

5.2.01 Learning Disability and Adults with Autism

Introduction: why is this important?

People with learning disabilities and / or autism have a high level of health and social care need. They may also have high levels of coexisting problems that contribute to mental ill health, physical ill health and / or behavioural problems.

All services have a legal duty under the Equality Act (2010) to be responsive to the needs of people with learning disability and to make 'reasonable adjustments'. People with learning disabilities and / or autism may also need to be well connected with the offer of a broad range of more specialist services in order to reflect the additional support they may require in making choices in order to achieve a rewarding and fulfilling life.

The local vision across all agencies is that people with learning disabilities will have an equal opportunity to experience health and wellbeing and have access to support in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In addition, they will be treated with dignity and respect as valued citizens. Mainstream services will routinely and with confidence understand and respond to the 'reasonable adjustments' needed to meet the aspirations of people with a learning disability.

What strategies, policies and best practice have been developed locally and nationally?

The Care Act 2014 set out the responsibilities of organisations involved in care and support for people with learning disabilities, these include:

- Preparing for Adulthood (PfA) - developing an integrated PfA team that will include Children's, Health and Adults, starting with Learning Disabilities Services but also working across to Mental Health, Adults and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges, including those with a mental health condition

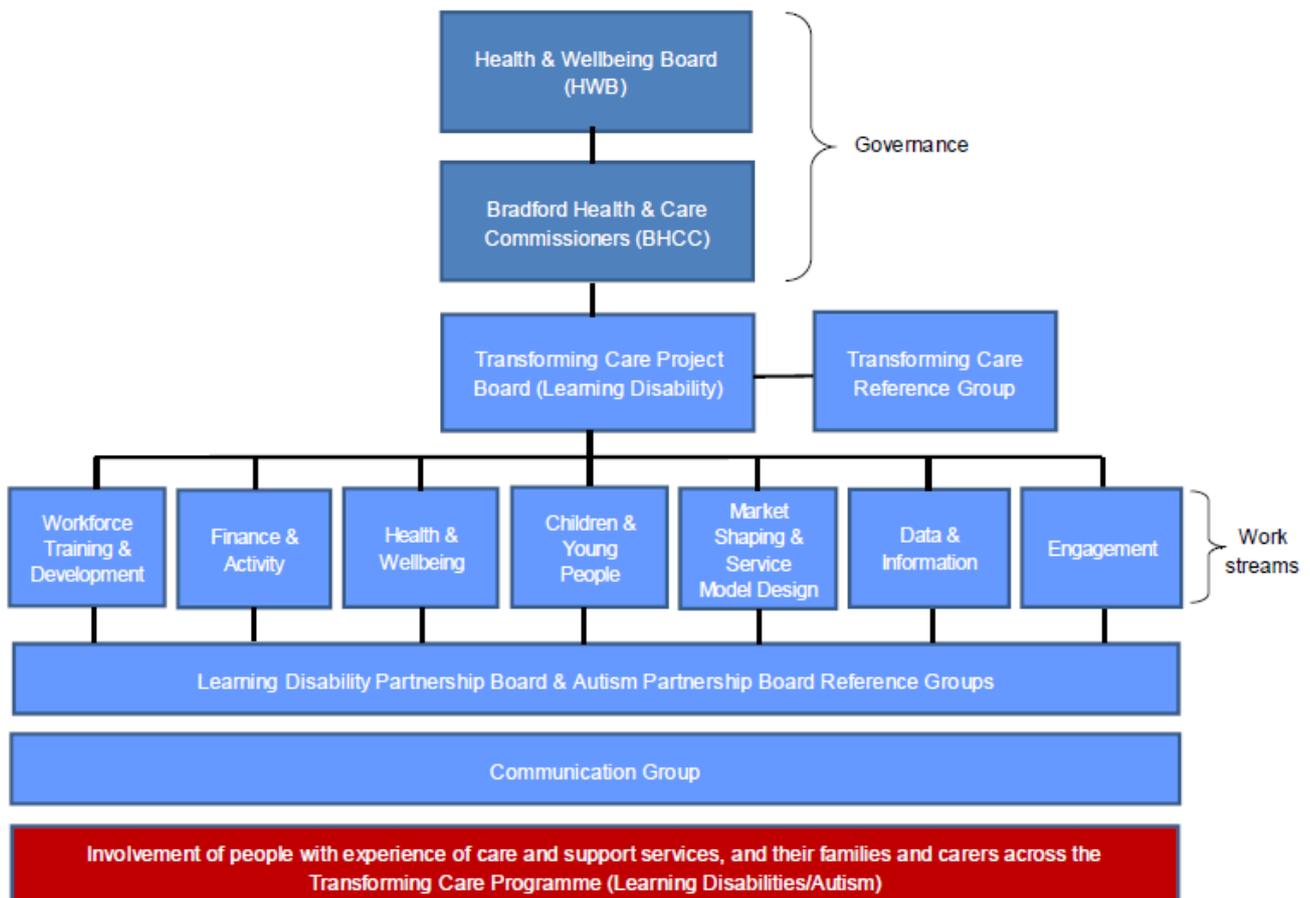
Since 2014, further developments in policies have included: 'Transforming Care for people with learning disabilities- next steps' (January 2015) and 'The National Plan - Building the right support' (October 2015). These programmes of work are currently underway and focus on reducing the reliance on inpatient hospital provision for people with learning disabilities and/or autism with complex health and behaviour presentations by developing specialist community based services that serve these complex needs.

