



Learning Disability – ‘Promoting Independence Strategy’

Somerset County Council

Scrutiny for Policies, Adults and Health Committee

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Promoting Independence



- To be ambitious in raising people's independence and improving their lives;
- Maximising independence to support people to remain in their homes and communities, without formal social care support wherever possible
- A changed relationship with the public where we manage expectations and are realistic about what we can do and what we expect from individuals, families and communities
- Working differently with partners to support people to get the right level and type of support at the right time
- Asking staff to think and practice in new and different ways, and to change the conversations we have with those requiring our assistance
- Ensuring we have the right enablers in place to achieve our ambitions

Where are we...



- Total number of people support with a Learning Disability – 1,794
- Total number of learning disability providers within Somerset - 89 providers that we commission with, further number of providers that people use their Personal Budget to employ
- Total number of Out of County Placements - 52 Out of County placements breakdown as follows:
 - 33 in neighbouring counties (mainly Devon, North Somerset and Wiltshire),
 - 19 in other counties that don't directly border Somerset.
- Somerset has the largest number of people with a learning disability receiving care per 100,000 of population in comparison to other Shire counties.
- Somerset has the highest cost per person supported at £18,013pa against the national average of £14,446.

What good looks like in Somerset?



- Sam
 - - Residential provision, shared care provision
 - - History of provider seeking cost increases
 - - Daily impact on life because of the person he shares with. Wears headphones due to noise and provider unwilling to offer full time support
 - - Review identified he could live in supported living
 - - Mum did not believe this could be an option for him
- - Ongoing work with mum and Sam moved into his new supported living placement where he has settled really well.
- - Now doing more for himself and socialising with others
- - Improved relationship with mum

What good looks like in Somerset?



- Tom
- - In Shared Lives and in receipt of DP for respite. He refused respite, in crisis provision, has illegally signed tenancy and very challenging behaviour
- - Review led to BI meeting; plan for respite property to become his home
- - Moved in, with a pa team in place, and shared lives provider became micro provider
- - 28 day review indicated he was happy in "his home", progression evident and ongoing with behaviours reduced and sustainable relationships

Assistive Technology

Oysta Watch

Initial reason for use of Oysta / monitoring system:

PF has 1:1 support provided by LD Provider. He regularly absconds and sees it as a fun 'game' to see if the carers or police can find him.

The watch was provided to help locate PF and so that he is able to contact staff if he is in danger. The ability to locate PF through the GPS tracker and to communicate with him is particularly important as Paul can be a danger to himself and others when unsupervised in the community. The police were being called regularly ("every other day, sometimes it was numerous times in a single day")

Information gained from use:

GPS functionality enables staff to locate PF when he absconds. This enables them to make an informed decision about whether he is safe (e.g. is he at a friends' house or attempting to cross the M5). It also gives peace of mind that he is OK and not lying injured somewhere as they can see movement.

Staff can call PF through the watch.

PF is able to contact staff.

Benefits of this info for service user:

The Oysta watch helps PF to balance the risks of his behaviour with the freedom he enjoys. It is the least restrictive option currently tried.

The ability to communicate through the watch provides a safety mechanism as PF can call for help if in trouble.

It has helped his relationship with the care staff as they have a greater peace of mind rather than feeling frustrated/stressed that he has run off.

If wrongly accused of doing something the care staff can say that he wasn't in the area during that time of the day.



Transforming Care



A 30 year old woman with LD and autism who had a long history of failed placements, including stays in a secure wards and the S136 suite.

She displayed challenging behaviour, assaulted staff and became more and more isolated with the minimal support and interaction in place which was having a detrimental impact on her health and well-being.

Somerset TCP was successful in getting capital funding from NHSE which was used to buy this lady a property and a specialist care provider was appointed.

They worked closely with the lady's family to get to know the patient very well and created a person-centred care plan and positive behaviour support plan.

The care provider also recruited a staff team aligned to this lady's needs and likes through advertising with a person-centred advert and using person-centred questions at interview

The lady moved into her new home in December 2017 and has been living there ever since. She goes out into the community, cooks her own meals with staff and meets up with family and friends. She still uses her behaviours to communicate but this has reduced significantly since she has moved into her own home because she is in the right environment and has a stable team who know her and support her needs well .

What does promoting independence mean for someone with a Learning Disability?



What good looks like in other local authorities;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-wiltshire-5756767/heights-are-scary-scaffolder-with-down-s-syndrome>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-bristol-7090187/how-does-someone-with-autism-go-shopping>

A New Model

Kent's pathways model

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-qmo4LMSJU#action=s>



Developing our Model

