

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Supporting People with a Learning Disability in Camden	
REPORT OF Executive Director, Adults and Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	DATE 27 February 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>This report sets out how Adult Social Care works with adults with a learning disability and their families and carers to support them to live as independently as possible in the community through Supported Living.</p> <p>Camden is committed to supporting people who have care and support needs to stay in or near to Camden where at all possible. People who have a learning disability and their families have told officers that this is especially important to them as it helps people stay connected to family, friends and their local community. Supported living is often the best way to achieve this and it means an adult with a learning disability can live locally in a supported environment whilst having their own tenancy and their own ‘front door’.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer:</p> <p>Andrew Reece Head of Community Learning Disability Services London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square London N1C 4AG Andrew.reece@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>That the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee note the report.</p>	

Signed:



Jess McGregor, Executive Director Adults and Health

Date: 14th February 2024

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to brief Members as requested as to how Adult Social Care arranges supported living placements for people with learning disabilities and how the service works in partnership across social care, health, commissioning and providers to match the right people to the right supported living opportunity.

2. Demographics: People with a Learning Disability in Camden

- 2.1. Just over 1100 Camden residents are registered with their GP as having a learning disability, of these:
- over 770 people with a learning disability who are over 18 are known to Camden Learning Disability Service (CLDS) and Children and Young People Disability Service (CYPDS)
 - Over 240 of these also have a diagnosis of autism. This is likely to be under reported due to difficulties in getting a diagnosis,
 - about 440 people have a funded package of support from Camden,
 - around 500 people live with their family carers in Camden,
 - around 110 live in supported living in Camden,
 - about 130 people are placed out of borough, with the majority of these living in neighbouring boroughs,
 - Over 87% of the people with a learning disability supported by the service live in 'settled accommodation', a key performance indicator for Adult Social Care (ASC), which is higher than most other comparable authorities.

3. Services in Camden

- 3.1. [Camden Learning Disability Service](https://www.camden.gov.uk/camden-learning-disabilities-service-clds-)¹ is an integrated health and care service that supports people with learning disabilities from Camden that is hosted by the Council, and part funded by North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB).
- 3.2. The Council directly provides support services through:

¹ <https://www.camden.gov.uk/camden-learning-disabilities-service-clds->

- the Learning Disability Day Service at the Greenwood Centre,
- Shared Lives and
- Breakaway short breaks care home.

3.3. The Council also commission and 'spot purchase' a range of support services in Camden, including:

- supported living
- community support
- employment support
- a specialist further education college.

4. Legal and Policy Background

'The Least Restrictive Option'

4.1. The Council has a duty to meet a person's need for support under the Care Act 2014 in the least restrictive setting in which it is possible to meet their needs. In meeting those needs the Council also needs to take into account the parallel Human Rights Act, Equality Act and Mental Capacity Act duties to that person. CLDS holds this duty for both the Council and the ICB as below.

Integrated or Multi-disciplinary working

4.2. For a person with a learning disability who has complex needs, the assessment process is also likely to involve an assessment of their health needs from an NHS clinician, for example a psychologist, an Occupational Therapist (OT) or a Speech and Language Therapist. As CLDS is an integrated service, the coordination of health care and social care support works well in Camden and ensures the service delivers good outcomes for most people.

Care Closer to Camden

4.3. From the [Winterbourne View](#) scandal, through to the deaths at [Cawston Park](#), the abuse at [Wharton Hall](#) and the abuse and neglect at [Hesley Village](#), the risks of placing people with learning disabilities away from their homes and their families are significant, as they are usually unable to ask for help [when something goes wrong](#).

4.4. As per Care Act guidance and recognised best practice, Camden is committed to supporting Camden residents with social care needs to stay living in Camden wherever possible, so people can continue to be supported by their families and their informal support networks. Keeping people close to Camden is really important to family carers.

- 4.5. To support this ambition, Camden works hard to ensure ASC has commissioned enough care and support options within Camden, for all predicted demand. This is a duty placed on the Council under s5 of the Care Act 2014.
- 4.6. Since 2015, when Camden commissioned the Alexandra Centre of Further Education, the number of young people being placed in residential colleges outside London has reduced significantly, as people with complex needs no longer need to leave Camden to access appropriate Further Education.
- 4.7. One young man to benefit from studying at the Alexandra Centre has gone on to [win an Art Prize](#) and has even cooked his super-proud mother a meal for the first time.



- 4.8. His mother, was deeply moved by the news of the prize and expressed her emotions, stating,

"I couldn't believe that (he) could achieve this recognition. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for this incredible news. It is a testament to (their) unwavering dedication and belief in (him), without which this achievement would not have been possible."

- 4.9. By being supported to stay in Camden, we were able to offer the resident bespoke, intensive support that prevented him from having to be admitted to hospital.

Planning our support arrangements

- 4.10. Camden Council hosts Planning Together, Camden's learning disability partnership board, which works with statutory bodies, including the Council and the ICB to ensure appropriate arrangements are in place to support people with learning disabilities to live full and active lives in local communities.

