

Report of Director of Adults & Health

Report to Executive Board

Date: 18th April 2018

Subject: The Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board *Being Me* strategy (2018-2021)

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Executive Board with a refreshed and updated Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board strategy (2018-2021) called *Being Me* for its consideration, comment and endorsement.
2. This strategy builds upon the many achievements of the last *Being Me* strategy (2015-2018). It sets out the key priorities for the Learning Disability Partnership Board and its members to work on over the next three years. The strategy has a clear vision; for Leeds to be the best city to live in for people with learning disabilities and their families.
3. The *Being Me* strategy is significant because it represents a genuine piece of co-production in the City. Every stage of the strategy's development, from establishing the key priorities to its layout and design, has engaged and involved the people that it will most directly affect and benefit; people with learning disabilities and their families. Crucially, the ideas of people with learning disabilities and their families are placed at the forefront of the decision-making process and the strategy demonstrates meaningful collaborative working with voluntary sector partners, the NHS and Leeds City Council.
4. Recommendations

The Executive Board is asked to:

- i. Comment on and endorse the draft refreshed *Being Me* strategy

- i. Agree that the strategy will be published in spring 2018
- ii. Note that the Director of Adults and Health is responsible for implementing these recommendations.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This paper sets out the recent work of the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board to develop the refreshed *Being Me* strategy (2018 – 2021). This strategy will help to coordinate the efforts of the different organisations that support people with learning disabilities and their families in Leeds. It outlines the work done so far in preparation of the draft and the approach to publication in spring 2018. The purpose of this report is to present the Executive Board with a refreshed and updated *Being Me* strategy for its consideration, comment and endorsement.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In 2001, the Government's white paper *Valuing People* made it a requirement for local areas to set up their own Learning Disability Partnership Boards. These multi-agency boards were set up to oversee interagency planning and commissioning of comprehensive, person-centred and inclusive services. A great emphasis was placed on its four overarching principles: rights, independence, choice and inclusion.
- 2.2 In Leeds, the Learning Disability Partnership Board brings together people with learning disabilities, family carers, voluntary sector partners, advocates, the NHS and Leeds City Council representatives. Together, they focus on the key strategic issues affecting people with learning disabilities and their families and look at how services can better support and meet the needs of people with learning disabilities within the city.
- 2.3 The previous *Being Me* strategy was launched in 2015 and is due to expire in April 2018. This strategy has been widely praised by the Learning Disability Partnership Board and the wider community for its achievements over the last three years.
- 2.4 Following extensive consultation with the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board members, the refreshed *Being Me* strategy builds upon the success of its predecessor and presents an updated set of key priorities and actions.
- 2.5 Following from the recent *Better Lives* strategy refresh and its emphasis on a strengths-based approach for transforming how people with care and support needs are supported, the refreshed *Being Me* strategy adopts a similar asset-based model for supporting adults with learning disabilities in Leeds. Specifically, it focuses on 'what people *can* do, not what they *can't*' linking them in with their local communities and neighbourhoods supported by the many assets found within them.
- 2.6 Within this context, it is therefore timely that the *Being Me* strategy is refreshed and the Executive Board is asked to consider and support the strategy over the three years to come.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Leeds has declared its intention to be a 'compassionate city with a strong economy' and we continue to progress towards ensuring that we live in a city based upon empowerment, enablement and independence whereby *all* citizens are able to live a fulfilling life with quality care and support available should they require it. With these intentions in mind we must ensure that our most vulnerable and marginalised citizens,

such as those who have a learning disability, remain at the front of our minds and their voices are heard.

- 3.2 Our strategy seeks to focus our energy on what matters the most to people with learning disabilities and act swiftly to achieve this. We seek to harness our relationships with partners within the NHS, external organisations and within the wider community to support people to live lives that are meaningful and uphold their dignity.
- 3.3 This report sets out the *Being Me* strategy's underpinning principles and strengths-based approach and outlines the key priorities and our strategic direction as devised by people with learning disabilities, family carers and the rest of the Learning Disability Partnership Board members.

