable for them. Respite can be provided in a residential care service, an overnight stay within a Shared Lives family household, or a break arranged with another carer or family member. For many Carers, Short Breaks involve overnight stays; however, for some Carers a break during the day might be appropriate for them.

Our aim for Carers and Short Breaks is to ensure Carers are provided with a range of equitable and flexible short breaks opportunities that meet their needs and the needs of the person they care for.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring family carers are equal partners in care
- Valuing family carers expertise, insight and experience and we actively promote this
- Work with family carers whenever we are planning or making changes
- Supporting families and carers well to enable them to maintain and uphold their vital role in caring for their family members who have a learning disability
- Ensuring our short breaks offer is clear and accessible
- Working together with family carers to help us understand gaps in support and to plan
- Making sure that carers have the opportunity to access personal budgets giving much more choice around how they can support their loved one.

You Said	We Did	Our Next Steps
Carers deserve a voice	Carers are embedded within Learning Disability Partnership Board and the Autism Partnership Board, which drives the carer agenda and seeking service development and improvement.	Once the results from the Carers questionnaire have been received, they will be reviewed by the Carers Operating Group, to make recommendations to the Short Breaks Work-stream to ensure the plan includes the expressed views and needs of carers.
Carers would like to be involved		
We want choice, flexibility and availability of Short Breaks that works for my family and me.		

	<p>Carers Action Group is now in place, and co-chaired by carers. It is a forum specifically for carers, and reports into the Carers Strategic Oversight Group (co-chaired by Carers) to share ideas, and feedback on what needs to improve for carers in Doncaster.</p> <p>Carers supporting family members with LD& A were actively involved in the development of a survey for carers to get their views and feedback about short break respite services on offer in Doncaster</p> <p>Working with partners including the Minorities Partnership Board to take forward positive actions to increase representation of BAME communities within the Carers and Short Breaks work stream.</p> <p>Ensured that Carers are actively involved with commissioning of carer services, including review of the Short Breaks work stream, actively engaged with CETR processes in Doncaster.</p> <p>Review has been completed of the Short Breaks services, and development of the service is now underway.</p> <p>Strategic Review of Shared Lives is underway, that will inform the best way to develop the service to meet the growing demand for community based day opportunities, short breaks and long-term placements in Doncaster.</p>	<p>Completion of the strategic review of Shared Lives and take forward specific actions for the future development of the service.</p> <p>Undertake an Equality Audit within services and identify how services could be more responsive to the specific needs of individual communities.</p>
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3.5. Housing and Support

The overarching aim of the Housing plan is to make sure that there is a suitable range of accommodation and support for people with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism. Following the engagement exercises an action plan was developed, which included the following objectives:

- a. People with learning disabilities, autism or both should be supported to live in a home that meets their needs and choices.
- b. People should be supported to have relationships and friendships so people live the life they choose with the right support.
- c. There needs to be more focus on transition planning

You Said	We Did	Our Next Steps
Having a home of your own and being able to choose who you live with is important	We looked at the housing and support needs of people with learning disability and Autism for the next 10 years, including adults who are currently living with family carers, and young people who will transition into Adult services; and prioritised these groups in this year's planning. Identified all the different types of housing and support options that should be available for people with learning disability and / or Autism. We checked with local services to make sure the information that was collected about the needs of people for the next 3 years is right. We have planned a new development of flats in Askern for supported living for people with learning disability and autism that will be available in Spring 2022. We have started to identify those in transitions to talk to them about their choices	Put in place the arrangements needed to match landlords and housing to individuals that meets their specific needs and choices.
It is important to have staff with the right skills and training to support you		Put in place plans that will overcome the barriers that people are experiencing in accessing general housing and support.
It is important to have different options about where you can live - Shared Lives should be a real option		Match people who choose to live at Askern with the people they want to live with and the available properties and support them to prepare for the move with the right support.
It is important that plans are developed with young people about where they might want to live in the future When you have an assessment you are asked if you are happy about where you live and who you live with		
You get good support to have a relationship and have friendships		

	<p>and preferences about what they need, and where they would like to live.</p> <p>Work is underway to make it easier for people to access the type of accommodation they need and choose, and in the place, they would like to live.</p> <p>We have started to look at the barriers that people experience when accessing general housing and support.</p> <p>We have been working with Supported Living Providers over the past year to increase the use of technology (e.g. use of video calling) to help people maintain contact with friends and family during the pandemic, and encourage visits and activities to help people maintain safe contact when restrictions have allowed.</p>	
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4. Cross Cutting work plans.

Three further priorities for Doncaster identified by people with lived experience, and driven by national policy are identified below, and may need to be addressed by each of the work-streams described above. These are called 'cross cutting themes'.

An example of this, developing short breaks offers, needs to take into account how COVID-19 secure new placements are when placements are being considered. Another area is the Housing and Support plans need to consider the needs of Young People in Transitions as part of the planning, and those in the Transforming Care may need close health monitoring.

4.1. Health inequalities

People with a learning disability have poorer physical and mental health the wider community. The pandemic has made this situation even harder for communities to maintain their health and wellness and for people with LD&A and those from BAME backgrounds, this inequality is even more apparent.

There needs to be a greater understanding of learning disability and autism amongst all health and social care professionals with consistency of approach and reasonable adjustments; and family carers need to be identified and supported in delivery of health interventions.

Training should meet national standards and include findings from LeDeR* and other reviews. Individuals with lived experience should be involved in the development of this training and where possible in its delivery.

Health and social care services need to be joined up and information shared appropriately. This should link to priorities in the NHS Long Term Plan and Doncaster Joint Commissioning Strategy

The Health Inequalities work aim and objectives

“We will improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities”

Key objectives:

- **Annual health checks**
 - Task and Finish group set up to focus on increasing uptake and quality of Learning Disability Enhanced Health in Care Homes Framework Implementation ongoing
- **LeDeR (Learning Disability Mortality Review) sub group**
 - Implementing learning from national reviews
- **Flagging system introduced at DBHFT**
 - Ensuring people with learning disabilities who are admitted to hospital have access to support from the Secondary Care Liaison Nurse.
- **Improved discharge pathways**
 - LD&A Quality Cell - partnership working across Health and Social Care.
- **Cancer Awareness**
 - networking professional relationships with Health Action Teams and the South Yorkshire Cancer Alliance

4.1.1. COVID-19

The Identification of COVID-19 as a significant risk to those with Learning Disability, Autism, and those from BAME backgrounds has alerted health and care organisations that action is needed to understand the risks and, with the affected groups, develop targeted plans to reduce or manage risks.

Data released³ in November 2020 shows the devastating impact of the pandemic, with the rate of people with a learning disability dying from COVID-19 estimated to be 3 to 4 times the rate in the general population.

During 2020, Doncaster Council, NHS Doncaster CCG, RDaSH, and Doncaster Royal Infirmary, set up a daily meeting to develop guidance, implement practices and protocols for local NHS, Council and commissioned services. The meeting aimed to make sure people receiving services were kept safe, that hospital discharges were safe and monitor for any outbreaks to make sure the right support was in place as quickly as possible.

