



# Self Assessment of our SEND Implementation

2019

*A new approach to special educational  
needs and disability*



## **Children's Learning Disability Service-Torbay (Child and Family Health Devon)**

### **How Children's Learning Disability Nurses work within the multi-professional arena to support CYP and SEND**

The Children's Learning Disability nurses support Children and Young People (CYP) with Learning Disabilities and are concerned with their client's health and general well-being in the widest context. We support CYP up to the age of 18yrs to live their lives as fully and independently as possible, while respecting their rights and dignity. Learning Disability nurses work with clients, their families and carers to assess their needs and design a support plan, using co-production principles. We work with other nurses, health professionals, allied health professionals, social care professionals, education services and any other service supporting the CYP.

The focus of Learning Disabilities Nursing is on influencing behaviours and lifestyles to enable this vulnerable client group to achieve optimum health. The aim is that they should be able to live as equal citizens in an inclusive society where their rights are respected. Torbay Children's Learning Disability nurses have the knowledge, skills, attitudes and abilities to work in partnership with CYP of all ages. We also support families and carers in order to help each CYP to develop individually and fulfil their potential in all aspects of their lives.

Learning disability nurses are trained and skilled in:-

- Using expert communication skills to engage with vulnerable people i.e. Talking Mats, Makaton etc.
- Interpreting and understanding behaviour using evidence-based outcomes to develop individual co-produced care packages.
- Coordinating client care programme reviews with other health, Education and social Care professionals and completing appropriate paperwork.
- Organising home/School/respite visits, attending Consultation with Paediatricians/GP clinic appointments to monitor and discuss progress with clients and their family/carers.
- Liaising with hospital admissions staff to plan clients' care needs on admission and discharge (e.g. housing and medication)
- Advocating on behalf of CYP with Learning Disabilities and encouraging self-advocacy. (Ensuring Mental Capacity Act for 16+ legislation is adhered to).
- Carrying out group work/training with clients and families on issues such as Positive Parenting (problem solving), Sleep Hygiene, anxiety management, healthy living and behaviour management;
- Supporting families, staff and carers in the community
- Supporting the organisation of admissions including supporting the completion of CHC and PBH applications;
- Completing co-produced management plans and reports
- Assisting with tests, evaluations and observations
- Teaching students and training health, Education and social care colleagues
- Maintaining awareness of local community activities and opportunities and sharing this on our Facebook page
- Supporting the agenda for equality and equal access to all community and public services
- Campaigning to ensure better healthcare outcomes and services for people with learning disabilities.

## What have we done to improve the visibility of the service and support CYP with the SEND process?

To meet the needs of our client group and support the local provisions we have introduced or been part of the following areas of service development:-

### **Electronic:**

- Health and wellbeing videos
- Hello My Name is videos
- New updated website- Purple folder of resources
- Facebook page
- Joint CHUB shared drive
- IHCS
- WINDIP
- Social Care Paris (Read Only)
- Health Paris (Read only)
- Visemeet

### **Training/Awareness:**

- Sleep Awareness workshop for families/Clients
- Positive parenting workshop (joint with Mayfield school)
- Talking Mats Train the trainers (Staff/ Charity Funded by Bmad and Waitrose)
- LeDer Reviewers Training April 2018 (Review premature deaths).
- We have a HOPE trainer in our team

### **Working in partnership with:**

- Children referral Hub (CHUB) Pathway for all referrals
- EHCP attending and providing input where appropriate
- LD Nurses forum
- Accessible Information Panel (AIS)
- Disability Awareness action group (DAAG)
- Treat me well campaign.
- Joint clinics with Paediatricians and Bladder Bowel Care Service- when appropriate
- CP/CIN meetings (children currently open/ or being referred)
- Service updates open/closed cases with Lead for Children with Disabilities Team (Social Care)-monthly
- LD/CAMHS Nurse (**Vacancy**)
- Adult Learning Disability Liaison Nurse Torbay Hospital – Promoting L/D Champions.
- Transition Pathways in place and attendance to 2x yearly meeting
- SEND Champion , and attendance at SEND ops meetings

### **Promoting self-management by parents:**

- Promoting Hospital Passport (New design)
- Going into Hospital information leaflet in easy read format
- Promoting Annual Health Checks 14+
- Signposting to forums i.e.:- Sensory forum, Early bird Forum
- Making every contact count (Talking Works/Young Carers/ Healthy Lifestyles)

### **Service performance:**

- Making Team more visual - Requesting information boards in Torbay Hospital waiting areas.
- Outcome Measures and feedback- to support in the effectiveness of the service.
- Specialisms within the team.
- Psychology supervision
- Safeguarding supervision
- Friends and Family Questionnaires
- Consultation Clinics (F2F and Telephone)



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## How has this improved outcome for children who have SEND? How can this be evidenced?

- Collaborative working across services and multi-agency sharing of information promotes inclusion.
- Improved communication between professionals and services contributes towards better outcomes for children and families feel supported.
- Accessible information – Training for staff to use the Talking Mats tool.
- A greater understanding of the CYP's Learning Disability and individual differences.
- Outcome measures and feedback forms are embedded in each area of service delivery, service delivery is adapted to ensure CYP and families feel supported.

## What difference has this made?

- Joint working with SEND and other professionals from Health, Education and Social Care.
- All training has been fully attended and positively viewed I.E.:- Talking Mats, Sleep awareness.
- Collaborative working between health, education, social care, parents and children and young people.
- Increased knowledge and understanding of Learning Disabilities and shared approaches and strategies.
- Taking a person centred approach to planning and intervention for each child/young person

## Areas for further action

- To establish a multi professional Learning Disability and autism intervention service across Devon.
- Introduce Children's Learning Disability standards to ensure all National and Local drivers have been introduced or are in the planning phase.
- Roll out the Talking Mats Training to all services providing support to CYP with a Learning Disability and a communication difficulty.
- Introduction and development of Learning Disability Champions within mainstream settings: - the ongoing commitment to the recruitment of Learning Disability champions will mean that more children, families and schools are supported, with a shared understanding of positive approaches to supporting children with complex Learning Disabilities and additional needs i.e. Autism, Behaviours that challenge, health issues.
- Learning Disability Nurses to contribute towards the diagnostic assessment process within the Child Development centre.

### Immediate next steps

- Ensuring that the Health and well-being needs of children and young people with a diagnosis of a Learning Disability and their parents/carers are fully considered in the implementation of the reforms arising out of the new Children and Families Health Devon service.
- Ensuring that children and young people with a Learning Disability are involved and informed throughout the process.

### Author

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