Our vision, principles and approach

- 3.4 The *Being Me* strategy has a vision for Leeds to be the best city to live in for people with learning disabilities and their families.
- 3.5 Underpinning the strategy are eight important principles:
1. I am an equal citizen of Leeds
 2. I am an individual and should be treated as an individual
 3. I have the right to make choices and live my life the way I choose
 4. I have up to date information that is easy to understand and helps me make choices
 5. I am as independent as possible
 6. I am part of a strong community
 7. I have strengths and I am supported to use them
 8. I receive good support when I need it
- 3.6 These principles are influenced by the social model of disability and the strengths-based approach. The social model of disability asserts that a disability is the result of how a society is organised, rather than by a person's impairment or difference. This model looks at ways of removing the barriers that restrict life choices for disabled people.
- 3.7 Asset-based approaches have a long history in Leeds where we work closely with our communities to build on their assets, grow resilience and empower individuals. The *Being Me* strategy adopts the strengths-based approach in response to the updated *Better Lives* strategy within Adults and Health which has the firm belief that everyone has strengths, no matter what their current challenges are, and that by focusing on people's strengths as individuals, within their families and as part of their community, we can work together to build a better life. The *Being Me* strategy concentrates on the following elements of this strengths-based approach:
- Looking at what people *can* do, not what they *can't* do
 - Linking people in with their local communities and neighbourhoods
 - Helping people to take control of their lives
 - Supporting people to be the best they can be

Being Me Strategy 2018-2021

- 3.8 Following extensive consultation with members of the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board, people with learning disabilities and their families shared the view that the main priorities should be grouped under the same three areas as the last

Being Me strategy, namely: 'Being Well', 'Being Safe' and 'Being Connected'. Furthermore, it was decided that the 'Being Connected' theme should be sub-divided into 'Social', 'Travel' and 'Employment' in order to emphasise the particular importance of these elements in forming the overarching idea of 'connectedness'.

- 3.9 The main priorities are presented in the strategy as 'I' outcome statements which is what people with learning disabilities have said are important to them when they talk about their lives.
- 3.10 The subsequent actions under each theme outline the general strategic direction in which member organisations within the Learning Disability Partnership Board will concentrate, coordinate and collaborate their efforts. It should be noted that while the actions presented are intended to be a challenge, they are perceived by the members as achievable with the current resources available.
- 3.11 The Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board decided to have one version of the refreshed *Being Me* strategy so all of its members could work from the same document. To ensure that it is as accessible as possible, the strategy is written in 'easy read' language and presented in an accessible format. The strategy also includes a glossary to explain the more difficult terms that cannot be simplified further.

Being Well

- 3.12 People with learning disabilities identified the following main priorities for staying healthy:

- **I am supported to have good health**
 - I am able to exercise regularly and I have choice about the activities I do to keep fit
 - I have the right support and the information I need to eat healthily

- **I am supported to access the right services to keep me healthy**
 - I receive a good quality annual health check and health action plan
 - I attend the right national screening programmes
 - I know about cancer and how to check myself
 - I am confident visiting health services such as the doctor, chemist, dentist, optician and podiatrist when I need to

- **I have good communication with health experts and I receive reasonable adjustments when I need them**
 - I am always listened to and the information they give me is easy for me to understand

- 3.13 In order to achieve these priorities, the *Being Me* strategy outlines a number of areas that the Learning Disability Partnership Board will work towards over the next three years, namely:

- **Health Promotion:** We will have more information available around staying healthy that is easy to understand. We will explore how technology can help us with this.
- **Support for Providers:** We will make sure that Adults and Health and voluntary sector providers have the information they need to support people to stay healthy. We want all Adults and Health providers to sign up to new Public Health England's

Health Charter for Social Care Providers. We will also ensure that providers have the information they need to support people with learning disabilities to access different screening programmes and know about cancer and how to check themselves.

- **Signposting:** We will make sure that more people with learning disabilities know about the different health services available to them.
- **Checking Health Services:** More people with learning disabilities and their families will become more involved in saying if a health service is doing well and where they need to improve to better support people with learning disabilities.

Being Safe

3.14 People with learning disabilities identified the following main priorities for staying safe:

- **I am protected against all forms of hate and mate crime**
- **I know what to do if I feel unsafe in particular in the evening, on public transport and online**
- **I am more involved in checking if the different services I use are good enough and saying how to make them better, including, residential services, day services, community groups and voluntary sector providers.**

3.15 In order to achieve these priorities, the Learning Disability Partnership Board members have decided to work on the following areas over the next three years.