4.2. Regional Transforming Care Programme (2016-19)

Doncaster is part of the South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Transforming Care Partnership (TCP). The TCP has developed our area plan to reduce our reliance on in-patient specialist beds for people with learning disability. The plan is written in response to *Building The Right Support* and the National Service Model, which sets out the national vision to transform models of care and support for people with learning disability and autism.

The plan includes:

- a. A robust programme of Care and Treatment Reviews for adults and Care, Education and Treatment Reviews for children
- b. Developing and investing in intensive community support and forensic outreach
- c. Dynamic risk support register which include multidisciplinary members from health, social care and police
- d. Addressing Health inequalities
- e. Transitions
- f. Housing and skilled support through the Enhanced Supported Living Framework

“We will do everything possible to prevent people being admitted to secure hospital and to resettle those still in hospital”

- a. Meet NHS E/I inpatient trajectories
- b. Implementation of Forensic Outreach Liaison Service
- c. Implementation and review of Enhanced Community Framework
- d. Review C&YP pathways and transitions
- e. Evaluation of crisis and intensive support team

Over the past 4 years, the number of people from Doncaster in locked rehabilitation, assessment and treatment units or secure hospital has reduced by 75%. More work is being

³ PHE (2020): PH England Nov 2020 COVID 19 deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities: summary. Gov.uk

PH England Nov 2020 Press Release People with learning disabilities had higher death rate from COVID-19. Gov.uk

PH England 2020: Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups www.gov.uk

done to increase this number further to enable them to live in the community in their own homes.

The Children and Young People's (CYP) Proactive Monitoring & Support (PM&S) group has reviewed and monitored children and young people who are at risk of concerns that may escalate into the CETR process.

The PM&S group has enabled multiagency partnership to work effectively together as a means of ensuring that CYP receive proactive care, early intervention and support that prevents their situation from deteriorating. The fundamental aim is to improve childhood experiences.

For those CYP that are in hospital, the group reviews any discharge planning as a means of reducing any potential risk within the community and to prevent further hospital admission. The PM&S group provides clear accountability and focus that will support case managers in risk assessment and care planning.

- There were no TCP CYP admissions into Tier 4 Mental Health Services during the period 2018 / 2019
- A proactive approach has resulted in a reduction of responsive CETRs

4.3. Transitions

The aim of transitions is

“To improve the experience of young people preparing for adulthood with a timely and seamless transition into adulthood”.

Key outcomes:

- Ensure Transitions are addressed in the key work-streams
 - Education and Inclusion – links between Education and Employment explicit within the plans. A Transition Strategy is in place.
 - Employment – supported to overcome barriers to education and work towards entering employment
 - Short Breaks – Transitions identified as a key group in need of appropriate short breaks
 - Housing and Support – identified as one of 3 priority groups
 - Transforming Care – a key priority within the housing work stream to divert from hospital or progress into supported living.

Carers have told us that the aspiration to work with the family and young person from a young age needs to be embedded in transition and support planning.

Within education, a transition strategy is now in place with direction provided by the multi-disciplinary steering group. Similar work has also been undertaken in health services. Transitions planning starts in year 9 and covers Employment, Independent Living, Being Healthy and Friends, Relationships and Community.

5. Context

Doncaster's All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy has been developed in the context of other key national and local policies, which inform the way in which the plans are developed and put in place. National and local plans are focussed on ensuring people are supported in the best way and to reach their health and wellness potential.

The strategy has been developed and led by people with lived experience, and reflects the national and local priorities, including (but not limited to) the key plans outlined below:

5.1. Doncaster Borough Strategy

The Doncaster Borough Strategy is due to be launched in 2021, and will build on the successes of the Doncaster Growing Together Plan in delivering transformation in the well-being of Doncaster people and places over the next 10 years.

The Doncaster Borough Strategy will focus on the local quality of life issues residents have identified through 'Doncaster Talks' and also the global shared challenges like the climate change and biodiversity crisis. Delivery of these plans will enable the creation of quality jobs, improving education and skills, tackling inequalities and supporting culture and creativity, and will enhance the lives of all Doncaster, including those with Learning Disability and / or Autism.

Through the development of the Learning Disability and Autism Strategy, people with lived experience, families and carers also told us that those issues raised in the Doncaster Talks, including quality employment and education and skills are some of the issues that matter most to them too.

The Learning Disability and Autism Strategy has been developed in Partnership with NHS Doncaster CCG, in the context of the Place Plan, which was refreshed in 2019, and underpinned by the development of the Doncaster Joint Commissioning Plan.

5.2. Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2016-21)

A key principle within the Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) strategy is that all Doncaster residents will be able to achieve their full potential in employment, education, care and life chances. This aligns well to the vision within this document for people with learning disabilities and/or autism. The overarching aims of the strategy are to prevent disease, disability and harm, and sustain health and wellbeing through a first class health and care system.

5.3. Doncaster Place Plan

The vision of the Place Plan is that "...care and support will be tailored to community strengths to help Doncaster residents maximise their independence, health and wellbeing. Doncaster residents will have access to excellent community and hospital based services when needed..."⁴

The Place Plan 2019 refresh provides clarity about Doncaster's plan to prioritise, develop and deliver health and social care as an Integrated Care Partnership. The plan clearly describes moving towards a focus on people as opposed to services. This means that instead of looking at where care is delivered, the partners are thinking about local communities and their needs.

The approach and vision described in the Place Plan links well with the vision agreed by people with Lived Experience in the development of the LD&A strategy, which was adopted from the Transforming Care National Service Model:

⁴ Doncaster Partnership (2019) Doncaster Place Plan Refresh 2019 – 2022: www.Doncaster.gov.uk

“We believe that children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or autism have the right to the same opportunity as anyone else to live satisfying and valued lives, and to be treated with dignity and respect. They should have a home within their community, be able to develop and maintain relationships, and get the support they need to live healthy, safe and rewarding lives⁵.”

The Place Plan is being delivered through three life stages of Starting Well, Living Well and Ageing Well. Meeting the needs of people of all ages with Learning Disability and Autism is a key focus of the Place Plan and is driven through Living Well Delivery plans, and spans the three life stages as identified.

5.4. Joint Commissioning Plan

To support the delivery of the Place Plan, the Strategic Partners developed and agreed the Joint Commissioning Strategy⁶. The Joint Commissioning Strategy sits across both health and social care, including Public Health, for adults and children. It captures the services commissioned by both Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG, with a particular focus on the areas where we will jointly commission. Commissioners and providers agreed to plan and deliver services in a more joined up way for a number of areas, including Learning Disability and Autism. The joint approach enables Commissioners to coordinate commissioning of services, reducing risk of duplication, and ensuring that gaps in services are more easily identified and addressed. Most importantly, joint commissioning aims to ensure that people who use services, experience a more joined up and holistic approach to their care and support.

5.5. The Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) (2017-20) and Impact Report 2018 and 2019.

The Doncaster Children and Young People’s Plan (2017- 2020) sets out our ambition to be the most child friendly borough in the country. We have made a commitment to review its impact on an annual basis and the views of children and young people have been the foundation to these assessments.