Locally these programmes are being implemented in Bradford jointly between the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (CBMDC) under the 'Transforming Care Programme - Learning Disabilities and/or Autism and Mental Health' working closely with the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and the Autism Partnership Board. The structure for the governance and delivery of the Transforming Care Programme (TCP) is shown in a diagram on the following page.)

Early programme work to date includes the roll out of telecare and telemedicine into all Learning Disability care homes in the area and work to develop further Personal Health Budget offers for people with Learning Disabilities to enable greater service user choice over from whom and how they receive their care and support to best meet their individual needs¹.

Bradford Transforming Care Programme for People with a Learning Disability and/or Autism

Governance Arrangements for Work Streams



Source: Transforming Care Programme – Learning Disabilities and/or Autism and Mental Health

What do the facts and figures tell us?

The Learning Disabilities Profile is produced by Public Health England and compares some of the high level information held on people with learning disabilities that is known by health services and the Local Authorities across England. The latest data shows that Bradford has the second highest proportion of people with learning disabilities in the Yorkshire and Humber region with 3,303 persons registered with Bradford GP's in 2014/15 of whom 1385 receive long term local authority support, which is a greater proportion than the regional and national average².

While it is not possible with the current data sets available to identify the numbers of adults specifically with autism a 2012 indicates that in the UK approximately 1.2% of the white population and around 0.8% of the south Asian population are living with autism.³

There are two Public Health Outcomes Framework indicators relating to learning disabilities within adults:

- 1.06. Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation
- 1.08. Gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability and the overall employment rate

In 2014-15 84.5% of all adults with a learning disability lived in stable and appropriate accommodation within Bradford District⁴. The source of this data is based on the proportion of adults with a learning disability who are recorded as living in their own home or with their family. This is considered to be a positive indication they are less likely to experience social exclusion and will have an improved quality of life. This higher proportion of 84.5%, exceeds both the average for England (73.3%) and for Yorkshire and the Humber (81.4%). However, the gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability and

the overall employment rate in Bradford is lower (59.4%) than the average for England (64.4%) and Yorkshire and the Humber (66.9%)⁴.

Year	Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation			Gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability and the overall employment rate		
	Bradford	Yorkshire and the Humber	England	Bradford	Yorkshire and the Humber	England
2011-12	82.4%	76.4%	70.0%	56.1%	60.8%	63.2%
2012-13	83.1%	77.9%	73.5%	57.9%	63.1%	64.0%
2013-14	83.1%	79.2%	74.9%	60.5%	63.7%	65.0%
2014-15	84.5%	81.4%	73.3%	59.4%	64.4%	66.9%

Source: *Public Health Outcomes Framework*⁴

What challenges have been identified in a local context?

Local demographics indicate that there is a high level of existing and emerging health and social care needs within the Bradford District. Population projections suggest a continuous growth in the prevalence of learning disabilities, due in part to increases in life expectancy and improvements in healthcare.

The number of young people in transition to adult services is projected to increase year on year and it is likely that their health and social care needs will be greater and more complex. In addition, higher prevalence of some learning disabilities amongst young people within South Asian communities is particularly significant when applied to the demographics of Bradford.

