



**Isle of Man  
Government**

*Reiltys Ellan Vannin*



# Adult Services – Learning Disability Strategy

July 2013

Department of Social Care  
*Rhyenn Kiarail y Theay*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Social Care is launching the second Five Year Strategy for adults with a learning disability, which builds on the previous strategy and sets out how people with a learning disability should be included and supported in the community in which they live.

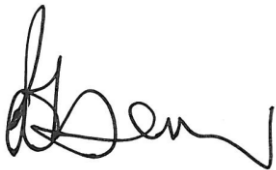
Adults with learning disabilities will also have information about services available to support their needs, so that they can participate in decision making relative to their own lives. People will also be able to use local services, wherever possible, and specialist services, when they need them. They will have greater opportunities to get a paid job and develop as individuals.

The strategy lays out proposals for the commissioning of outcome based services for adults with learning disabilities in the Isle of Man. The strategy will also recommend that services should be reorganised to provide more personalised support and care, rather than fit people into existing services.

Significant improvements have been made in services for people with learning disabilities, with many people now leading full and rewarding lives. Over the lifetime of the first Learning Disability Strategy, significant improvements have been made, with increased opportunities for people to choose how and where they live and how they spend their days.

The second Learning Disability Strategy is about how we can improve things even further. Our vision for the future is based on the values of rights and responsibilities, independence and inter-dependence and control. Separate sections of the Strategy focus on key themes, such as housing, employment, health and inclusion.

I welcome your comments on the proposals. You can submit any views you may have to the Department of Social Care until 5pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013.



Hon. Chris Robertshaw M.H.K.  
Minister for Social Care  
July 2013

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Department of Social Care is launching the second Five Year Strategy for Adults with a Learning Disability. This second Five Year Strategy builds on the previous strategy and sets out how people with a learning disability should be included and supported in the community in which they live.

The purpose of the strategy is to:

- Effect change in the overall configuration of learning disability services to meet the needs of adults with learning disabilities on the Isle of Man.
- Ensure a planned approach to providing/commissioning of services making use of information about demand, unmet needs/service gaps and resources.
- Take account of the impending introduction of fair access and charging for services.
- Set out the direction and structure of future service provision, taking cognisance of the priorities laid out in Valuing People Now: The Delivery Plan 2010 -2011.
- Ensure that services are centred on service users' needs which are linked to local target indicators.
- Provide a clear statement of commitment as to how stakeholders (users, carers, providers) will be involved in the planning and commissioning of services.

The scope of the Strategy is the provision of services for adults (over 18 years) with learning disabilities residing, on the Isle of Man, who are assessed as being eligible for support. People with learning disabilities, over 65 years, will continue to receive services through the Adult Social Care service, in conjunction with Older Peoples Services. It identifies the commissioning intentions, based on current information pertaining to identified needs and sets targets to achieve a shift towards services which enhance independence and support community based provision. It applies to services provided directly by social care, as well as the private and third sector.

The Department of Social Care is proposing to introduce the Strategy from September 2013.

This consultation exercise is seeking views on the content and recommendations of the Strategy, as well as specific aspects in relation to the re-configuration of services.

### **3. ABOUT THE CONSULTATION**

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to invite comments on the Learning Disability Strategy and the recommendations made within it.

It is not a referendum, but an information, views and evidence gathering exercise to allow the Department to make an informed decision on the final content of the Strategy. In any consultation exercise the responses received do not guarantee that changes will be made to what has been proposed.

Comments should be submitted by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September in writing by post or email to

Learning Disability Strategy Consultation  
Department of Social Care  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Markwell House,  
Market Street,  
Douglas  
IM1 2RZ

Telephone: (01624) 686182 Email: [rebalancing@gov.im](mailto:rebalancing@gov.im)

To ensure that the process is open, honest and in line with the Government's Code of Conduct on Consultation, responses can only be accepted if you provide your name with your response.

