

ANGUS COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK AND HEALTH COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2015

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE KEYS TO LIFE NATIONAL LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY
IN ANGUS**1. BACKGROUND**

Committee report 541/13 advised members of the new national learning disability strategy launched by the Scottish Government and COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) on 13 June 2013 called 'The Keys to Life'. The report outlined a plan of how the recommendations contained in 'The Keys to Life' will be progressed in Angus. This report provides an update on progress.

In June 2013, the Scottish Government launched a new strategy for people with learning disabilities in Scotland, 'The Keys to Life: Improving quality of life for people with learning disabilities'. 'The Keys to Life' sets out 52 recommendations for action by the Scottish Government, local authorities, NHS Scotland and academic and voluntary bodies. It reflects on research evidence which shows that people with learning disabilities have the poorest health of any group in Scotland, along with a life expectancy of around 20 years less than the population as a whole. It intends to address this inequality and 18 of the 52 recommendations specifically relate to health and to health improvement in particular.

Other priorities in the new national strategy include:

- Human Rights
- Commissioning of Public Services
- Independent Living (including housing, education and employment)
- Shifting the Culture and Keeping Safe
- Breaking the Stereotypes
- People with Profound and Multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)
- Criminal Justice
- Complex Needs (including people with challenging behaviour, autism, mental health needs and offending behaviour)

The strategy challenges partners to improve services for people with learning disabilities and identifies the areas where changes should be made. The recommendations are intended to deliver better outcomes, while taking into account the financial pressures that the public sector faces.

2. SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

A multi agency 'Keys to Life' implementation group was established in December 2013 to ensure a multi agency approach in Angus was adopted to progress the recommendations contained in 'The Keys to Life'. The group has representation from core service areas such as health, housing, criminal justice, learning disabilities, children's services, carers, health and social care integration, and planning and commissioning. The group have been working closely with people who have a learning disability and their families to determine local needs and priorities and to hear what is important to people in Angus. The work of the group to date includes:

- A self evaluation of the current position in Angus against each of the 52 recommendations in 'The Keys to Life' has been completed and further actions required have been identified. Progress against identified actions are monitored and updated at each monthly meeting of the group.
- An engagement strategy and approach to this work has been developed and agreed. This includes an engagement guide to support consistent engagement across Angus with stakeholders. This includes the development of user friendly materials for all engagement activities.

- Representation has been secured from Angus on relevant national working groups and links have been made with the chairs of relevant national sub groups to ensure Angus is both involved and has an avenue to influence the work being undertaken. Angus also has representation on the NHS Tayside wide working group to ensure involvement in progressing pan-tayside issues.
- A comprehensive engagement exercise was undertaken with stakeholders in Angus to establish their priorities in relation to 'The Keys to Life' recommendations and to hear what was important to them. This included people with a learning disability, families, carers, staff, other professionals and organisations, relevant schools and children's facilities and relevant voluntary organisations and private providers. Results detail what is important to people who use services, carers, families and professionals to determine differing needs and priorities. The results have also been collated into locality areas to ascertain whether needs differ in the different localities in Angus and to inform locality planning in preparation for health and social care integration.
- In line with the national standards for community engagement a follow up engagement exercise was undertaken. This exercise informed all stakeholders who took part in the initial engagement exercise of the results, asked them to prioritise what was important to them and invited suggestions on how stakeholders would like to be involved in the future planning of services.

The findings from the engagement activities illustrate that the people of Angus have 3 clear priorities. These are detailed below in order of priority:

1. Human Rights
2. Health
3. Independent Living (including housing, education and employment)

A report detailing the housing and accommodation needs of people with a learning disability in Angus will be submitted to Social Work and Health Committee in due course following a period of consultation.

The Keys to Life implementation group are working closely with the health and social care integration team to ensure that the strategic plan will include the strategic priorities for people with a learning disability, their families and carers.

The Keys to Life implementation group will now progress the production of a local delivery plan. This will be informed by the priorities to be included in the strategic plan that the people of Angus said were important to them. The delivery plan will be developed with the involvement of all key stakeholders.

3. REPORT AUTHOR

This report has been compiled by George Bowie, Head of Service, Adult Services who can be contacted by emailing People@angus.gov.uk.