The CYPP ensures the voices of children and young people is included in all we do; ensuring all children and young people have the opportunity to influence the services they access and the support they receive was central to plan, including children and young people with SEND.

5.6. SEND Strategy

The SEND Strategy sets out a vision for children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and details a number of imperatives, which drive the ambition for children to achieve fulfilling lives. The timeliness, identification and assessment of special educational need, and the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative planning, involves the right people at the right time in the delivery and review of the impact of this support.

5.7. Regional Transforming Care Programme (2016-19)

Doncaster is part of the South Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Transforming Care Partnership (TCP). The TCP has developed our area plan to reduce our reliance on in-patient specialist beds for people with learning disability. The plan was written in response to *Building*

⁵ NHSE (2015) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/service-model-291015.pdf>

⁶ Doncaster Council & NHS Doncaster (2019) Doncaster Joint Commissioning Strategy www.doncaster.gov.uk

*the Right Support*⁷ and the National Service Model⁸, which sets out the national vision to transform models of care and support for people with learning disability and autism.

The plan includes:

- A robust programme of Care and Treatment Reviews for adults and Care, Education and Treatment Reviews for children
- Developing and investing in intensive community support and forensic outreach
- Dynamic risk support register which include multidisciplinary members from health, social care and police
- Addressing Health inequalities
- Transitions
- Housing and skilled support through the Enhanced Supported Living Framework

5.8. Housing and REACH Standards, (2019)

The REACH⁹ standards describe nine voluntary standards to help explore what a good life would be for people with learning disability and / or autism and how to make this happen. The principles of 'supported living' have always been about supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism (and others) to live a life of their choice with the right support.

5.9. Making It Real (TLAP 2018)

Personalisation is a key concept to be realised within the LD&A Strategy delivery. Making It Real¹⁰ describes a framework and a set of statements describing what good, citizen-focused, personalised care looks like from the point of view of people themselves.

Through the ongoing review of delivery plans, the strategy aims to embed personalisation including choice, care and support planning, support to access, and use personal budgets, across all priority deliverables.

6. Understanding the Needs of People with Learning Disability and / or Autism in Doncaster (See Also Annex 1)

6.1. Age Profile

The population of Doncaster continues to grow at a slightly lower rate than Yorkshire and the Humber and is predicted to grow by a further 1.2% by 2030.

There is predicted to be an increase in all age groups from 55 years and above, which needs to be considered in the development of all health and care services, and recognising there is a reduction in the rate of growth for some of the younger groups.

Services will increasingly need to address the ageing profile of people they support, for example, housing offers will need to address the future needs of tenants which will change over time, and recognise the increase in number of older people who will require appropriate housing.

⁷ NHSE (2015) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ld-nat-imp-plan-oct15.pdf>

⁸ NHSE (2015) <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/service-model-291015.pdf>

⁹ Paradigm (2017) <https://paradigm-uk.org/what-we-do/reach-support-for-living/>

¹⁰ TLAP (2018) <https://www.thinklocalactpersonal.org.uk/makingitreal/>

6.2. Ethnic Diversity

The ethnic profile of Doncaster demonstrates an increase in the number of people from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. Emerging information describes the health inequalities faced by people from BAME backgrounds in the context of COVID-19, (described in more detail below) and that health inequality varies within different ethnic groups. Currently, nearly 9% of Doncaster residents identify as non-White British, and this proportion is expected to increase.

Greater focus is needed to understand which groups are most affected by health inequalities and COVID-19 in particular. We will work with communities to understand the cultural needs, and inequalities they face, and how they can be addressed.

6.3. Data Issues

National and local data describing people with Learning Disability, Autism or both is incomplete and compiled from various sources. (People's needs are recorded as a 'Primary Support Need, and does not consistently record where people have more than one need).

The estimated number of people with moderate or severe learning disability in Doncaster is in line with the growth in the general population. Services to meet the needs of this group of people will need to continue to grow in order to meet their needs.

The National Autistic Society says 'estimates of the number of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who also have a learning disability vary considerably, and it is not possible to give an accurate figure. The Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities¹¹ however, suggest that between 60% - 70% of people with Autism also have a learning disability. Most of the people diagnosed with Autism are men (1.8% of the population, women 0.2%).

6.4. Needs of people with Autism

The National Autistic Society says about the definition of Autism:

"The definition of autism has changed over the decades and may continue to change. Some people feel the spectrum is too broad, as people with autism can experience a wide variety of support needs, from 24/7 support needs to those who find supermarket lights too bright. Autistic people and their families with different support needs share many of the same challenges, whether that's getting enough support from mental health, education and social care services or being misunderstood by people close to them"¹².

Doncaster residents are experiencing long waiting times for autism diagnosis and access to post diagnosis support. Plans are in place to improve access to both over the coming months and described below.

The LD&A strategy was developed jointly for people with Autism and learning disability, in recognition of the distinct needs of both groups, and recognition that many people with Autism also have a learning disability. It is recognised that issues affecting people with Autism in particular, may require additional or focussed actions. For this reason, a separate action plan, that mirrors the key actions from the wider Strategy plan has been developed

¹¹ Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities 2020: Learning disability statistics: autism <https://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/learning-disabilities/help-information/statistics/learning-disability-statistics-/187690>

¹² National Autism Society 2020: What is Autism? <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/what-is-autism>

and includes actions specifically for people with Autism, for example, development of peer support networks. The Autism Partnership Board oversees the Autism plan.

6.4.1. Autism Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)

The Autism SAF is a national requirement for local health and care economies to complete, and is usually conducted on a biennial basis. The last SAF was completed in 2018. At the time, the plans relating to Autism were reviewed in the context of the 2018 SAF outcomes.

The planned SAF for 2020 has been postponed and will be reviewed when the report is published.

6.5. Needs of Children and Young People

During engagement exercises, families and carers identified a range of issues children and young people faced. The engagement exercises confirmed that people "...want to make sure that people with learning disabilities, autism or both have access to a good education in mainstream and special schools and those who are home schooled. We want to make sure young people get the support they need in school or at home to do this and that teachers understand the needs of pupils with learning disabilities, autism or both..."¹³

In 2019 a SEND Inspection identified a range of strengths and areas for development which were set out by the joint OFSTED/CQC inspection team. The areas for development included focus on Transitions. Some children and young people do not receive high-quality support at key transition points, and families report a wide variation in how much support they receive and how effective it is. Sometimes, preparation for transition between schools does not begin early enough or in a fully joined-up way.

A transition strategy is in place and aims to address the issues identified at review.

There continues to be a steady increase in the requests for statutory assessment and currently the Local Authority maintains 2247 EHCPs a 20% increase since 2019.

6.6. People and Employment

People with a learning disability and / or Autism are less likely to have a job than the general population¹⁴. Currently 6% of adults with a learning disability known to their local authority in England are in paid work.

Doncaster people with Learning Disability and/ or Autism describe that they need support to access and maintain employment, and want opportunities for real employment. There need to be greater opportunities available to people to move into work should people wish to do this so that individuals are not volunteering for life¹⁵.