- 4.11. Planning Together brings together people with learning disabilities, their families, Council and NHS staff and providers from Camden's vibrant voluntary and community sectors to ensure that the voices and views of people with learning disabilities are central to all of our work. This is articulated through 'The Big Plan' which is in the process of being reviewed for 2025 to 2030.

Developing services

- 4.12. Based on demographics and an analysis of need, and in line with the priorities in the Big Plan, the Council takes a co-productive approach to commission local services to improve the wellbeing and outcomes of Camden's community with learning disabilities.
- 4.13. For example, in 2020, residents with learning disabilities and the Council co-produced the design and procurement of four new learning disability supported living locality services. Officers developed a specification based on key service requirements identified through engagement with more than 130 key stakeholders, over half of whom were residents and carers. Residents with learning disabilities and carers then selected providers using a 'competitive dialogue' approach to further refine the specification during the procurement process. Contract monitoring is now undertaken by the Council in partnership with Camden residents with learning disabilities, who visit a number of supported living schemes each quarter to gather peer-to-peer resident feedback.

Placement finding process

- 4.14. Once the Social Work and clinical assessments have been completed, the Social Worker (and clinician in some circumstances) present the request to source an accommodation-based placement to the monthly Learning Disability Accommodation Planning Group.
- 4.15. The Accommodation Planning Group is co-chaired by CLDS's Social Work Service Manager and CLDS's Lead Occupational Therapist (an NHS post) and is attended by Learning Disability Commissioners and local supported living providers.
- 4.16. Through this integrated partnership working model, across social care, health, commissioning and providers, the aim is to:
- Match the right people to the right supported living, extra care or shared lives opportunity.
 - Consider whether the person should be referred for a housing nomination with a package of community support.
 - Ensure the proposed provision can meet the needs of the person.

- Consider what additional support might be needed to best manage those needs, for example, clinical support from CLDS to the provider.
 - Ensure commissioners are able to monitor present and future demand to enable services to best meet that demand.
- 4.17. The group may also recommend that the person's needs can be met through a community-based package of support in their own or family's home, ensuring that a Carers Assessment is completed too.
- 4.18. Where a person is in need of urgent accommodation, and no local provision is available, the group will recommend that a spot purchased placement be sought, with support from the Council's Resource Coordination Team.

Holistic support to our providers

- 4.19. Through the Social Work and clinical teams in CLDS (or CYPD Social Work if the person is under 25) we then work with the person, their family and the Supported Living Provider to ensure a successful move into the new provision. This will include agreeing a comprehensive support plan, funded by Camden or the ICB or both, that will meet their needs.
- 4.20. CLDS offer continued support to Supported Living Providers in the form of:
- Each supported living house should have a Named Social Worker, who acts as the first point of contact with the provider, the people living in the house and their families.
 - CLDS clinical team offer a range of off-the-shelf and bespoke training to providers to ensure they are well placed to manage the health needs of the people they support.
 - Where placements are at risk of breakdown, or a person is at risk of admission to hospital, CLDS will use its weekly Virtual Team Meeting (VTM)² to put plans in place to manage and mitigate these risks.
- 4.21. In exceptional circumstances, and where risks cannot be mitigated or resolved in the long term, VTM can:
- recommend that a new placement be sought.
 - consider what short term mitigation is required.
- 4.22. Behaviours of distress, such as disturbance to neighbours or other tenants, cannot be managed under the Mental Health Act, and should not be managed through medication except as a last resort as a short term option, to prevent immediate harm to the person or to other people.

² The Virtual Team Meeting is chaired by the lead nurse in CLDS and brings together senior clinical and social work managers to manage and mitigate risks so as to avoid placement breakdown and avoid unnecessary admissions to either physical or mental health hospital. It can agree the rapid deployment of additional support to achieve these aims.

Ending a tenancy as a last resort

- 4.23. Neither VTM nor Social Work managers have the legal powers to compel someone to move. Such powers sit with the Courts only:
- Where a person is in breach of their tenancy, the landlord (not CLDS) can seek repossession of the tenancy through the court.
 - Where a person does not have capacity to decide where they live (under the Mental Capacity Act), the Court of Protection can be asked to rule that it would be in the person's best interests to move to a different placement.
- 4.24. Both of these are last resort options, take several months and do not mitigate any current risks. In either case all parties will need to be able to demonstrate to the Court that they have taken all reasonable steps to resolve their concerns before seeking to enforce a move.

5. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 5.1. The Director of Finance has noted this report and has no further comment to add.

6. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 6.1. The Care Act places a duty on the local authority to promote the market for adult care and support in their area. This includes a duty to ensure that the market has a wide range and the local authority should develop and shape it, to ensure it meets the needs of all its residents who need care and support. This report demonstrates that the local authority is adhering to its responsibilities.

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1. No environmental implications have been identified.

REPORT ENDS