- **Good Lives Leaders:** We will expand the successful Good Lives Leaders scheme so that more residential and day services are checked by people with learning disabilities and their families.
- **Safe Places:** We will promote the Safe Places scheme and support people to use the Safe Places app. We will sign up more places to be Safe Places especially places open in the evening.
- **Personal Safety Training:** We will continue to make more personal safety training available to people with learning disabilities. The training will include things like:
 - How to deal with hate and mate crime
 - Staying safe on public transport
 - Staying safe on the internet
 - Staying safe when meeting people
 - Being in safe relationships
 - Keeping your money safe
 - How to report a crime

Being Connected: Social

3.16 People with learning disabilities identified the following key priorities around meeting people and socialising:

- I receive good support
- I have an active social life which includes evenings and weekends
- I have the information I need to get involved in the activities on offer in Leeds
- I am supported to make and keep friends and have relationships
- I am supported to explore my sexuality and gender identity

3.17 In order to achieve these priorities, the Learning Disability Partnership Board will work towards the following actions over the next three years:

- **Good Support:** We will explore what good support looks like in more detail. People with learning disabilities will check that good support is happening. Adults and Health will start Stage 2 of the Being Me Project and it will focus on a number of things to help achieve good support.
- **Flexible Support:** We will explore new and creative ways to support people out of normal support hours so they can get involved in more activities in the evening and at weekends. We will support people to find more flexible support options through personal budgets, individual service funds, providers working together and possible shared support.
- **Peer Support:** We will help people with learning disabilities set up more peer support groups in their local community. This will help people be more independent and have more choice over what activities they do, when they do them and who with.
- **Signposting:** We will share information that is easy to understand about the activities that are already on offer in Leeds. The information will be shared in public places, in the local community and on social media.
- **Relationships:** We will make sure that all people with learning disabilities are supported to have relationships including sexual ones if they want to. We will remove the barriers that stop people getting support around their gender identity and sexuality by:
 - Having more open conversations and sharing easy to understand information around LGBT+ and sex in general
 - Supporting services who work with LGBT+ peoples
 - Developing stronger links with existing LGBT+ groups in the city
- **Social Task Group:** We will set up a task group that will include people with learning disabilities, family carers and different voluntary sector partners. They will share information and make sure that we are doing what we said we would

Being Connected: Travel

3.18 People with learning disabilities identified the following main priorities for getting around in the city:

- **I feel confident getting around on my own on foot or using public transport so I can:**
 - visit my family and friends
 - go to the doctors or hospital
 - go to the gym or leisure centre
 - get involved in different activities
 - go to work

3.19 In order to achieve these priorities, the Learning Disability Partnership Board will work towards the following areas over the next three years:

- **Independent Travel Training:** We will continue to promote independent travel training schemes. We will make sure that transport services and their staff (like bus and taxi drivers) know how to better support people with learning disabilities.
- **Technology:** We will explore how travel apps can support people with learning disabilities get around Leeds. We will also train people on how to use them.

- **Travel Champions:** We will set up a group of travel champions who can support other people with learning disabilities to travel on their own. The travel champions will also work with transport services to help them improve travel for people with learning disabilities in Leeds.

Being Connected: Employment

3.20 People with learning disabilities identified the following main priorities for finding employment:

- **I have the chance to experience the world of work**
- **I am involved in things like**
 - volunteering
 - work placements
 - paid employment
 - starting a business
- **I have the skills I need to help me find a job and keep it**
- **I feel valued by local employers and they appreciate my individual skills and strengths**

3.21 In order to achieve these priorities, the Learning Disability Partnership Board will work towards the following areas over the next three years:

- **Better Connections with Local Employers:** We will look at developing a group of inclusive employers who can support people with learning disabilities to find employment. We will expand and better coordinate the employment marketplace event so local employers and people with learning disabilities can connect and learn from each other.
- **Stage 2 of the Being Me Project:** Adults and Health will start stage 2 of the Being Me Project. It will look at what Adults and Health can do to support people with learning disabilities find employment opportunities.
- **Skills for Work:** We will give people with learning disabilities more training so they can find the right job for them and keep it. Training will include things like how to find a job, how to write about what you are good at and what to say in interviews.
- **Experts by Experience:** We will speak to more people with learning disabilities about their experiences of the world of work. This will help services and employers to better support people with learning disabilities find the right job and keep it. People with learning disabilities who have work experience could also support other people with learning disabilities to find work and give them advice.
- **Employment Task Group:** We will bring together people with learning, family carers, local employers and other organisations in Leeds. To work on our actions under employments. It will be a good place to share information, build partnerships and coordinate efforts in the city.