Thirteen principles were agreed by the partners in the development of the Employment plans, which describe the outcomes that are needed to make the plans a reality for people with lived experience and include (but not limited to)

¹³ SpeakUp Advocacy (2019) Engagement Report

¹⁴ Mencap (2021) Employment Research and Statistics. <https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/research-and-statistics/employment-research-and-statistics>

¹⁵ Speakup Advocacy (2019) Engagement Report.

- a. Local employment services should be Joined up and there should be a clear picture of what is available, both specialist and generic
- b. There will be an understanding of the barriers people face accessing and keeping employment and the gaps in services and support
- c. People should have information about services and how to access them
- d. People should have support to understand the benefits system and how this impacts on employment
- e. Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG will lead by example in employing people with learning disabilities, autism or both and this will include ensuring that recruitment policies are appropriate
- f. There will be a clear pathway through school and from school into vocational training and work opportunities

Plans are in place and being progressed by partners to scope the opportunities available to people The information gathered will be shared on the YourLife Doncaster website, and used to identify where gaps exist to inform future planning.

6.7. Carers Needs

Doncaster's first All Age Joint Strategy for people with learning disabilities and people with autism considers the current national and local picture together with what is important to people and their family carers.

6.7.1. Family Carers

Unpaid or Family Carers play a vital role in maintaining the health and wellbeing of those they care for. Carers have the statutory right to an assessment; this assessment looks at carers' well-being, mental and physical health. If the carer has eligible needs, a support plan will be developed with them. Adult carers can access support through the Doncaster Carer Reach-Out Service commissioned by Doncaster Council. Young or sibling carers can receive help from Doncaster Young Carers Service.

Carers in Doncaster said they wanted to have their voice heard, and help shape the development of services available to them – particularly Short Breaks (Respite Services).

6.7.2. Carer Groups and Representation

The Carers Oversight Group and the Carers Working Group are working to increase their membership and representation, and understand the issues that matter to Carers.

The Carers Working Group developed a survey for carers seeking views about Short Breaks. The survey closed January 2021, and the responses are analysed to inform next steps.

Findings of the survey and report will be considered the Carers groups and the Short Breaks Work-stream to develop improvement plans. Early reports issues that matter to Carers include:

- a. Availability of different types of provision, including being able to book in advance to be able to take a holiday
- b. More information about options, what is available for people

6.7.3. Short Breaks

Short Breaks (sometimes called respite care) supports parents and carers to take a break from their demanding role and responsibilities whilst the person/people they care for is looked after in an environment that is safe and comfortable for them. Short breaks can be offered in a residential care service, an overnight stay with in a Shared Lives family household, or a break arranged with another carer or family member.

Our aim for Carers and Short Breaks is to ensure parents and carers are provided with a range of equitable and flexible short breaks opportunities that meets their needs and the needs of the person they care for.

6.7.3.1. Children and Young People Short Breaks

For children, young people and their families, Doncaster provides a universal and targeted offer delivered through Doncaster Council's voluntary register of children and young people with a disability, the Together Information Exchange (TIE).

The targeted offer is for children and young people with complex needs, who meet set criteria.

Throughout the pandemic, the SEND service has worked closely with schools and settings where children and young people with EHCP's attended to ensure a risk assessment had been undertaken to deem if a child should be attending school. In addition, the team worked with parents to broker a school place or additional time in school.

Welfare calls were undertaken for those children and young people with an EHCP who were not on a school role. This ensured regular contact with families, to discuss any issues, which arose due to Covid, and be signposted to the relevant agency if required.

6.8. Housing and Support

A long term Housing Needs Assessment was undertaken in 2020, to help understand the sort of housing and support needs people with LD&A in Doncaster have. A comprehensive report has been published that confirms the needs of groups of people for the next 10 years.

To address the needs, the Council's guiding principle is that the general housing stock should be as accessible and flexible as possible, to allow the vast majority of people to continue to live in their existing homes and communities. To support this the Council needs to:

- a. plan and invest in aids, adaptations and new technologies which support independent living
- b. be clear about how wrap around support is provided to individuals and families including floating support, domiciliary care, more innovative models like Shared Lives, and also access to education, skills, employment opportunities
- c. make the best use of the existing specialist housing in the borough

Some people will need purpose built accommodation, especially those with severe learning disability and / or Autism, with additional needs.

The assessment confirmed that young people transitioning into Adult care and those living with older carers are two priority groups with housing and support needs over the next 5 years. Work is ongoing with individuals to identify their needs and choices; and with landlords and developers to make sure the appropriate housing offers are available within the context of the Councils Housing Strategy refresh and Place Plan.

7. COVID-19

The emergence of COVID-19 during 2020 has been devastating for many people, businesses, schools and families as society adjusts to manage and live with the impact of the pandemic. For many people living with Learning Disability and Autism, the impact has been profound.

Over the past few months, it has become clear that people with LD&A are at much greater risk of death from COVID-19 than the general population. Based on information collated by the Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR), deaths of people with learning disability or Autism are more than 3.6 times higher than the general population¹⁶. Some researchers believe the rate in spring 2020 it was as high as 6 times higher¹⁷. Underlying health concerns and environment are some of the contributing factors to the difference in rates.

7.1. Adults with Lived experience

People with a Learning Disability and / or Autism face greater challenges than most in experiencing and dealing with the impact of COVID-19. From social distancing, mask wearing and communication, and the impact of lockdown restrictions on seeing and maintaining relationships with family and friends, the challenges have been significant for many people. Sensory issues have made mask wearing very difficult for some, and for those living in shared accommodation, maintaining social distancing is very hard, especially while managing infection prevention and control.

Providers of residential and supported living services for LD&A have continued to work hard to keep the virus out of homes and care settings however, where outbreaks in residential settings have happened nationally, the consequences for many have been devastating.

Doncaster health and care providers have worked closely together to make sure that people living in Supported Living Services and residential care have been kept as safe as possible during the pandemic.

7.2. Children and Young People

The implication of COVID-19 on school closures has the potential to have a longer term impact on the educational outcomes for children and young people with SEND. During the first lockdown very few children attended school, however during the latest lockdown, children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans have been encouraged to attend school to minimise the disruption to their learning and ensure greater gaps in attainment and outcomes do not emerge.

7.3. People from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME)

The inequality faced by people from BAME Groups in relation to COVID-19¹⁸ is becoming more apparent and is widely reported by Public Health England. A PHE review “Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups” found that the highest age standardised diagnosis rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population were in people of Black ethnic groups (486 in females and 649 in males) and the lowest were in people of White ethnic groups (220 in females and 224 in males).

¹⁶ PH England Nov 2020 COVID 19 deaths of people identified as having learning disabilities: summary. Gov.uk

¹⁷ PH England Nov 2020 Press Release People with learning disabilities had higher death rate from COVID-19. Gov.uk

¹⁸ PH England 2020: Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups www.gov.uk

People from BAME backgrounds and those with Learning Disability and / or Autism are at greater risk from COVID-19 disease than the wider population¹⁹. It is a key aim of the Doncaster Partners to identify those at greatest risk, and working with communities, develop and implement plans to address those issues and reduce risks for the groups or individuals where possible.