Unless specifically requested otherwise, any responses received may be published either in part or in their entirety. Please mark your response clearly, if you wish your response and name to be kept confidential. Confidential responses will be included in any statistical summary, along with the numbers of comments received.

When submitting your views, please can you indicate whether you are responding on behalf of an organisation.

Electronic copies of this document are also available at -  
[www.gov.im/socialcare/consultations.gov](http://www.gov.im/socialcare/consultations.gov)

Paper copies of the consultation document are available at –

The Department of Social Care, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Markwell House, Market Street, Douglas or Tynwald Library, Legislative Buildings, Finch Road, Douglas.

The consultation period ends on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

#### **3.1 List of persons and organisations to be consulted**

- Tynwald Members
- H. M. Attorney General
- Chief Officers of Government Departments, Statutory Boards and Offices
- Local Authorities
- Isle of Man Chamber of Commerce

- Isle of Man Trade Union Council
- Isle of Man Law Society
- Isle of Man Constabulary
- Isle of Man Fire and Rescue Service
- Relevant Professional Bodies
- Council of Voluntary Organisations

### 3.2 **Steps which will be taken following consultation**

Following consultation, the next steps in the process will be as follows:-

- The Department will review comments received from consultees.
- A summary of the responses received will be published within 3 months of the closing date for this consultation, and made available on the Department of Social Care and Government websites.

### 3.3 **Government Code of Practice on Consultation**

It is the intention to carry out this consultation in accordance with the Isle of Man Government Code of Practice on Consultation. The Code sets out the following six criteria:

- *" Consult widely throughout the process, allowing a minimum of 6 weeks for a minimum of one written consultation at least once during the development of the legislation or policy.*
- *Be clear about what your proposals are, who may be affected, what questions are being asked and the timescale for responses.*
- *Ensure your consultation is clear, concise and widely accessible.*
- *Give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation process influenced the policy.*
- *Monitor your Department's effectiveness at consultation.*
- *Ensure your consultation follows best practice, including carrying out an Impact Assessment if appropriate."*

### 3.4 **Comments or Complaints**

If you wish to comment on the conduct of this consultation, or make a complaint about the way the consultation has been carried out, please write to:

Mrs Y. Mellor  
 Chief Executive  
 Department of Social Care  
 Markwell House  
 Market Street  
 Douglas  
 IM1 1RZ

## 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2007 the Department of Social Care launched its first Learning Disability Strategy "Living Life to the Full". This second Five Year Strategy builds on the previous Strategy and sets out how people with a learning disability should be included and supported in the community in which they live.
- 4.2 The Strategy is divided into sections, followed by a series of recommendations which set out how services should be planned, commissioned and delivered in the future. The Scope and Purpose section of the Strategy identifies those people covered by the strategy which is linked to the proposed introduction of Fair Access and Charging (FACS) in the Isle of Man.

The Strategy has, at its core, four key priorities, namely:

1. The employment of adults with learning disabilities is a recognised priority and recommends configuration of services which improve people's skills and the expansion of employment opportunities in conjunction with our partners.
2. The proposed reduction in the proportion of spending on residential care and corresponding increase in funding for alternative models of accommodation and support which will increase the choice and independence for adults with learning disabilities.
3. Although much work has been done to address health inequalities in the Isle of Man, more needs to be done regarding monitoring access to primary health care services, the development of various care pathways and the screening of people with Down's Syndrome for dementia.
4. The personalisation/including everyone priority describes how all eligible groups of people should be involved in planning and designing their own support services. People with assessed learning disabilities, ASC, complex needs, challenging behaviours and young people in transition, should all be included in the commissioning of their care and support packages.

This consultation represents an opportunity for comment on the key priorities contained within the Strategy and recommendations for change that move us closer towards improving services for adults with a learning disability.

