



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIAISON COMMITTEE - 18TH JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

REPORT BY: ANEURIN BEVAN UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD

THE GWENT MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY PARTNERSHIP

The Gwent Mental Health and Learning Disability Partnership is comprised of senior leaders from across health and social care in Gwent along with the Police, service users, the voluntary sector and the Community Health Council.

The Partnership have together developed Mental Health and Learning Disability Strategies for Gwent and are implementing these alongside the priorities of the National Strategy for mental health 'Together for Mental health'.

The priorities of the Mental Health & Learning Disability Strategies are outlined below :

Mental Health

- Communicate and work alongside service users, carers, staff and communities on the planning, monitoring and provision of mental health services
- Develop a wide range of services that support community well-being
- Enable the provision of a wide range of accommodation options
- Ensure services based in the community offer support, advice and where necessary assessment and treatment within this environment
- Provide specialist services that are available to people where and when they need them.
- To facilitate an appropriate response from across organisations to the needs of people with dementia.
- To ensure the best use of mental health resources.
- To work across the 6 organisations to establish a set of rules and a structure that supports our working together, to plan and deliver excellent mental health services (governance).

Learning Disability

- Services should enable individuals to *maximise their potential and promote independence and social inclusion.*
- *A comprehensive range of services* should be available for people with a learning disability which provide *timely, responsive person centred solutions.*
- People with a learning disability should be able to *access the full range of public services and when necessary receive support from specialist services.*
- People with a learning disability and their carers should have access to appropriate information about the range of services available and such services should be equally available to all people with a learning disability across Gwent.
- Services should ensure people with a learning disability and their carers are put at the centre of planning, reviewing and changing their package of support.

- When possible people with a learning disability should be provided with the opportunity to remain in their local area maintaining family and social networks.
- Services should promote well-being and where possible intervene at an early stage in order to prevent difficulties becoming chronic.
- Carers, both paid and un-paid, make a significant contribution to supporting people with a learning disability and it is necessary to ensure carers are supported appropriately.
- Services should ensure a cost effective use of resource and be open and transparent about what service provision can and cannot be provided.
- Partner agencies should work together in order to meet the needs of people with a learning disability via appropriate planning, development, delivery and evaluation of services.

In conjunction with implementing both local and National Strategies, the past year has seen a strong emphasis on the following areas :

- Strengthening the service user voice and capacity to support this agenda
- considering how services (both mental health and learning disability) could be better integrated
- considering how the role of the voluntary sector could be strengthened in the overall system of care through discussions with service users, staff and the sector itself
- suicide and self harm prevention
- further implementation of the mental health measure
- Whole system review of mental health services based on listening to service users, families and staff

Author: Allison Gough, Partnership Manager, Blaenau Gwent & Caerphilly Boroughs Primary Care & Networks, ABUHB