7.4. Vaccination Programme

The Vaccine roll out programme will offer a significant protection for people with Learning Disability and / or Autism.

For many people, taking the vaccine will also be a challenge. Fear of needles, the potential need for some to have a Mental Capacity Assessment or being able to make an informed decision in the context of the impact on their own health and those around them will need to be addressed. Further work is needed to understand the issues affecting people with LD&A, to ensure we can plan support and care to reduce risks where possible, balanced with living a good life.

Development and implementation of the plans continue to be refreshed and updated to take account of emerging risks and Government guidance. The Doncaster health and care system has put in place robust systems and processes, to proactively manage the risks, and respond to rapidly changing circumstances and guidance in managing the Doncaster COVID-19 response.

7.5. Carers

During the pandemic, it has become clear that carers are providing more care than they were 6 months ago²⁰. There are several reasons for the increase, and include the needs of the cared for person increasing and/or due to local services reducing or closing during lockdowns. Locally, some carers have expressed their exhaustion as they continued to care for their family member during lockdown and while services were closed, for example, day services.

During COVID-19 pandemic, Carers Doncaster partners have worked hard to ensure that services provided are COVID-19 secure, and services have reopened where possible, providing a level of respite that was not available during the initial lockdown phase.

8. Doncaster Learning Disability and Autism Finances

The Doncaster Health and Care Partnership and partners are committed to making the best use of the resources available to support Doncaster citizens. The Joint Commissioning Strategy outlines the commitment of both partners to

- a) Make best use of the Doncaster pound
- b) Avoid duplication
- c) Improve individual experience
- d) Improve individual and community outcomes
- e) Develop our workforce
- f) Maintain health and wellbeing

¹⁹ PH England 2020: Beyond the data: Understanding the impact of COVID-19 on BAME groups www.gov.uk

²⁰ Carers UK (Oct 2020) Caring behind closed doors: six months on - The continued impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on unpaid carers www.CarersUK

The tables 1 and 2 below summarise the number of people who receive care from the Council, the CCG or both and the services that people use.

Table 1. Adults Receiving Social Care/CCG funded support

Group of people	People with Learning Disabilities	People with Autism
Known to social care and health- adults and older people	1,053 (as at 19.01.21) 260 receive health funding*	200 social care (some will be counted in LD figure)
People fully CHC funded	117	Not known
People in receipt of a direct payment (social care)	302 (As at 26.01.21) personal health budget=24	76 (As at 26.01.21) (62 reporting as having LD and ASD, and are included in the LD figures)
Personal Health Budget	12 fully funded, 12 joint health and care funded.	Not known

*based on people using social care services with a housing need 2018 and CCG fully funded- people living at home with families (latter needs verification)

Table 2. The Services that people use

Service	People with LD	People with Autism
The Council's In House Day Services (SMILE)	Service closed during Covid Lockdown periods 348 as at Dec. 2019 (340 with a primary support need of LD 2 with autism only 6 older people with LD from Smile Service info December 2019)	A number of people with autism as a secondary need attend
Diamond Centre RDaSH (previously known as Solar Centre)	Closed Mar – Sept 2020. Dec 2020 - 22 attendees. The services offers specialist services for people with complex health and care needs.	A number of people with autism as a secondary need attend
Short Breaks (respite care) residential Council provided	107 in 2019/20 148 in 2018/19 Plus a small number of people using private residential services	Includes 7% of people with LD who also have autism
Services purchased through direct payments Personal Health	199 < 65 years 17older people	60
Personal health budgets	24	Not known
Health and wellbeing/community services.	No information is currently available	No information available currently – need to work with communities to understand

		demand more, and impact of the LD&A plans to increase contact in communities.
Shared Lives-short breaks/day opportunities	Too small numbers – risk GDPR breach.	Too small numbers – risk GDPR breach
Home Care	108 (Long Term Primary Support reason LD, from 17.01.21 Dashboard) CCC-9 – don't know what this is	Some people with Autism will be included in the LD figure
Advocacy (2018/19)	355 (Voiceability)	45

8.1. Finance Summary

Table 3. Expenditure by Care Type 2020/21 Forecast Outturn

Service	DMBC	CCG	Total
Residential Care	£5.97	£20.7m	£26.67m
Hospital Care/Specialist Placement	£0.0m	£3.1m	£3.1m
Supported Accommodation	£17.68	£2.9m	£20.58m
Day Services	£2.0m	£0.1m	£2.1m
Short Breaks	£0.78m	£0.5m	£1.28m
Direct Payments	£2.88m	£0.8m	£3.68m
Home Care	£0.76m	£0.4m	£1.16m
Extra Care Housing Support	£0.05m	£0.0m	£0.05m
Community Nursing	-	£2.5m	2.5m
Community Social Work (CALDT and Area Teams)	£0.99m	£0.0m	£0.99m
Primary Care Local Enhanced Service	£0.0m	£0.2m	£0.2m
TOTAL	£31.11m	£31.1m	£62.21m

*Excludes costs associated with transport and autism diagnostic service and 'other'.

- 43% of the total CCG budget health and care budget is spent on residential care
- The minimum weekly cost of residential care is £535.
- Current spend on short breaks to support people living within their family home remains relatively low (excluding costs of short breaks and day opportunities arranged through direct payments)
- £2.1million is spent on day services.

'The joint commissioning strategy through its governance structure continues to review funding and reflect the future direction of travel, aligned to key principles within this document. This will involve consultation with people who use services and their families whether some services should be reconfigured.

Table 4. Revenue Monitoring 2020/21 Quarter 3 (Updated) High Needs Block

Service	DSG Budget for Year	Quarter 3 Projection	Projected DSG Variance

	£'000	£'000	£'000
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK DSG			
Mainstream EHCP Top Up funding	5,500	5,651	151
Special Schools - ISB	6,111	6,111	0
PRUs Incl. Mulberry Unit	2,879	2,884	5
North Bridge Enterprise College	947	947	0
Primary Outreach	388	425	37
Additional Resource Centre's	18	18	0
Big Picture Learning	803	726	(77)
Secondary Outreach	106	106	0
Children's Specialist Equipment	25	25	0
Specialist Post 16 Institutions	1,483	2,335	852
Post 16 FE Colleges	388	562	174
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA SEN	4,415	5,496	1,081
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - LA CWD	744	1,262	518
Pupils Educated Out Of Area - DCST	3,184	3,675	491
Specialist AP provision	499	673	174
Other LA recoupment	200	501	301
ASD Schools Support	664	664	0
HI Schools Support	826	741	(85)
VI Schools Support	318	314	(4)
Pre-School Inclusion - Portage/SEN	933	892	(41)
Learning & Behaviour Support Service	353	353	0
Pupils Educated At Home	91	91	0
Independent Behaviour Provision (Tops Team)	133	133	0
Contributions to Centrally Retained & De-delegated Budgets	98	98	0
High Needs Contingency/Unallocated	(269)	(657)	(388)
HIGH NEEDS BLOCK Sub-total	30,837	34,026	3,189

9. Information and data sharing

Access to information and data to underpin planning continues to be a challenge, especially in relation the supporting people with Autism.

