

**PHYSICAL DISABILITY AND SENSORY SERVICES COMMISSIONING STRATEGY
2015-19**

To: **Adults Committee**

Meeting Date: **1 September 2015**

From: **Adrian Loades, Executive Director: Children, Families and
Adults Services**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **n/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **The draft Commissioning Strategy for Physical Disability
and Sensory Services 2015-19 was presented to this
Committee in November 2014 and a period of consultation
was agreed. The document has been amended taking into
consideration the feedback from the consultation and is
now presented to the Committee for approval.**

Recommendation: **Members of the Adults Committee are asked to comment
on and approve the final draft of the Physical Disability
and Sensory Impairment Strategy 2015-19**

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1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Physical Disability and Sensory Service Commissioning Strategy was originally presented to Committee in November 2014 in draft form for Members input and consideration prior to a consultation period. Feedback from the consultation has been incorporated and the final document is now presented for approval by the Committee.
- 1.2 The development of the draft Strategy was informed by the participation of interest groups including:
- the Cambridgeshire Alliance for Independent Living (the Alliance)
 - a group of people with sight loss and their partners who attend a support and social session run by Hunts Society for the Blind
 - a group of individuals with an acquired brain injury at Headway
 - through Cambridgeshire Deaf Association (CDA) who met with various individuals and also completed simple questionnaires to identify potential unmet need.
- 1.3 The draft strategy was consulted on over a three month period from the end of December. It was shared with relevant colleagues and partners agencies and distributed externally by the Alliance. The Strategy was also presented to a meeting of the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Board in February to gather views.
- 1.4 Through the participation and consultation processes the feedback from the groups involved was largely positive with particular support for the emphasis on prevention. Suggestions to improve the strategy covered the following issues:
- Better recognition of the contribution of voluntary sector partners in the prevention agenda
 - Greater clarity on the different age groups covered by the strategy
 - More explicit inclusion of the issue of rising need / demand and limited resources and the approach to addressing this

The Strategy has been updated taking the responses into account and greater understanding of the implications of the Care Act 2014.

2.0 MAIN AREAS COVERED IN THE STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Strategy details how the Physical Disability Team and Sensory Services will work to deliver a preventative approach, building on people's strengths. The aim of this being to prevent, delay and reduce need for ongoing support thereby enhancing wellbeing and reducing immediate call on the public purse where possible.

2.2 Co-production

People with lived experience and their families have an invaluable role to play in reviewing and developing services. Part of the preparation of writing this strategy

involved speaking with individuals with lived experience of disability and/or sensory impairment. Continued co-production will ensure that disabled people and their carers will influence the future provision of services.

2.3 Transforming Lives

A prime focus of the Strategy for both Physical Disability and Sensory Services is on prevention, partnership working and utilising the strengths of the individual as part of the solution wherever possible. The Physical Disability Team was the first Innovation Site for the Transforming Lives Project and the initial learning from this approach is being used to design the implementation plan for the rest of the service that will shape the delivery of the strategy.

2.4 Prevention and Early Intervention

The Physical Disability Team and Sensory Services Team are exploring ways to intervene earlier and engage with people via 'Reablement' and with those people who have contacted the County Council, have not met eligibility criteria, but whose wellbeing and long term independence would be enhanced from a brief intervention. 'Transforming Lives' work aims to build on their strengths to improve wellbeing and links with natural support in their community to prevent deterioration and delay the need for ongoing services wherever possible.

2.5 Acquired Brain Injury Project

This project was set up to find additional accommodation and support in the County for individuals with an acquired brain injury. Transitional accommodation is available in Fenland and Cambridge, and tenancies have been offered for long term accommodation.

This project has therefore closed, and the focus on acquired brain injury will continue through a proposed Brain Injury Forum linked to the Physical Disability and Sensory Services (PD/SS) Partnership Board.

2.6 Support To Live At Home in the Community

Emphasis has been and continues to be placed on supporting individuals, even those with more complex needs, to remain living in their own homes in the community rather than moving into Residential or Nursing Homes, wherever safe to do so. Members of the Physical Disability and Sensory Services Teams will continue to work closely with colleagues across health, social care and housing, to make this possible.