## 5. VALUES AND PRINCIPLES

5.1 The values and principles set out in the previous Isle of Man Learning Disability Strategy 2007-2012, 'Living Life To The Full' (1) are as relevant today as they were in 2007. These basic principles stated that people have:

- The right to be treated and accepted as citizens.
- The same human value as anyone else.
- The right to be treated with dignity and respect.
- The right to be treated as individuals.
- The right to safety and not to be bullied or abused.
- The right to sexuality and relationships.
- The right to live in and be part of their communities in ordinary homes.
- The right to grow up in families.
- The right to learn with other children.
- The right to be with and enjoy family and friends.
- The right to help and support to develop as individuals in communities and achieve all the above.
- The right to be decision makers in their own lives.

5.2 This Strategy sets out how services for adults with learning disabilities will be delivered on the Isle of Man in accordance with the values and principles contained in "UK Valuing People Now Strategy 2009 and Valuing People Now".

5.3 The "Valuing People Now " strategy states that adults with learning disabilities should have equal human rights to those who do not have disabilities. The four guiding principles are:

1. **Rights:** People with learning disabilities and their families have the same human rights as everyone else.
2. **Independent Living:** All disabled people should have greater choice and control over the support they need to go about their daily lives; greater access to housing, education, employment, leisure and transport opportunities and to participation in family and community life.
3. **Control:** This is about being involved in, and in control of, decisions made about their lives. This is about having information and support to understand the different options and their implications and consequences, so that people can make informed decisions about their own lives.
4. **Inclusion:** This means people being able to participate in all aspects of community – to work, learn, get about and meet people, be part of social networks and access goods and services with the support to do so.

5.4 In recent years, many people with learning disabilities and their families have had a greater voice and control over their own lives and the services they use. However, there are still issues around social exclusion, poverty and isolation. The current Valuing People Now strategy targets a number of areas for immediate action, such as, including everyone, personalisation, having a life and people as citizens. The emphasis of this new approach is to uphold the human rights of all people with learning disabilities.



- 5.5 This consultation represents an opportunity for comment on the Values and Principles contained within the Strategy and recommendations for change that move us closer towards improving services for adults for a learning disability.

## **6. SUMMARY OF RECOMENDATIONS**

- 6.1 Adult Social Care services on the Isle of Man are going through a period of significant change, brought about by a combination of factors: economic and demographic changes, which impact on both the demand for and the resources available to fund services, together with the changing aspirations and expressed needs of service users.
- 6.2 All of this has brought about a programme of rebalancing Adult Services which is focused on ensuring the development and availability of services required to meet the assessed need of the community we serve.
- 6.3 The Department of Social Care has a key role in the development of social care services on the Island, as do our partners, service users and their carers.
- 6.4 The Department of Social Care Learning Disability Strategy is proposing a number of key changes to the commissioning and delivery of services for adults with a learning disability. This Strategy makes a number of proposals which will support changes to current policy and delivery of services.
- 6.5 The full recommendations can be found on pages 63 – 66 of the Strategy.

## **7. COMMENTS**

- 7.1 The Department of Social Care invites comments on all or any of the recommendations. We ask that respondents state whether they agree, disagree or have no view on any or all of the recommendations. If you disagree please explain why.
- 7.2 Any further comments on the content of the strategy or specific aspects in relation to the re-configuration of services are also welcomed.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

- 8.1 The challenge facing learning disability services on the Isle of Man is to meet the increasing demand, within allocated resources, whilst moving towards greater personalisation and improved performance.
- 8.2 A recent report, commissioned by the Department of Social Care, recommends that future expenditure should be directed away from institutional care and towards 'a model of care that seeks to maintain service user's independence through community care'.

- 8.3 This report also states that we must change our focus to ensure more effective planning and commissioning of services that 'will allow service users needs to be met by an appropriate mix of services and will be more financially viable in the longer term'.
- 8.4 Following the feedback from this consultation, we will be seeking to launch the proposed Strategy from September 2013 onwards. The most significant recommendation contained within the Strategy will be the determining of the size, scope and structure of services currently operated by the Department of Social Care and incorporating them into a future commissioning strategy.



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This document can be provided in large print on request

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