

Thursday 14th November 2013	ITEM: 8
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 further update the Health and Well Being Board regarding progress with annual health checks for people with learning disabilities who live in Thurrock.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This is an update following on from the report presented to the Health and Well Being Board on the 12th September 2013.

Following on from the last report the current situation is that approximately 80% of Thurrock GP's have signed up to the Directly Enhanced Service (DES) to undertake the Health Checks, confirmation is still to be received from two GP Practices. The problem experienced in previous years is that there is no on going record kept and it is only at the end of the financial year when invoices are submitted that a clear picture is available regarding how many health checks have been completed. To resolve this issue NHS England are going to regularly monitor the number of health checks completed. NHS England are also going to provide primary health care training.

Thurrock CCG has commissioned NELFT to offer the health checks to those Practices not signed up to the DES and NELFT have now started this work. NELFT may also have some capacity to undertake additional health checks to support Primary Care if they are slow in delivering them.

The Health and Well Being Board have asked Ian Stidson Director of Primary Care & Partnership Commissioning, NHS England Essex Area Team, to identify the GP Practices in Thurrock who signed up to the DES last year and did not deliver the Health Checks.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 That the Health and Well Being Board are informed about the current position 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 through an agreed strategic approach.
- 1.3 That the Health and Well Being Board receive regular updates regarding progress with the numbers of Health Checks completed in Thurrock.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The information below is to remind Board Members of the context for Annual Learning Disability Health Checks and is repeated from the previous two reports.

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. GP's are now signing up to the Directly Enhanced Service however this has happened in previous years and then health checks have not been completed.

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

5.1 N/A

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

6.1 If there is a failure to deliver this service again then there will be a further significant impact on the health of the learning disabled residents of Thurrock residents. This issue also fails to recognise the human rights of learning disabled people and reinforces the inequalities in health care experienced by people with learning disabilities.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommendations within this updated report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering**
 Telephone and email: **01375 65 2925**
chris.pickering@bdtlegal.org.uk

There are no direct legal implications within the context of this update report.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Adeyanju Baruwa**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
abarua@thurrock.gov.uk

This is a key area to ensure equality of opportunity for learning disabled people within the health service. This has not to date been delivered appropriately in Thurrock meaning that learning disability people are at a significant disadvantage. 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 the 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

Report Author Contact Details:

Name: Catherine Wilson
Telephone: 01375 652068
E-mail: cwilson@thurrock.gov.uk