2.7 Transport

Transport is of fundamental importance in people's lives. Transport is a major concern for people with disabilities and The Physical Disability and Sensory Services will strive to ensure these concerns are reflected in any consultation/future developments, through participation and engagement.

2.8 Keeping People Safe

The safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults has long been a priority for Adult Social Care and partner agencies and the Care Act now sets out the local authority's responsibility for adult safeguarding. The Physical Disability and Sensory Services will work to ensure their practice is Care Act compliant and keeps people safe

The Physical Disability and Sensory Services will link into the continuing development of the MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub)

2.9 Support for People with Sensory Loss

2.9.1 The Sensory Service has recently been restructured to ensure that it meets the expectations of the Care Act and has the appropriate range of professionals and skills mix to deliver a time limited, but not time prescribed intervention, that builds upon the individuals' abilities to enhance their independence and wellbeing. The team has always worked in a preventative way, but now that it is fully staffed again, it will work with other Adult Social Care Teams where there is a high incidence of sensory loss (Older People and Learning Disability) to promote understanding of the impact of sensory loss and what can be done to mitigate this.

2.9.2 The Service works closely with partner organisations to highlight the needs of people and support those in the area with a sensory loss. For example the Care Act emphasises the importance of Care / Nursing Homes and being sensory aware to enhance the wellbeing of their residents and the Team will work with partner agencies on this.

2.9.3 The service will also work closely with local Prisons to raise awareness of sensory loss, including working directly with prisoners to increase their independence and overall wellbeing

2.10 Greater equity of access and support for people who are profoundly Deaf

People who are profoundly Deaf are an often overlooked group of individuals and Cambridgeshire Deaf Association is now working with different sectors of the County Council to improve engagement with its members. For example in assisting people who are profoundly Deaf to be able to access information and support in understanding forms, and in feeding back on the needs of older British Sign Language (BSL) users. After raising the issue at meetings and in the strategy the County Council now has a contract with a web based interpreting system to support interaction from / with this group.

The Sensory Team will be working closely with the Cambridge Deaf Association and Housing to develop community housing for the profoundly deaf to reduce isolation.

3.0 ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all.

3.1.1 There are no significant implications for this priority

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives.

3.2.1 The Strategy details how the Physical Disability Team and Sensory Services will aim to deliver the outcome of helping people to live healthy and independent lives, wherever possible.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

3.3.1 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people is at the heart of the Strategy.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

4.1.1 The budget for the Physical Disability Team and Sensory Services is approximately £14 million. It is the aspiration of the preventative agenda, that early intervention and a 'strengths based' approach will help mitigate the demands on the Councils resources and delay need for ongoing social care support wherever possible.

4.1.2 The Service will continue to aim to support people in the community wherever possible with Residential or Nursing Home placements being the last resort.

4.1.3 To ensure strong financial management is maintained, staff will be expected to maintain awareness of the individual's personal budget, undertake timely reviews and consider all options for funding such as Continuing Health Care funding.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

4.2.1 Under the Care Act we have a duty to support those who have eligible needs

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

4.3.1 The Strategy details how the Countywide Teams will work with those who are vulnerable, with disability and long term conditions.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

4.4.1 Participation to gather a range of views to inform the strategy took place before writing the strategy and further views were sought through a three month consultation after the Councillors had seen the draft version. The draft version was sent out for consultation by the Cambridgeshire Alliance, to the Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment Board and Partner organisations.

4.5 Public Health Implications

- 4.5.1 The proposed Strategy should impact positively on the health and wellbeing of those known to the Physical Disability Team and to Sensory Services.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

- 4.6.1 The Strategy covers the whole County as both the Physical Disability Team and Sensory Services are countywide. With the implementation of Transforming Lives both services will subdivide into local areas to facilitate work in local communities. Members will be consulted on the development of services through existing channels, including member representation at Partnership Boards.

Source Documents	Location
None	