

Review of Respite Services for People with Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs

Newsletter 2017

Hartlepool and Stockton-on-Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group (CCGs), would like to thank all of those who have participated in the pre-engagement activities and discussions about respite services, that are used and what improvements could be made to help improve respite services in the future. The CCGs would like to provide an update about the review and also share some of the findings from the initial engagement activities.



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Events

18 events were held at various locations, times and days of the week across the Tees region throughout January and February 2017.

The engagement activities were delivered through the use of independent partners. Stockton CAB and Skills for People focused on capturing the experiences and views of people with learning disabilities and their family carers while Inclusion North looked to capture the views of Voluntary Sector Organisations who work with and support people with learning disabilities and their families in the respective areas.

120 people across Tees came to share their views in the face to face discussion sessions. Questionnaires have been shared widely and we received **86** completed questionnaires from Families and Carers.

We have been to many forums including Carers Forums and Learning Disability Partnership Boards to share updates about the review and to provide updates about where we are up to.



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Meaning of Respite

'Respite' means different things to different people. This was evident from the wide range discussion across all of the engagement activities as to what constituted 'respite'.

Some common themes relating to what respite means to different people, were a break for both the carers and their loved ones, anti stress, a change of scenery for the person receiving respite, time to get jobs done, peace of mind, a safe place for their loved ones, and time to socialise with family and friends.



There were mixed views in relation to 'Day Care activities' being seen as respite with the majority thinking this is not their understanding of respite.

There were again very mixed views about respite being delivered at home with most not considering this as offering the 'break' necessary and in some cases not having the equipment/resources to do so.



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Results

Many people have told us that the respite services they receive meet their needs most of the time, but that there are important developments needed for the future – which include being able to have more choice and flexibility, improve transport facilities, other options for respite and to improve the respite facilities.

People have told us what they think is important about respite and a large number of people said that making sure that the person that they care for, has the opportunity to be looked after in a safe place is important to them.

They have told us that access to respite services benefits their loved ones by giving them a safe and secure environment, change of scenery and faces, helping them gain new life and social skills, mixing with new people and friends, fun and educational activities and trips out, and a break from their usual home routine.



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Providers

Service Providers were asked some questions about their experience of delivering respite services and **4** providers gave some information about how they deliver services and what this brings to the people who use the services. There are **16** providers who have expressed an interest in working with the CCGs to develop and deliver services in the future.

The CCGs are working with Project Choice to offer supported work placement opportunities to people with Learning Disabilities and/or Autism as part of this project and **2** Project Choice students have worked with us on this project. One student has worked really hard on sorting out the information that we have received from the questionnaires and helping to understand the trends in what people have told us and the other student has helped with the development of any consultation and co-production activities that we do in the future.

We have gathered all the information from all of the sources and we are working on some service models which we can think about for the future. The CCGs would like to carry out a formal consultation, if the options that are chosen to go forward, would mean significant change. We would use the opportunity for consultation to co-develop the services and help to further design the models based on the service models that have been described.