

Multi-Provider Forum

15 November 2016

Learning Disability Forum Discussion

Justin Wiggin, Strategic Commissioning Officer, Torbay Council and Sarah Bickley, Coordinator, Healthwatch Torbay led a 30 minute discussion to explore the need for a Learning Disability Forum for providers in Torbay.

Sarah Bickley presented the context of the discussion as a request which had previously been raised by providers as something which would be useful. Justin briefly discussed groups such as Learning Disability Partnership Board, Autism Board, Devon Transforming Care and the Multi-Provider Forum as opportunities to engage. However, if these groups aren't currently engaging the right people or being well attended we need to think about how we can do things differently.

The below is a summary of the question asked and responses from the group in attendance.

1. As provider or professionals working with adults with a learning disability, do you want a Learning Disability Forum?

Yes, providing the right people are present and relevant information is presented, discussed or raised.

It was suggested a forum of this nature should include both commissioners and providers. The opportunity to have candid conversations is required. The group requested a specific Learning Disability focus, for there to be a strategic conversation and for providers to be able to here and help shape how services were being developed. Providers wanted to work with commissioners to be able to shape their own services for the future.

2. What are the pros and cons of having a Learning Disability Forum?

Pros

- *Potential to identify gaps in the market.*
- *Opportunity to engage with commissioners and decision makers.*
- *Enable service improvement.*
- *Keep up to date with changes both within staffing structures of public sector but also policy.*

Cons

- *It runs the risk of being just another meeting to attend.*
- *Needs support to make it happen.*
- *Current distribution lists of membership may be wrong / not reaching the right people.*

3. What topics would you want to discuss at a Learning Disability Forum?

- *Open and honest conversations.*
- *Learning Disability Strategy development.*
- *Transition from children to adult services.*
- *Coordination of training to support providers. Delivery of training to happen outside LD Forum.*
- *Need to communicate to all providers.*
- *Commissioners being able to be candid about.*
- *Engage providers in the planning of services and strategies.*
- *Being able to provide challenge to each other.*

4. What commitment are you able to make?

- *Quarterly meetings*
- *LD Forum cannot be standalone. It needs to be part of another group e.g. Multi-provider forum.*
- *A Learning Disability Forum needs to link to Autism Board, Learning Disability Board, Mental Health and Health and Wellbeing Board. Where possible bring groups together.*
- *Providers are able to perform the role of a support network and be critical friends.*