

Report To: Community Health & Care
Partnership Sub-Committee

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Report No:
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Subject: 'Same As You' Evaluation - 10 years on

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To advise the Sub-Committee that the Scottish Government has commissioned an independent evaluation of the national "Same As You?" policy which was introduced 10 years ago, in relation to people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders. The Scottish Government has set up an Evaluation Team which includes the Scottish Consortium for Learning Disability (SCLD) and People First Scotland. Four different local authority areas in Scotland, including Inverclyde were invited to take part in the evaluation.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde was selected as one of the areas to take part in the 'Same as You?' evaluation due to its mix of semi-urban environments and levels of wealth and deprivation. The evaluation process will be to establish what impact the policy has had, encompassing what has improved, where there are examples of good practice, what lessons have been learned, what challenges remain and what needs to happen in the future, with a view to revising the policy.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to note that the initial findings from the evaluation data will be reported to the Community Health and Care Partnership Sub-Committee. A final report will be submitted highlighting the findings of the evaluation and the progress that has been made since 2000 when the 'Same as You?' was launched.
- 3.2 The Sub-Committee is asked to note that the evaluation outlined will be compiled across the four local authority areas and a draft report will be submitted to the Health Minister by the end of March 2011.
- 3.3 The Sub-Committee is asked to note that the Final National paper will be released to press with examples of good practice being published on SCLD website and a Conference is planned for January 2012 to share innovation.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Launched in 2000 the 'Same As You?' was the first significant review of learning disability services in Scotland for over 20 years. It made 29 recommendations for planning and developing learning disability services setting out a 10 year programme of change. It directed local authorities and health boards to produce 3 year strategic plans for the improvement and development of services for people with learning disabilities.

Now in its 10th year of the change programme, the Scottish Government has commissioned work to look at the impact of implementation for people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders in Scotland.

4.2 The evaluation will actively inform the future policy direction of service development for people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum disorders in Scotland.

5.0 PROPOSALS

5.1 Inverclyde CHCP will work in conjunction with the Research Evaluation Team in order to build a sample of research participants. This sample will include people who used to live in long stay hospitals, live in the family home, live independently, live in group homes and live in institutional or forensic settings. The sample will also take into consideration people with learning disabilities who do not currently use services and also ethnic diversity consideration. The research component will also consist of semi-structured interviews with 10 to 12 people with learning disabilities and 10 to 12 family carers. The purpose of the interviews is to collect data about the lives, experiences, views, needs and preferences of people with learning disabilities.

5.2 The evaluation findings will be compiled across the four local authority areas and a completed draft will be reported to the Health Minister by the end of March 2011.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Research will be carried out in an ethical manner taking into account that this group of people can be vulnerable and must ensure the research does not harm participants or cause any undue stress. Participatory consent will be sought and a preliminary assessment of the risks of the research will be undertaken.

6.2 Finance: N/A

6.3 Personnel: There are no personnel issues.

6.4 Equalities: There are no equality issues as the policy is clearly framed within the basis of inclusion.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 People with learning disability and their carers will be engaged in the preparation for the structured interviews.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 'The Same as You?' Evaluation Proposals (SCLD)

8.2 'The Same as You?' A Review of Services for People with Learning Disabilities (Scottish Government, 2000)

8.3 Partnership in Practice Agreement 2007-2010 (Inverclyde Council/CHP)