

12th September 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

This is an update following on from the report presented to the Health and Well Being Board on the 11th July 2013.

The figure has now been confirmed for Thurrock that **167** Health Checks have been completed. It is difficult to translate this figure into a percentage given that the lists of people who have a learning disability held by each GP Practice do not appear to be complete. The Local Authority provides services for 293 people with a learning disability. These people will be those who in the main have a high level of need and have been assessed to receive a service this is not an accurate representation of the number of people in Thurrock who have a learning disability. There are approximately 500 people in Thurrock who have a learning disability.

There are a number of actions that now will be required to ensure that Learning Disability Health Checks are delivered appropriately in Thurrock in a timely and robust manner.

- The data regarding the number of people who should be receiving a Health Check requires validation; the proposal is to facilitate this with the support of Public Health. This will be an initial piece of work which will provide an accurate figure of the numbers of people with learning disability in Thurrock. It will then enable CCG to monitor progress for each individual providing an accurate record of when Health Checks are completed throughout the year rather than waiting until the next financial to have the data.

- A clear joint strategic approach to Learning Disability Health Checks is being developed to ensure delivery. To support GP's to deliver Health Checks and to deliver them where GP's are not signed up to the DES the best solution would be to commission a Health Provider to undertake the work.
 - Currently 59% of GP Practices in Thurrock have confirmed that they will deliver Health Checks this year 2013-2014 we must be mindful that in previous years GP Practices have signed up to the DES but have not delivered the Health Checks.
 - If a Health Provider was to be commissioned the DES money would need to be made available to fund a contract.

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 are informed about the final number of learning disability health checks that have been completed in Thurrock for 2012-2013.

1.3 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.

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The information below is to remind Board Members of the context for Annual Learning Disability Health Checks

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.

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 report.

7.2 **Legal**

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering – Principal Solicitor**
 Telephone and email: **0208 227 3774**
chris.pickering@bdtlegal.org.uk

This report updates the Health and Well Being Board regarding progress with annual health checks for people with learning disabilities who live in Thurrock. The Board are asked to note the poor progress being made in this area, but there are no direct legal implications to this report, although the report's author asks for the contents to be noted and action taken as appropriate.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
 Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
SDeAlyn@thurrock.gov.uk

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. 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

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