4 Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 The strategy was developed in collaboration with people with learning disabilities, family carers, voluntary sector partners, the NHS and Leeds City Council. The specific groups consulted included: the Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board, People's Parliament, the Carers' Reference Group, voluntary sector partners from Tenfold members (as part of Forum Central), the Health Task Group, the Community Task Group and the Strategy Co-Design Team.
- 4.1.2 In order to gather the different ideas for the refreshed strategy, consultation activities started in September 2017 and finished in March 2018. In September 2017, we organised a special strategy workshop at the Learning Disability Partnership Board that was attended by over 50 members. Here, we discussed together and in smaller groups what should be the main priorities for the strategy under each theme. Following this initial consultation, we met with the individual Learning Disability Partnership Board sub-groups including People's Parliament, the Carers' Reference Group and the Health Task Group to ensure that all the key stakeholders within the city has the opportunity to contribute and shape the strategy's direction. In December 2017, we organised a second Learning Disability Partnership Board meeting to discuss the potential actions that the members could focus on over the next three years.
- 4.1.3 On February 22nd 2018, we had a strategy co-design away day at St Mary's Hospital facilitated by Easy on the I, an accessible information design service within Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. The strategy co-design team consisted of six volunteers with learning disabilities with a keen interest in art and design, voluntary sector partners, health services and Leeds City Council supported by an advocate, accessible information graphic designer and a service user involvement facilitator. Together, the team made use of the latest technologies to come up with the initial draft design that was successfully completed and approved by people with learning disabilities by the end of the event. The strategy co-design away day received widespread praise and has been positively promoted through a number of social media platforms.
- 4.1.4 The final draft strategy was presented to the Learning Disability Partnership Board on the 13th March 2018 and was positively received by its members. All suggested amendments were considered and the strategy revised to accurately reflect the interests of Learning Disability Partnership Board members.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening has been undertaken to ensure that the ambitions of the Plan are reflective of the Council's equality and diversity principles. As the Plan does not involve specific policy changes there are no further and specific screening requirements.

4.3 Council policies and best council plan

- 4.3.1 The refreshed *Being Me* strategy supports the Council's principle strategic objective to be 'a compassionate city with a strong economy'. It contributes to this goal by setting out how the Council, in partnership with the NHS, voluntary sector partners and the wider community will ensure that the voices of some of the most vulnerable

and marginalised adults in Leeds are heard, are treated with dignity and respect and are supported to live fulfilling lives that are as independent as possible.

4.3.2 The strategy directly cites Leeds City Council's *Vision for Leeds 2011 to 2030* in recognition of its relevance for all residents of Leeds including those with learning disabilities. Specifically, the strategy makes reference to the following in its opening pages; 'By 2030 Leeds will be fair, open and welcoming [...] Leeds will be a place where everyone has an equal chance to live their life successfully and realise their potential [...] Leeds will be a healthy and caring city for all ages where [...] people are supported by high quality services to live full, active and independent lives.'

4.3.3 The strategy contributes to the delivery of the *Best Council Plan* under the *Better Lives* priorities: 'Giving people with care and support needs the right care and support at the right time'. It also plays its part in delivering the vision of the *Health and Wellbeing* strategy, specifically, the following key elements:

- Promote mental and physical equality
- A valued, well-trained and supported workforce
- Maximise the benefits from information and technology
- Strong, engaged and well-connected communities
- The best care at the right place and the right time

4.3.4 The strategy also supports the Council's Breakthrough projects, most notably: *Early Intervention and Reducing Health Inequalities, Stronger Communities benefitting from a Strong City, Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse, More Jobs, better Jobs, Making Leeds the Best Place to Grow Old in.*

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The *Being Me* strategy does not require any additional resources or funding. Any future projects or changes to services that may be recommended in response to this strategy will be considered within the existing resource and may require us to use our resources differently.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

4.5.1 This decision is subject to the call-in process as a report to the Executive Board.

4.6 Risk management

4.6.1 There are no specific significant risks contained within the report.

5 Conclusions

5.1 This paper updates the Executive Board on the refreshed Leeds Learning Disability Partnership Board *Being Me* strategy (2018-2021).

6 Recommendations

6.1 The Executive Board is asked to:

- i. Comment on and endorse the draft refreshed *Being Me* strategy
- ii. Agree that the strategy will be published in spring 2018

iii. Note that the Director of Adults and Health is responsible for implementing these recommendations.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.