The development of the joint Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG Commissioning Strategy describes the ambition of working together, including sharing of information. Significant progress is made on developing shared data sets, and further work is ongoing to address the gaps where this is possible.

10. Development of clear outcomes and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Each of the five priority work-streams and the cross cutting themes have developed plans and started to make progress in delivering against the defined actions. Some of the actions already include KPIs, for example, delivery of Annual Health Checks, uptake of Cancer Screening and the existing ASCOF (Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework) standards for employment and housing.

Further work is needed to define the outcomes for each of the work-streams aims and objectives, and the measures needed to make sure progress is being made against them. Further development of KPIs, robust use of existing measures to monitor progress is being planned, with the development of a dashboard to present and monitor progress.

Health and Social Care colleagues are committed to joint working and sharing information through the delivery of the Living Well Plans (where the Learning Disability and Autism plans report to) and development of the systems needed to do this is ongoing.

10.1. Coronavirus (COVID-19) 2020

“It may seem premature to consider the impacts of COVID-19 but the sooner the impacts are assessed and the lessons are learnt the sooner and more effectively Doncaster people, families, communities, businesses, schools and institutions can plan for a more prosperous future. There will be government reports and inquiries in due course but this report starts to provide a Doncaster perspective on the pandemic. There are other perspectives and they too need to be heard”²¹.

The impact of COVID-19 on people with Learning Disability and Autism, and those from BAME backgrounds is significant. Further understanding of the impact and which groups and settings are at greatest risk is needed of what this means for the people of Doncaster. Plans are being developed with Public Health, local communities and services.

11. Communication and Engagement

Engagement with people with lived experience has been a central principle in the development, planning and delivery of the Strategy and this Refresh.

²¹ Doncaster DPH (2021) Appendix to Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020.

As work is moving more into delivery, and the identification of risks for people with LD&A and those from BAME backgrounds, further engagement work and regular communications about the strategy, programme of work and opportunities to get involved is needed.

A key element of the CYPP is to ensure the voices of children and young people are included in all we do, ensuring all children and young people have the opportunity to influence the services they access and the support they receive.

A Communications and Engagement plan is in development that spans the breadth of work and the communities the plans involve. The plan is building on the communication and engagement work that is currently underway, and will make a commitment to;

- a. Delivering regular updates to the wider community by Newsletter
- b. Sharing information about ways for more people to get involved at all levels of the strategy development and implementation.
- c. Targeting particular groups who are currently under-represented to seek views, and keep informed of the work and progress or challenges.
- d. Working with people with lived experience of all ages to make sure that engagement and communications are accessible and meaningful for them.

12. Monitoring and Governance

Development and implementation of the Strategy and plans is overseen and challenged by the Learning Disability and Autism Partnership Boards respectively.

Quarterly reports against each of the delivery plans are submitted through the Living Well Delivery Plan for monitoring by both Doncaster Council and NHS Doncaster CCG. It is anticipated that this will continue.

Doncaster's All Age Learning Disability and Autism Strategy (2021-2024)

Annex 1 - Understanding the Care and Health Needs of People with Learning Disability and / or Autism in Doncaster 2021- 2024

1. Doncaster Population By Age

The Doncaster Council State of the Borough in 2019²², described the number of people living in the borough as 310,542, an increase of 3.2% since 2010. This rate of increase is lower than elsewhere in Yorkshire and the Humber, and expected to expand by a further 1.2% by 2030.

Compared to the England average, it is estimated that Doncaster has a smaller proportion of adults aged 20 to 44 but has a higher proportion of people aged 45-69 and above (ONS, 2016). The largest growth is seen in people aged 65-74, and a reduction in growth of those aged 25-34. Growth rates of children and teenagers, and the number of people aged 70 and above, are similar to national trends

Table 1 Proportion of the population by Age group compared to England.

Age Range	Doncaster pop %	England pop %
0-19	23.6	24
20-44	31.1	33.5
45-69	32.6	30.1
Above 70	12.8	12.3

Table 2 Estimated Percentage change between 2017 and 2030 (ONS, 2016).

Age band	2017 pop	2030 pop	% change
0-14	55,069	52,064	-5.45%
15-24	33,203	34,478	+3.84%
25-34	40,705	34,977	-14.07%
35-44	36,462	40,360	+10.69%
45-54	43,214	36,471	-15.60%
55-64	38,845	39,013	+0.43%
65-74	31,995	37,210	+16.29%
75+	25,857	36,506	+41.18%

An increase in all age groups from 55 years and above is expected to continue. This increase in the age profile will have implications for health and social care services, as the oldest group in the population expands, and the younger group see a lower rate of increase.

Services will increasingly need to address the ageing profile of people they support, for example, future housing offers will need to address the future needs of tenants, which will change over time.

²² Doncaster Council (2019): Doncaster Council – State of the Borough. www.doncaster.gov.uk

2. Doncaster Population by Ethnicity

Areas across Doncaster with significant Black and Minority Ethnic populations include Balby (16%), Belle Vue (26%), Bennethorpe (18%), Hexthorpe (24%), Hyde Park (46%), Intake (16%), Lower Wheatley (37%), Town Moor (20%), and Wheatley Park (20%).

There is a wide range of cultural and ethnic groups within the Doncaster BAME community.

In 2001 the population in Doncaster was 96.5% White British, which reduced to 91.8% in the 2011 Census, indicating that the diversity in the borough is increasing, and is expected to continue to increase.

Greater focus is needed on working with communities to understand the cultural needs, choices, and inequalities, and build these into the emerging service developments and especially to address the health inequalities that people from Black and Minority groups, with Learning disability and / or Autism experience.

3. Doncaster Population with a Learning Disability or Autism

National and local data describing people with Learning Disability, Autism or both is incomplete and compiled from various sources. (People's needs are recorded as a 'Primary Support Need, and does not consistently record where people have more than one need).

Table 1 describes estimates of the number of people living with Learning Disability or Autism in the UK and Doncaster.

The data for Children is incomplete, and estimates based on Children and Young People for whom Doncaster LA maintains their Education, Health & Care Plan

Table 1

Estimated numbers of people living with Learning Disability or Autism 2019

Indicator	People with Learning Disabilities	People with Autism
National Prevalence (all age)	1.5m – 1.6m based on 66m UK population 350,000 with SLD	700,000-726,000 based on 1 and 1.1% of the population
National Population in England (over 18 years)	1.05m (2020 prediction) predicted to rise to 1.16m by 2040`	438,334 (2020 prediction) Predicted to increase to 488,184 by 2040
Doncaster Population (all age)	7,722	3,089 based on 1%
Doncaster Population (Over 18 years)	5,784(2020 prediction) (1,198 with MSLD) Predicted to increase to 6,362 by 2040	2,446 (2020 estimated) Predicted to increase to 2,709 by 2040
5-17 years (with ECHP) School census 2020	169 Moderate LD 97 Severe LD	602
People (18-64) whose behaviour presents a severe challenge	Predicted 84 LD in 2020 No local information	No local information

Those on proactive support register	32 adults (12 on heightened monitoring) 56 children* (18 with heightened monitoring)	No breakdown available
Expected changes in population-nationally predicted	Adults (18-64) very little change predicted to 2040. However, 65+ predicted to increase by 36% by 2040.	Adults (18-64) 2.7% increase predicted by 2040. 65+ predicted to increase by 37% by 2040.

