

2019/20 Performance Overview: Adult Learning Disabilities

Day Services

Adult Learning Disability Day Services currently have 37 staff members and have been used by up to 84 service users in the 2019/20 year. The services are comprised of:

- Tall Trees Resource Centre: a modern, purpose-built centre providing a variety of meaningful day time activities, led by the interests and wishes of the service users wherever possible. The centre provides support to adults with a severe or significant learning disability and/or complex needs including physically limiting conditions and service users who present with behaviours that may challenge other services.
- Community Based Activity Service: the service provides opportunities for adults with a learning disability to access community-based activities whilst supporting the development of independent living skills, social interaction, increased community presence and inclusion.
- Greenfield Park: a centre providing support for adults with a learning disability to develop work-based skills in a variety of settings such as:
 - Industrial workshop including wood, metal work and recycling
 - Garden Centre which is open to the public for the purchase of flowering plants, vegetables, and eggs
 - Weaving and Craft Centre
 - Shop selling products grown and made on site
 - Café which is staffed, with support, by adults with a learning disability
 - Supported Employment Service – providing support to access paid and voluntary employment in the community but also providing the necessary support for adults working on site to transition into employment with ultimately minimal or no additional support on a regular basis

Adult Learning Disability Services also work in partnership with commissioned services to provide additional day service provision for adults with a learning disability, some with additional physical limitations, long-term health conditions and Autism. These services include:

- Social Club provided by Crossroads Care
- Balleysleih Day Service provided by Praxis Care

Day and Outreach Services are provided by Autism Initiatives.

Supported Living Service

The Supported Living Service is run by seven members of staff and supported 37 service users in the 2019/20 year. The service supports adults with a learning disability to live independently in their own homes in the community and covers all areas of the Island. Support packages range from telephone support including prompts for appointments and medication to more regular face-to-face support several times a week with a focus on skill development with domestic tasks, money management, health and well-being and confidence building in respect of social interaction and accessing the community.

The Service already works closely with the Supported Employment Team but future plans are to formalise these links and develop a team that focuses on Supported Employment, Supported Living and Supported Housing, the latter being an accommodation and support model that is currently lacking in the range of services available to adults with a learning disability in the Isle of Man.

Residential Services

Adult Learning Disability Residential Services comprise of 18 directly provided community homes and a residential respite service.

Community Homes for Adults with a Learning Disability

There are 142 members of staff and 83 service users in Community Homes for Adults with a Learning Disability. Occupancy levels have been at 92% on average over the reporting period.

Whilst the community homes come under the Regulation of Care Act 2013 as Care Homes, they are based on the model of 'an ordinary house, in an ordinary street.'

The occupancy of homes ranges from a single person service with 24-hour support to a service that supports nine adults with a learning disability and a range of skill, vulnerability, and independence levels. This, the largest community home service, comprises of several flats for semi-independent living and a main house providing support to service users with higher needs.

Hollydene Residential Respite

Hollydene provides regular respite to the families/carers of adults with a learning disability, many of whom have additional needs including physical limitations and complex health conditions, and emergency accommodation for service users experiencing a significant breakdown in their usual carer support.

There are 16 members of staff, 11 beds and 47 services users accessing the Hollydene Residential Respite Service.

A review of the 2019/20 year

There have been several significant developments in the Adult Learning Disabilities Service in the reporting year:

- Transition of the established day service provisions from Eastcliffe Day Centre in Douglas to the specifically designed and purpose-built Tall Trees Resource Centre
- Further development of the Community Based Activity Service to provide additional opportunities to access activities and social and/or community groups in various parts of the Island
- The Project Group focused on the Reshaping of Respite Services has been established based on the report of an independent review commissioned in 2018
- Further development of services operating from and on the Greenfield Park site that opened in the 2018/19 year
- The addition of a community house to the existing portfolio of services
- Development of the third 5-year strategic plan for Adults with a Learning Disability in the Isle of Man

The service has also been presented with several challenges:

- Trying to increase awareness of the needs and rights of adults with a learning disability within healthcare settings and the wider community. Work in this area is ongoing
- Shortfalls in supported housing models of accommodation and support for adults with a learning disability, resulting in limited choice and absence of a 'steppingstone' from family home or community home to more independent living
- Resourcing issues such as difficulties with recruiting successfully to vacant posts, combined with an ageing workforce
- Increased complexities of service user need and difficulties in accessing appropriate health care, training and guidance
- Changing cultures and established ways of supporting adults with a learning disability to better meet changing needs, wishes and aspirations