

Learning Disabilities

Group discussion led by Christine Burke & Pat Charlesworth

From Seldom Heard to Seen and Heard

Issues	Solutions
<p>Disability within LD services not looked at Dementia and its relevance to people with learning disabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macintyre – able to do more work and found that the dementia world are not aware of LD and vice versa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy and practice A learning disability organisation needs to look at how they meet the needs of people with learning disability Mencap developed support as the people living in their houses aged and some developed dementia
<p>People need a staff team that is expert and knows them. Specialist support should go where they are living. Person centred care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Person centred care and support
<p>Most practice reactionary rather than planned</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking to the people themselves about dementia Make a plan Planning ahead is crucial – thinking of wishes but also Power of Attorney/ next of kin/ where you want to live with and with whom etc
<p>Others with LD might not want to carry on living there</p>	
<p>Planning ahead to ensure that people live with people of similar age</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some homes have younger people with learning disabilities doing intergenerational work Need to think of appropriate housing If people are unhappy to live with someone with dementia then they should be supported to move on and not the person with dementia 	
<p>Remember there are people with learning disabilities in all groups such as LGBT+, BAME etc. Discrimination exists in Seldom Heard Groups around learning disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no work with people with learning disabilities and dementia and LGBT+. Need to open doors and consider those with LD in one community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in attitude
<p>Discrimination is high, there is no timely diagnosis, support lacking.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection and enabling person to be included and supported where they live
<p>Resources needed to support any extra needs where they live e.g. extend/make accessible home rather than move</p>	



National Dementia Action Alliance

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<p>Training needed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carers have to care. Test values through recruitment • Skills academy for care. Values test is coming right for you • A lot of people have family carers – need training for carers • Send literature via Royal College of Psychiatrists or GPs to ensure the passing of information and reach to people with learning disabilities
<p>There are people within groups and need to work together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on recommendations and how we make things happen. Engaging with people who need to know about this
<p>Advocacy important as is commissions – without that someone might not get the support they need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy services dismantled due to Austerity 	
<p>Getting correct diagnosis – need to diagnose the sub type of dementia in order to get the right support/medications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better assessment and diagnosis • Awareness of support post diagnosis. Is there awareness • Test for dementia rather than not. If it is a negative diagnosis that is a good result
<p>Memory clinics assessments vary in quality. Post code lottery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better training and awareness to memory clinics
<p>People with learning disability and early onset dementia – how can they be assessed accurately</p>	
<p>Barriers can be based on ignorance/ lack of knowledge – need to talk to gatekeepers</p>	
<p>Aspirations – need to have some high aspirations for people living with learning disabilities – higher aspirations as professionals may be patronising</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More education on different types of dementia to GPs and other health professionals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis • Acceptance • Communication – how they communicate and how things are communicated to them • How to coordinate services • Lack of joined up working • Seen as drunk • Separate mental health and learning disability – watch for diagnostic overshadowing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning to live well with dementia