*Proactive Support Register-children -is much broader than the Transforming Care definition as includes all children in 52 week residential placements.

3.1. People with Moderate or Severe Learning Disability

People with moderate or severe learning disability may also be living with other complex health and care needs, and often require a range of services specifically developed to meet their particular needs. Table 2 describes the number of people estimated to be in those groups.

The estimated number of people with moderate or severe learning disability in Doncaster is in line with the growth in the general population. Services to meet the needs of this group of people will need to continue to grow in order to meet their needs.

Table 2 People predicted to have a moderate or severe learning disability, and likely to be in receipt of services, by age in Doncaster²³

Age	2020	2025	2030
18-64	1,026	1,037	1,049
65+	172	187	204
Total population	1,198	1,223	1,254

Around 1,269 people with moderate or severe learning disabilities locally are over 65 years, and 568 people with autism²⁴. In line with the general population, it is anticipated there will be a continued increase in the number of older people with Autism, which services and commissioners will need to address in future planning.

3.2. People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Table 3 below describes the number of men and women with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Doncaster. As is seen in the national figures, there are 6 times more men diagnosed with autism than women.

Table 3. People predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders, by age and gender, projected to 2040 in Doncaster

	2020	2025	2030
Males predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders in Doncaster			
18-64	1,694	1,701	1,712

²³ POPPI (2021): Estimate <https://www.poppi.org.uk/index.php>

²⁴ POPPI (2021) <https://www.poppi.org.uk/index.php>

65+	502	556	619
Females predicted to have autistic spectrum disorders in Doncaster			
18-64	184	184	184
65+	66	71	78
Total Population	2,446	2,512	2,593

It is understood that about 1.0 - 1.1% of adults in England live with Autism, (Based on using the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule). Most of those people are men (1.8%) with only 0.2% women meeting the criteria.

The National Autistic Society say that 'estimates of the number of people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who also have a learning disability, vary considerably, and it is not possible to give an accurate figure.

Some people with ASD may never come to the attention of services as having special needs, because they have learned strategies to overcome any difficulties with communication and social interaction and found fulfilling employment that suits their particular talents. Other people with ASD may not have a learning disability but need support from services, because the challenges their Autism presents can make social interaction, education and working more difficult than for other people in the community.

3.2.1. Referrals to Autism Service

The number of referrals into the Autism Service provided by RDASH has fallen this year, largely due to the impact of COVID-19 and the service closure during the lockdown period. (2020/21 figures are to Feb 2021).

Table 4 Number of people referred to the Autism Service year on year.

Referral Count	Unique Patient Count	Team	Year
226	201	DONCASTER AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TEAM	2018/2019
262	214	DONCASTER AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TEAM	2019/2020
164	136	DONCASTER AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TEAM	2020/2021

In line with expected growth, referral rates into the service are continuing to increase. A range of diagnoses has been recorded following assessment and includes:

- a. Autistic disorder
- b. Rett's syndrome
- c. Asperger's syndrome,
- d. Pervasive developmental disorder,
- e. Atypical autism
- f. Others.

The drop in number of referrals to the Doncaster ASD team for 2020/21 is reflective of the service closure due to the pandemic during the first half of the year, and more people are waiting for an assessment for diagnosis.

4. Headlines Summary

4.1. Adults - Learning Disability

- a) 1.05 million adults in England are estimated to have a learning disability (2020 England population projections)
- b) In total, approximately 5,800 adults in Doncaster have a learning disability and 1,269 of them are over 65 years old
- c) 1,200 adults have moderate or severe learning disabilities and 172 are over 65 years old
- d) 108 people with learning disability (primary support reason) receive home care (as at 17.01.21)
- e) 910 individuals have an open service with Primary Support Reason LD, 85 of which also have a recorded health condition of Autism
- f) Of these 910 individuals, 91.6% are of White British ethnicity
- g) 41 people with Learning Disabilities and Autism meet social care eligibility criteria

4.2. Adults - Autism

- a) 440,000 adults in England are estimated to have autistic spectrum disorders
- b) It is estimated that up to 70% people with Autism, also have a learning disability.
- c) Approximately 2,500 adults in Doncaster have autism and 568 of them are over 65 years old
- d) 160 people with Autism meet social care eligibility criteria

4.3. Children and young people

By 2024, 72 young people with and EHCP and supported by children's social care (has an Open Referral) will reach 18 years with a range of needs. (Some numbers of cases has been removed from each category as they are low and risk identifying individuals):

- a. 23 children with EHCP due to Social, emotional and mental health issues
- b. 17 children with EHCP due to Autism Spectrum Disorder
- c. 10 children with EHCP due to Severe Learning difficulties
- d. v children with EHCP due to Mild Learning difficulties
- e. w children with EHCP due to Profound and multiple learning Disability
- f. x children with EHCP due to Physical Disability
- g. y children with EHCP due to Hearing Impairment
- h. z children with EHCP due to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

There are 45 children open to Children's Social Care with learning Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder recorded who will turn 18 years old by 31/03/2024 in receipt of services from

- a. Children's' Disability Service
- b. Occupational Therapy Team
- c. Looked After Children
- d. Approximately 11.4% of all looked after children have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder (59 children in total)

Waiting times for a diagnosis of autism for children have vastly improved:

- a. 100% within 18 weeks of first face to face contact for under 5's

- b. More than 90% for over 5's. (This is from the point of referral to Autism Team).

4.3.1. Looked After Children

- a) There are 27 looked after children who will reach 18 years by 2024
- b) Approximately 6% of all looked after children have a learning disability and/or autistic spectrum disorder
- c) There are 346 children with an Education, Health and Care Plan due to a moderate or severe learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder who will reach the age of 18 by 2024 (based on those aged 14 & above at the 2020 School Census)

4.3.2. Children in Transitions

Table 5. Young People with Learning Disabilities Transitioning to Adult Services up to 2030

Age (as at 2020)	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Doncaster	60	39	62	74	61	62	80	68	57	62

Table 6. Young People with Autism as at 2020

	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Doncaster	71	82	40	37

Children in transitions include those living at home, and those in Looked After services.

This group of people require support as they move from Children and Young People's Services, education and home environments, and into adulthood, employment, and their own home environment. For young people this can be a very unsettling time, and for those with Learning Disability and / or Autism has additional stressors, as every part of their lives can change.

Young People in Transitions is identified as a cross cutting theme within the Strategy, to ensure that developments in services specifically address the needs of this group of people, from housing to employment support.

5. Health, Learning Disability and Autism

People with a learning disability and / or Autism have worse health outcomes the wider population, and are more likely to experience a number of health conditions²⁵.

