



North East and North Cumbria

NHS North East and North Cumbria
Integrated Care Board

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03 November 2022

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RE: Bee Happy: Our Health and Wellbeing since COVID-19. Learning Disability Report

Good morning Jennifer,

Thanks for sharing the feedback of people with learning disabilities regarding their views and experiences of health and wellbeing. It is good to hear that people have had positive experiences of health and care, although we recognise the challenges highlighted in terms of communication, accessibility and recovery from Covid-19.

We have responded to our allocated recommendations outlined in the report below:

#	Recommendation	Responsible body	Comments
1	Provide better access to local areas for people who use wheelchairs.	Stockton-on Tees Borough Council	Not applicable
2	Provide more opportunities for people with a learning disability to participate in local activities that are enjoyable and meaningful, and that enhance learning.	Stockton-on Tees Borough Council	Not applicable
3	Provide more opportunities for people with a learning disability to have social contact, and to communicate with others in a safe space, outside of	Stockton-on Tees Borough Council NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	The ICB are part of the Learning Disability Partnership Board, which is led by Stockton-on-Tees Local Authority. This is a multi-agency group and takes a holistic approach to improving people's lives, including education, health and employment. There is a health sub-group to the Board, which the ICB contribute to, which focuses on improving access to

	day service provision.		health services and improving the quality of learning disability annual health checks.
4	Provide targeted health and wellbeing support for people with a learning disability, and their families and carers, to support their understanding of health messages.	<p>Stockton-on Tees Borough Council</p> <p>Tees Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust</p> <p>NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board</p>	<p>Primary Care deliver Learning Disability Annual Health Checks. During the year 2021/2022, 78% of people on the primary care learning disability register in Stockton-on-Tees received their annual health check (AHC). We are working with GP practices to improve uptake and improve quality of AHCs, including how they can be delivered in a more person-centred way using information that is in easy read format. In some practices, social prescribers support patients with a learning disability to better understand information and access support in their community. We have funded a project called STOMP i.e., 'stopping over medication of people with a learning disability, autism or both with psychotropic medicines' which empowers practices to complete medication reviews with the involvement of patients and their families.</p> <p>All NHS Trusts (secondary care) are required to meet 'The learning disability improvement standards for NHS trusts' and they self-assess themselves against the standards. This includes improvement measures such as the below:</p> <p><i>'Trusts must demonstrate they have made reasonable adjustments to care pathways to ensure people with learning disabilities, autism or both can access highly personalised care and achieve equality of outcomes'.</i></p> <p>To support this work, North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust (NTHFT) have an acute liaison nurse and are Diamond Standard Champions.</p> <p>In addition to mobilising the Diamond Care Standards training and pathways in secondary care, the learning disability acute liaison nurse supports staff to ensure patients receive safe and equitable healthcare.</p> <p>The Learning Disability Diamond Standard Acute Care Pathways are</p>

			<p>about planned admission, emergency admission and discharge which are then underpinned by a core set of values and principles.</p> <p>NTHFT use a 'Hospital passport' (care plan) supporting communication needs through a project named 'This is Me', which is a hospital passport which provides key information about the person and their communication preferences to ensure reasonable adjustments are put in place.</p> <p>Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) have increased their capacity to provide health facilitation for people with learning disabilities and are working closely with partners to ensure where needed, people are supported to access services, receive treatment and understand information.</p> <p>Across Stockton & Hartlepool the ICB has been working in partnership with NTHFT, Stockton and Hartlepool Parent Carer Forums and local authorities to implement a gold standard Down Syndrome Pathway. To date, we have co-produced a leaflet entitled 'Meet your Professionals' which aims to help families understand the responsibilities of NHS staff who will support their child (such as midwives, audiologists, health visitors etc.). This will be provided as part of the 'new parent pack' that has been created by NTHFT, Stockton and Hartlepool Parent Carer Forums, local parents and Down Syndrome North East.</p> <p>We have secured funding to maintain charitable gift boxes that are given at diagnosis alongside the 'new parent pack' and have introduced a parent champion role that families will be linked in with at diagnosis for support, advice and guidance. This service will be provided by Down Syndrome North East. Further updates on the final pathway will be available soon.</p> <p>We have provided the 'Meet your NHS professionals' and 'Parent Champions' leaflets as separate attachments.</p>
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5	Ascertain the effects of post-covid infection on family members/carers of people with a disability.	Stockton-on Tees Borough Council NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board	There are commissioned health services in place to support people with post-covid syndrome, which directly support people suffering with ongoing symptoms. These services are accessible by all people with ongoing symptoms, and we are working with health and social care partners to evaluate their impact / outcomes. This recommendation will be taken into consideration when undertaking engagement work around these services.
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Thank you again for sharing this report with us and we look forward to reading the next one.

Kind regards,

Alex Sinclair – Director of Place (Stockton)
NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board

Cc: **David Gallagher** – Executive Director of Place (Tees Valley and Central)
NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board