

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 02 March 2023

'Living my Best Life': Interim Report on the New Staffordshire Integrated Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity Strategy 2023-2028

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note the process for development of a new Staffordshire Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity Strategy.
- b. Consider and comment on what has been learnt so far, and the draft vision and priorities of the new Strategy.

Background

1. There are around 21,000 adults with a learning disability living in Staffordshire, of whom 3,400 have a moderate or severe disability, and 7,000 adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder. 26,000 Staffordshire residents aged 18-65 have care disability that makes personal care difficult; 35,000 aged over 65 are unable to manage at least one mobility activity on their own, such as going to the toilet or getting in and out of bed. 6,200 adults have registrable eye conditions or are severely visually impaired; 18,200 experience severe hearing loss (Source: Poppi and Pansi Data, Oxford Brookes). Currently, national prevalence data for children and young people is limited and there is no national repository of quality reviewed data for individuals aged under 18.
2. The majority of people with disabilities and neurodivergences manage with help from support from their family, friends and communities, and assistance from technologies. It is important that universal services such as education, shops, leisure and cultural activities, and health services are inclusive, accessible, and adapted to their needs. Also, that there are appropriate housing options that enable them to live independently. A small number of people with disabilities and neurodivergences are eligible for dedicated care and support from the County Council and/or NHS and need a reasonable choice of good quality, sustainable services that can achieve their outcomes.
3. Staffordshire County Council and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board (ICB) have agreed to jointly develop a new integrated Staffordshire Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity strategy (WLDNS) and action plan for the period 2023-2028 to replace the current

[Whole Life Disability Strategy 2018-2023](#). The aspiration is to support disabled and neurodivergent individuals of all ages to live the best lives possible.

4. The new Staffordshire Disability Partnership Board will co-ordinate development and oversee implementation of the Strategy, reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Strategy will complement the [Staffordshire Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Strategy](#) and the [SEND Strategy for Special Provision - Staffordshire County Council](#) which is currently in development.

Strategy Development

5. The Strategy is being co-produced through a two-stage process:
 - a. Stage One. A survey exploring quality of life and factors considered most important by disabled and neurodivergent people for them to live their best lives. This was carried out during December 2022. The findings are summarised in the next section and have been used to develop a draft vision and priorities for the Strategy.
 - b. Stage Two. The draft vision and priorities for the Strategy are being discussed with disabled and neurodivergent people face-to-face in each district/borough during January and February 2023 to seek comments.
6. The Strategy will be co-produced through these conversations and with politicians, professionals, and senior managers. We will be honest about what is possible within the resources available and develop a vision, priorities and outcomes that work towards the aspirations of disabled and neurodivergent people whilst remaining realistic and deliverable.
7. The final version will be developed with further input from professionals and senior managers and presented for approval to the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Integrated Care Board in April 2023 and to Cabinet before the end of May 2023.

Key Learning so Far

8. More than 500 disabled and neurodivergent people, their carers, professionals, and organisations responded to the survey. Further details of survey responders are found in Appendix 1.
9. Their views on disabled and neurodivergent people's current quality of life are shown in Appendix 2 and suggest that:

- a. Disabled and neurodivergent people have good contact with friends and family; where they live feels like home and a place where they can do what they want; and the people who support them are listening to their needs.
 - b. Disabled and neurodivergent people do not have as many opportunities as they would like to learn and develop and do not know enough about activities and services in their communities. Disabled and neurodivergent people are not getting as much help as they would like when needed or as much choice and control as they would like – carers of disabled and neurodivergent children and young people felt this particularly strongly.
10. The factors considered most important by disabled and neurodivergent people to live their best lives would support them to live their best life are shown in Appendix 3. The top three were:
- a. Adults: 1 - Family, friends, and relationships; 2 - Access to health and social care, shops, and other services, and 3 - Appropriate and safe home.
 - b. Children and young people: 1- Positive educational experience; 2 - Social life, social skills, getting out and about, and 3 - Family, friends, and relationships.

Emerging Vision and Priorities

11. Based on the views of disabled and neurodivergent people the emerging vision for the Strategy is:

'Disability and neurodiversity is everybody's business.

We want Staffordshire to be a place where everyone with a disability, Autism or other neurodivergence can be in control of and can live their best life; where they are valued and can participate fully in all aspects of society; and where they can live a healthier and better quality of life for longer.'

12. The emerging priorities are:

- a. Make Staffordshire more open and inclusive.
- b. Build stronger partnerships between local organisations, people, and local communities.
- c. Listen and be kind and thoughtful to people's needs. This is so that, wherever possible, experiences of day-to-day activities and opportunities can be equal to the experiences other people take for granted.

- d. Ensure people can be better informed, feel in control of their lives and can live as independent a life as they can.
- e. Where people need care and support, make sure that support considers the whole person's needs, what they want to achieve and what people can do. It should not interfere with their life.

Link to The Council's Strategic Plan

13. The Strategy will support the Council's Strategic Plan (2022-2026) as follows:

- a. Have access to more good jobs and share the benefit of economic growth
- b. Live in thriving and sustainable communities
- c. Be healthier and independent for longer

Link to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board Strategic Priorities

14. The strategy supports the Working with People and Communities Operating Plan priorities 2022/2023 for meeting the needs of people with a learning disability and/or autism.

15. It also supports the Board in its delivery of NHS Long Term plan priorities [NHS long term plan - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, Integrated Care Board \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk) in terms of doing things differently, preventing illness and health inequality and making better use of data and digital technology.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity Strategy survey (January 2023) for children and adults - Details of survey respondents

Appendix 2 – Quality of Life scores for the Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity Strategy January 2023

Appendix 3 – Factors associated with people living their best lives Whole Life Disability and Neurodiversity Strategy January 2023

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