

The Hare and the Tortoise
'Slow and steady wins the race'

Update on Bamford Evaluation
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Equal Lives....

'to enable people with a learning disability to lead full and meaningful lives in their neighbourhoods, have access to wide range of social, work and leisure opportunities and form and maintain friendships and relationships'
(Objective 4, Equal Lives)

*We want the same chances as everyone else.
Why is this such a problem?*





People with a learning disability should have opportunities to learn and work and play and socialise and have friends – no different to anyone else



**Bamford Evaluation:
What did we say we would do?**

The evaluation will consider three specific aspects of the implementation of the Bamford Action Plan 2012-15:

- Outputs
- Outcomes
- Structures

It will also identify gaps in services and priorities for future service development.



Gathering the Evidence

Learning Disability

- 163 completed questionnaires from people with a learning disability
- 252 completed questionnaires from carers of people with a learning disability
- 19 focus groups – participation by 86 people with a learning disability and 129 carers
- As well as statistics from the HSC Board and other Departments and a range of published evaluations and reports from RQIA, PCC and others



.....Gathering the Evidence

Mental Health

- HSC Board / PHA audit of Adult Mental Health Services. 665 completed questionnaires.
- HSC Board audit of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
- 16 focus groups - participation by 52 people who have used mental health services and 80 carers
- A range of other reports / evaluations from RQIA, PCC, AMH, RCPsych etc



**Bamford Evaluation:
Where is it?**

(...and why's it taking so long?)

- First draft of report is with other Departments for comment / to fill in some of the gaps
- Report planned to be with Minister of Health by October
- Report planned to be with Executive by November



**Bamford Evaluation:
Initial Findings**

Good progress in many areas:

- Resettlement almost completed
- Better physical healthcare
- More short breaks and more carers assessments
- Shift towards Day Opportunities



**Bamford Evaluation:
Initial Findings**

But there's lots more to do.....

- We need more housing (suitable housing)
- More support for carers – information, short breaks
- Proactive help for older carers to plan for the future
- More (supported) employment opportunities, more social enterprises
- More training and further education – that lead to employment
- Better transition from school
- Better ways for people with a learning disability and their carers to share their experiences and help design new services

It's a long list.....



Resettlement

2007 – 347 long-stay patient in learning disability hospitals

2016 – 25 of these patients remain

For most of these people , this has led to a much improved quality of life and increased independence

I love it. I do my own ironing and cooking and have my friends round for a cup of tea

Having a good key worker is vital. Most people felt they had the appropriate support.



Resettlement

Some difficulties:

- Loneliness / isolation
- Little choice about where they live and who with
- Some reports that life was not better especially for people with more complex needs
- For a small number of people, arrangements have broken down and they are back in hospital



Resettlement

Still to do....

- Resettle the remaining 25 people
- And the 48 'delayed discharges'



Housing

- Focus has been on resettlement programme. There are many people with a learning disability living in the family home who want or need to live independently, but there is lack of suitable accommodation close to their local support network;
- This is a very real concern, in particular for 'older carers'.



Physical Healthcare

- Annual health checks for adults with a learning disability are now offered by 75% of GP practices
- Almost 2,800 referrals made by GPs in 2012/13 following health checks (eg thyroid, heart, vision, cervical, hearing)
- Patient experience of GP check ups in the main is very positive. Some variance depending on the doctor/nurse



Physical Healthcare

- Dental services for people with a learning disability have improved. Over 6,500 people with a learning disability participated in Oral Health Promotion and Improvement programmes in 2014/15
- Hospital experiences vary greatly. Planned hospital admissions are generally positive. Emergency admissions and experiences at Emergency Departments need to be improved. Good reports about use of the Hospital Passport as a helpful tool



Day Opportunities

•A Regional Day Opportunities Model was published by the HSC Board in April 2014 and roll-out has commenced.

•£500K of funding allocated this year.