"Women with a learning disability in England have an average life expectancy of 65, GP data from NHS Digital have shown—18 years lower than those without, which is worse than for

²⁵ Mencap (2020) Health Inequalities <https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability-explained/research-and-statistics/health/health-inequalities>

men. Men with a learning disability had an average life expectancy of 66 in 2017-18, compared with 80 in men without a recorded disability²⁶.

Patients with learning disabilities also had lower rates of cancer screening, most notably in cervical screening for women: only 31% had smear tests, compared with 73.2% of those without a learning disability.

5.1. Annual Health Checks with the GP

An annual health check helps you stay well by talking about your health and finding any problems early, so you get the right care²⁷.

GP Practices are required to keep registers of people with learning disabilities and to offer annual health checks to people aged 14 years and above. GP practices and primary care networks are working towards improving the accuracy of people on their learning disability registers. Information currently available shows:

- a. The number of people registered with a GP as of December 2020 is 1964. The peer group average for comparison is 1720²⁸
- b. There has been an increase in the number of annual health checks completed. Since 2014/15 there has been an increase of 310 annual health completed on an annual basis. The percentage has decreased by from 53.8% to 44.4% showing work is required to improve the coverage of annual health checks²⁹.
- c. Health checks are not currently offered routinely to people with autism.

Improving access to health checks for people with Learning Disability and / or Autism is a key aim of the Health inequality action plan.

5.2. Health Screening

As of December 2020 over the rolling year, people with learning disabilities living in Doncaster accessed the national Cancer Screening Programmes³⁰ as detailed below.

- a. Bowel screening attendance at around 73.3%. (Doncaster c 65%)
- b. Breast screening 41.6% (Doncaster c63%)
- c. Cervical screening 48.8%. (Doncaster c74%)
- d. Data not available for the number of people with autism who access screening.

While there is some good news in the uptake of screening, there is more to be done to ensure that all people who are eligible for the cancer-screening programme are encouraged and able to attend. Health colleagues are working with the regional health action teams to address the issues and barriers that exist for people with Learning Disability and / or Autism, and is included in the health inequalities action plan.

²⁶ BMJ (2019) People with learning disabilities have lower life expectancy and cancer screening rates <https://www.bmj.com/content/364/bmj.l404#:~:text=People%20with%20learning%20disabilities%20have%20lower%20life%20expectancy%20and%20cancer%20screening%20rates,-BMJ%202019%3B%20364&text=The%20inequality%20is%20greater%20in,men%20without%20a%20recorded%20disability.>

²⁷ NHS 2020: Annual Health Checks – Learning Disability. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/learning-disabilities/annual-health-checks/>

²⁸ source GP practice registers December 2020

²⁹ <https://www.poppi.org.uk/index.php>, NHS Outcomes Framework, Doncaster GP registers (2020)

³⁰ NHS Doncaster CCG 2021: LD Health checks Dashboard

5.3. Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR)

The LeDeR Programme is the first national programme of its kind aimed at making improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities and addressing the factors that lead to health inequalities and premature death.

Health and care services are reviewing deaths of people with Learning Disability and Autism to learn from them and improve the standard and quality of health promotion and care and support. People with learning disabilities, their families and carers have been central to developing and delivering the programme. Several priority care areas have been identified so far:

- Constipation,
- Epilepsy and Seizure management,
- Sepsis,
- Dysphagia (Difficulty swallowing)
- Positioning

Learning from the LeDeR programme is built into the Health Inequalities Plan.

The Integrated Care System is developing training and awareness sessions to improve outcomes identified in local LeDeR reports and will focus on the priority areas identified for Doncaster through the current reviews.

5.4. COVID-19

Public Health England estimates that people with Learning Disability and / or Autism are at more than 3.6 times more risk of dying from COVID-19 than the wider population³¹. In response to this finding, LeDeR through NHS Improvement has published their guidelines³² for reducing the risks to this group of people.

People from Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups are also identified as being at greater risk from COVID-19. Recent evidence is that some BAME groups are not taking up the vaccine when offered. Plans are in development to work with Public Health and BAME representatives to address the health inequalities and improve the outcomes for the at risk groups within the Learning Disability and Autism community.

5.5. Carers

Nationally, 64% of carers have reported they have not been able to take any breaks from their caring role during the pandemic. 19% advised they have not been able to take as many breaks as they felt they needed. Overall, 79% of Carers advised they had either not taken any or been able to take sufficient breaks.

³¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-deaths-of-people-with-learning-disabilities>

³² NHSI (2020): (LeDeR) programme Action from learning: deaths of people with a learning disability from COVID-19. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/action-from-learning/>

Development of short breaks for carers was identified as a priority during the engagement exercises, and work is already underway to expand the offer for carers. The emergence of COVID-19 has made this more challenging, but also, more important than ever.

As the population ages, increasing numbers of older people will have caring responsibilities for family members.

5.6. People’s Accommodation and Support Needs

In 2020, a Strategic Needs Assessment for the next 10 years housing and support needs for people across all ages with Learning Disability and / or Autism was commissioned across the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System.

In January 2021, the Councils Care Management system identified that 1,053 have a recorded accommodation status breakdown as shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Accommodation Status of people on the Care Management System

Acute / Long Stay Health Care Residential or Hospital	6
Adult Placement Scheme	20
Appvd Resid for Offenders Released or on Probation	1
Extra Care/Other/Sheltered Housing	5
Other Temporary Accommodation	6
Owner Occupier / Shared Ownership Scheme	19
Placed in temporary Accommodation by LA	5
Prison / Young Offenders / Detention Centre	1
Registered Care Home	115
Registered Nursing Home	5
Rough Sleeper / Squatting	1
Settled Mainstream Housing with Family/Friends	393
Staying with Family/Friends as a Short Term Guest	9
Supported Accom / Lodgings / Group Home	345
Tenant	91
Tenant - Private Landlord	31

Review of the Strategic Needs Assessment identified that young people in transitions and those living at home with their carers are two of the priority groups whose housing and support needs are significant and increasingly urgent. The Council currently has 38 new units being developed that will be available in spring 2022.

The Strategic Housing Needs Assessment identified opportunities and gaps in the existing housing and support provision.

In line with the Council’s Housing Strategy Refresh³³ (2020) the Housing and Support plan aims to ensure that people will be supported to live in homes that meet their assessed

³³ Doncaster Council (2021): Doncaster Housing Strategy 2021 – 2025.
<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/housing/our-housing-strategy-2015-2025>

needs, in their local communities. Housing and support options will be based on individual assessed needs, and will include

- d. General housing with adaptations and new technologies which support independent living
- e. Include the support needed by individuals
- f. May include purpose built specialist housing where this is needed and based on assessed need
- g. Include a wide range of accommodation and support from general housing with floating support, extra care, supported living, shared lives, and where needed, residential care services.

Through the engagement exercises, people with lived experience said where they live is important, as is whom they live with. Maintaining relationships with families, friends and partners are essential. Housing and support options are being developed that ensure that people are able to live in their communities, and provide choice about who they live with.

