

11th July 2013	ITEM: 10
Thurrock Health and Well-Being Board	
LEARNING DISABILITY HEALTH CHECKS IN THURROCK PROGRESS REPORT	
Report of: Catherine Wilson Service Manager Commissioning and Service Development Jane Foster-Taylor Executive Nurse, Thurrock Clinical Commissioning Group	
Accountable Director: Roger Harris Director Adults Health and Commissioning	
This report is Public	
Purpose of Report: The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Well Being Board regarding progress with annual health checks for people with learning disabilities who live in Thurrock.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current position in Thurrock regarding learning disability annual health checks is that there has to date been no out turn figure for last year 2012 -2013. It is not known how many annual health checks were completed. It is not known how many GP’s signed up to the DES and how many of these carried out health checks. This information has been requested from NHS England and to date has not been provided.

Each GP practice is to receive a letter from the Primary Care team, NHS England, requesting that they confirm if they will be signing up to the DES this year and how they will deliver their responsibilities to provide learning disability annual health checks.

A plan is in place to commission NELFT to deliver learning disability annual health checks for GP’s who are not going to sign up to the DES. The CCG will commission the work however they require the unspent DES funding to enable this work stream.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.1 That the Health and Well Being Board are informed about the significant lack of progress with learning disability annual health checks in Thurrock.

1.2 That the Health and Well Being Board offers its support to officers and the voluntary sector to increase the delivery of learning disability annual health checks in Thurrock.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

In 2001 the White Paper Valuing People a new strategy for learning disability for the 21st Century was published giving guidance and support to significantly change the way learning disabled people are supported and empowered to live full and independent lives with the right levels of support. One of the key objectives within Valuing People is that people who have learning disabilities have access to appropriate health care whilst being mindful that they may require additional support to fully benefit from that health care.

A series of reports and inquiries have reinforced this. The Mencap Report Death by Indifference published in 2007 told the moving stories of six people with learning disabilities who died as a result of lack of care, support and understanding of their disabilities within the NHS. The Six Lives parliamentary and health service ombudsman report (2008) which examined the deaths of the six people in the Mencap Report. The Health Care For All: Report of the independent inquiry into access to health care for people with learning disabilities by the Department of Health (2008). This guided the work to introduce health checks and higher quality provision of specialist health care for learning disabled people. The Six Lives Progress Report Department of Health (2010), Valuing People Now published in 2009 and a further report by Mencap Death by Indifference 74 deaths and counting A progress report 5 years on (2012) illustrated that very little for many people has actually changed.

To ensure that change does take place and that a higher priority was given to the health of people who are learning disabled annual health checks were introduced. The provision of health checks should be undertaken by GP's supported by practice nurses and specialist learning disability nurses. This was developed as a Directly Enhanced Service.

In Thurrock the delivery of this service has over the last 3 years been very poor meaning that individuals with learning disabilities are at risk of not receiving the health care they require.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

3.1 N/A

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 The delivery of learning disability annual health checks is very poor in Thurrock and there are increased risks to the health of learning disabled people. Thurrock GP's appear not to be recognising their obligations to deliver this service within both the local context of good practice and the national context outlined above.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 N/A

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 The failure to deliver this service impacts on the health of a significant number of Thurrock residents, it also fails to recognise the human rights of learning disabled people and reinforces the inequalities in health care experienced by people with learning disabilities. There seems to be a systemic failure to understand the need to ensure the experiences of people highlighted in all of the reports mentioned above do not happen in Thurrock.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
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There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Lucinda Bell**
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Public Authorities are bound by the duty imposed by s149 of the Equality Act 2010 (EA 2010) to have due regard to

- The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the EqA 2010 (*section 149(1)(a)*).
- The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (*section 149(1)(b)*). This involves having due regard to the needs to:
 - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it (*section 149(4)*); and
 - encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- The need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (*section 149(1)(c)*).
 Disability is a protected characteristic under the EA 2010.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Roger Harris**
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This is a key area to ensure equality of opportunity for learning disabled people within the health service this is not being delivered appropriately in Thurrock meaning that learning disability people are at a significant disadvantaged and as a result their health and well being is clearly at risk. The Diversity Team will require regular updates with progress and express considerable concern that this agenda is not being moved forward for learning disabled residents of Thurrock.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Valuing People a new strategy for learning disability for the 21st Century (2001)
- Death by Indifference Mencap (2007)
- Six Lives Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman Report (2008)
- Health Care For All: Report of the independent inquiry into access to health care for people with learning disabilities Department of Health (2008)
- Six Lives Progress Report Department of Health (2010)
- Valuing People Now (2009)
- Death by Indifference 74 deaths and counting: A progress report 5 years on (2012)

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- N/A

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