•1971 people with a learning disability participating in Day Opportunities now vs 349 people in 2013/14



Day Opportunities

•While some people felt there were more opportunities available now, the general consensus was that there need to be many more Day Opportunities created

•A lot of concern about the move away from Day Centres, uncertainty about the future, short term nature of Day Opportunities, transport, impact on carers. The shift needs to be managed carefully

•Concern that Day Centres are being run down, funding reduced, fewer activities



Training & Further Education

•Former Department for Employment & Learning (now DfE) launched a widening participation strategy 'Access to Success' in Sep 2012

•A number of initiatives are ongoing to improve access to and participation in higher education, including students with disabilities

•Places funded at Parkanaur residential training colleges

•Awaiting outcomes data from DfE



Training & Further Education

- Some of the experiences of the people we engaged with:
- Postcode lottery with regards to availability of training / further education opportunities
 - Lack of opportunities for people with a learning disability over the age of 24
 - Tutors do not understand the needs of people with a learning disability
 - Some reports of funding cuts = reduction in courses available
 - Limited courses – need for more suitable courses that increase skills and employment opportunities
 - No progression
 - Academic entrance criteria can be a barrier
 - Transport is an issue, particularly in rural areas



Training & Further Education

- As soon as they turn 24 there is a black hole – there is nothing for them*
- I really wanted to do hairdressing at Tech, but I couldn't get the GCSEs to get in. So I'm doing a computer course I don't really like*
- There are a lot more opportunities to access further education*



Employment

- Department for Communities commissions 4 main services to support people with a learning disability into employment
- Work Connect offers pre-employment and employment services to people with health conditions and / or disabilities. A small number of people with a learning disability have been supported;
- Workable (NI) provides support to people with disabilities to move into and stay in employment. 265 people with a learning disability are currently on the programme;
- Access to Work provides support like equipment, adaptations, support worker and travel to work. 176 people with a learning disability are being supported through Access to Work;
- Work First Project in Northern and Southern Regional Colleges provide students with disabilities with work placements. 34 students referred.



Employment

Feedback from people with a learning disability and families/carers:

- Some felt access to employment opportunities had improved, others felt there were very few;
- 30% of respondents to questionnaires had had job in last 4 years;
- Positive experiences of people supported by 3rd sector organisations;
- Evidence of people involved in a variety of work – gardening, maintenance, office work, catering, childcare



Employment

Key issues:

- Variance in employment opportunities for people with a learning disability – geographically, funding, support organisations;
- Need for more employment opportunities – support for social enterprise;
- People generally unpaid vs benefits;
- Short-term and part-time nature of job opportunities;
- Need for better information and promotion.

I enjoy my work and would like more days



Support for Carers

Carers assessments

- Assessments completed in 2012-13 – 401
- Assessments completed in 2015-16 – 1033*
*includes adults with a LD plus all children with a disability, so not directly comparable
- However, less than half of the 161 carer respondents to the questionnaire had been offered a carer's assessment
- 17% of those offered refused - we need to understand why
- Support offered included short breaks / respite; direct payments; help with care; training. 23% said no support was offered as a result of a carer's assessment.



Support for Carers

Short Breaks / Respite

- Increase in provision of short breaks / respite of 11,000 hrs since 2012;
- Experience of short breaks broadly positive;
- Some reports of lack of respite in some areas;
- Need for better planning of respite to enable carers to forward plan.

I've got respite and 2 sits (nights) that let me get to my own bed



Support for Carers

Self Directed Support / Direct Payments

- Self Directed Support programme being rolled out - target March 2019. 444 people in receipt of SDS in 2012/13, increased to 619 in 2014/15
- Uptake of Direct Payments has increased from 662 in 2012 to 994 in 2015
- Barriers to Direct Payments – becoming an employer, management of payments
- Not widely promoted – need for better information



Older Carers

- Research into future care needs of older people with a learning disability complete
- £2M recurrent funding secured
- Future planning training has been rolled out
- Lack of suitable accommodation is a key issue
- Lack of information about support services – need for key worker
- Short breaks / respite
- Proactive future planning

I go to bed at night praying that she goes before I do



Involving People

*Representation from people with a learning disability and carers on Bamford Programme Board, learning disability sub group, Bamford Monitoring Group

*Carer's Forums

*General consensus that there needs to be a better mechanism for engaging with people with a learning disability and carers to help inform service design and delivery



Next steps

*Feedback from other Departments involved

*Agree Priorities for the Future

*More work to do on structures

*Approval by Minister

*Approval by NI Executive

*Publish Bamford evaluation



Programme for Government

*Led by The Executive Office

*Draft PFG Framework 2016-21 consultation closed July 2016

*Final PFG to be launched and further consultation in Autumn

* 42 indicators, each with a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) . SROs currently drafting Delivery Plans, which will issued for consultation.