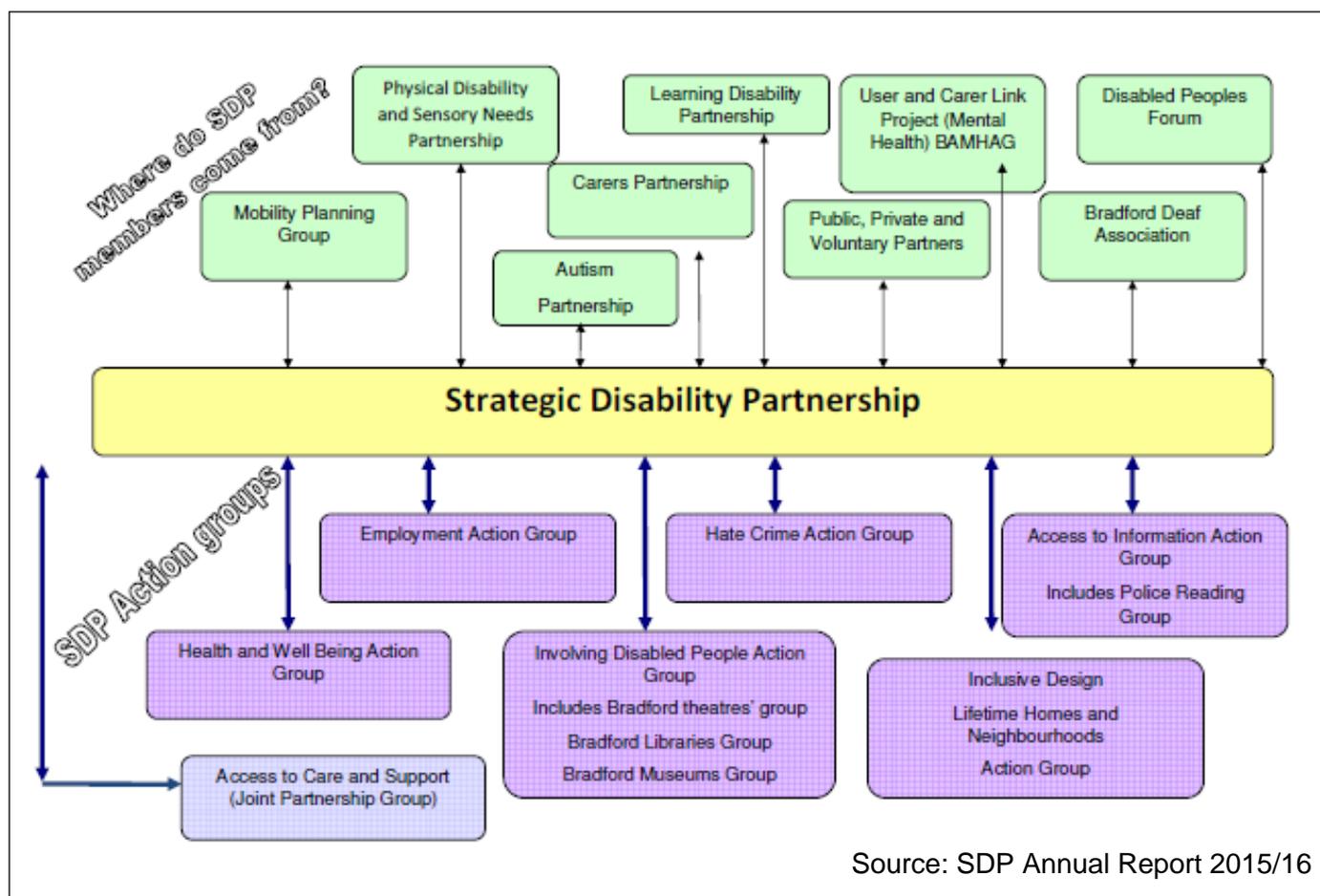
There is a growing body of research identifying the prevalence of people with learning disabilities within the criminal justice system and the increased risks of people with learning disabilities becoming victims of domestic and non-domestic violence. It is likely that people with learning disabilities who are offenders or become victims of violent crime may not be receiving the support they need to understand the criminal justice system or reduce their risk of harm. Responding to the specific needs of people with learning disabilities within these areas are to be considered within future policy and commissioning decisions in Bradford.

What do our stakeholders tell us?

Stakeholder, service user and family carers are involved at every level within the development and design of learning disability services across the district. The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and the Autism Partnership Board has an active and well established membership from health and social care professionals, voluntary organisations, people with learning disabilities and family carers.

As the diagram on the following page demonstrates, both these partnerships feed into the Strategic Disability Partnership (SDP) which campaign to improve services and positively campaigning on issues that are important to disabled people, in particular through its seven Action Groups, of which anyone may become a member. The seven SDP Action Groups are:

- Access to Information
- Employment
- Hate Crime
- Inclusive Design – Lifetime Homes and neighbourhoods
- Health and Wellbeing
- Involving Disabled People
- Access to Care and Support Services (this is a joint action group with the Learning Disability Partnership and The Older Peoples Partnership)



Recommendations: What do we need to do? How do we ensure this remains a priority?

- Support the Learning Disability Partnership Board and Autism Partnership Board in their work and facilitate engagement through the Strategic Disability Partnership to ensure the needs and views of disabled people are being heard and met within local strategies, partnerships, campaigns and consultations
- Maintain momentum and stakeholder engagement in the local Transforming Care Plan. The TCP three key areas for change are:
 - Reshaping current provision of services to reduce dependency on in patient provision to support people with complex behaviour presentations.
 - Develop the provider market with specialist providers to support people with complex presentations in the community
 - Promote mainstream health provision for people with Learning Disabilities

References

¹ O'Donnell, M, (2016) *3rd Draft - Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven Transforming Care Strategic Plan*. Available at : <http://www.airedalewharfedalecravenccg.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/2016-15-Transforming-Care-Programme-%E2%80%93-Learning-Disabilities-Autism-Mental-Health.pdf>. Accessed on: 22/08/16

² PHE, 2016. Learning Disability Profiles. Available at: <http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/learning-disabilities>. Accessed on:22/08/16

³ Brugha T. et al. (2012) Estimating the Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Conditions in Adults: Extending the 2007 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey. Available at <http://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB05061/esti-prev-auti-ext-07-psyc-morb-surv-rep.pdf> Accessed on:22/08/16

⁴ Public Health Outcomes Framework, 2016. Available at: <http://www.phoutcomes.info/> Accessed on:22/08/16