

Transforming Learning Disabilities Services in Wales Annual update - April 2015

1. Background

In the spring of 2011, SSIA engaged with the Learning Disabilities National Learning and Improvement Network, along with a focus group comprising senior managers from social services and health to agree a programme of work which would challenge and improve assessment arrangements. A consensus was reached to run a national programme in Wales based on the Opportunity Assessment Model. In September of that year, SSIA commissioned Alder to deliver the Opportunity Assessment programme in five areas, based on Health Board footprints. Each area identified one constituent Local Authority as a Demonstrator site in which the full Opportunity Assessment was carried out. Findings were shared with the other Councils and Health Boards to facilitate the development of collaborative service models and solutions elsewhere in Wales.

2. The Programme

The Opportunity Assessment Programme used three main sources of information to build a picture of current provision and identified areas for service improvement and efficiency savings:

- **Strategy Analysis:** which includes discussions with key strategic and operational staff across partner organisations (including commissioners) and desktop review of key relevant documents
- **Data analysis:** the examination and interpretation of national and local financial and activity data
- **Practice analysis:** the examination of case files and other relevant documents and meeting with practitioners to understand current practice.

Structured meetings (Directors, senior managers, commissioning officers, practitioners, finance and performance officers) were held to interrogate the evidence and build a picture of current services. The information was then analysed using a 'strengths-led inquiry' approach and findings were presented to stakeholders to inform discussion on a future service vision and what could be changed to remodel services in the future and achieve immediate improvements in terms of outcomes and efficiency.

Alder's work was underpinned by a progressive service model based on principles of enablement and the promotion of independence – with use where possible of supported housing and assistive technology solutions rather than traditional institutional models. The Opportunity Assessment sought to assist Councils and their partners where possible, to move existing clients within the system to lower intensity enabling services as they were developed.

Five Opportunity Assessments were undertaken in the following areas (Demonstrator sites in bold):

- Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan: **Vale of Glamorgan**, Cardiff and Vale UHB
- Western Bay: Bridgend, **Neath-Port Talbot**, Swansea, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg UHB
- West Wales: Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, **Pembrokeshire**, Hywel Dda HB
- Gwent: Blaenau Gwent, **Caerphilly**, Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen, Aneurin Bevan HB
- North Wales: Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, **Gwynedd**, Isle of Anglesey, Wrexham, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB

The final report providing the findings from the programme and recommendations from Alders and the SSIA was published in February 2014 and is available to download here:

<http://www.ssiacymru.org.uk/8462>.

3. Position Statements (highlights to March 2015)

At the beginning of 2015, SSIA asked each lead authority (demonstrator sites) to provide an update on their current position and how they have implemented the Opportunities Assessment Approach, further details are available within this report as:

- Appendix 1 – Update Report from Vale of Glamorgan
- Appendix 2 – Update Report from Western Bay
- Appendix 3 – Update Report from Carmarthenshire
- Appendix 4 – Update Report from Caerphilly
- Appendix 5 - Update Report from Gwynedd

Overall the local authorities involved, provided positive feedback on the impact this work had on their learning disability services and highlighted the following:

Vale of Glamorgan: Evidence from the assessment informed their new commissioning strategy, and they have established a new Learning Disability Strategic Board.

They have increased use of assistive technology to right size care packages, which has therefore considerably reduced the cost of supported accommodation.

Although there have been costs savings achieved through opportunity assessment it was difficult for the authority to provide these as savings have been delivered as part of wider plans within the authority.

Learning from the authority has been shared with colleagues from partner organisations.

Western Bay: Developed a new, more effective model for Community Learning Disability Team as a result of this programme with Neath Port Talbot specifically establishing a new project 'Pathways to Independence Project'.

In Neath Port Talbot they saw a decrease from 78 residential care placements in 2012 to just 42 in 2014. Also an increase from 92 accommodation with support packages to 127. NPT financial commitment to Residential Care in 2011/12 was 48% at a figure of £4.8m. In 2014/15 this has significantly reduced to 35% at a figure of £2.6m, which gave a saving of **£2.2m**.

Bridgend as a result of this model, took forward several developments which saw a saving of **£440,000** in 2014/15, with a projected saving of £520,000 for 2015/16.

Learning from NPT and Bridgend has been shared across Western Bay, and meetings have also been held with colleagues in Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan, sharing their plans and processes which have enabled learning from each other.

West Wales: Modernised their Learning Disability Services, and enhanced their work with additional project funding from the Regional Collaborative Fund. The partnership developed a Statement of Intent (Sol) for Learning Disability Services and this set the strategic direction for the next three years, clear outcomes will be developed based on the Sol.

The restructure and refocus of the regional governance of Learning Disabilities resulted in stronger collaboration in the region.

Savings of **£617,654** were seen in 2014/15 as a result of reviewing 60 care setting contracts that were valued at £7,510,000.

All work undertaken was done collaboratively through the Mid and West Wales Learning Disability Partnership.

Caerphilly: The Learning Disability Team continues to follow the approach and uses it as part of daily practice.

The commissioning of services is far more streamlined and robust, but the team are always striving to improve further in line with the recommendation made by Alders.

There has been a reduction in referrals into the team by providers requesting increased funding. The team are also in a much stronger position to effectively negotiate requests for increased funding by better understanding the developmental and support needs of individuals

Since 2011-14 the authorities has achieved savings of **£201,592**. The biggest saving was during 2011-12 where they saved £144,224.

The authority held a regional learning event in 2013 to share its experience.

Gwynedd: have focused on three specific proactive projects within day care services, which are; i) re-reviewing all supported housing placements within Gwynedd, ii) inter county discussions with service providers and iii) reviewing current out of county placements.

There has been an evident growth in the use of assistive technology which has improved service expenditure, an example of this can be seen within their enablement support plan. In March 2013, there were 3 receiving basic packages and 1 enhanced (4 individuals in total), compared to March 2015 where 7 received basic packages and 8 receive enhanced (15 individuals in total).

Recommendations have been shared and incorporated in the Learning Disability commission and contracts programmes.

Within Gwynedd's Accommodation Project they have developed dedicated units in Harlech for 8 individuals with learning disabilities. The project has two lead objectives:

- i) Promoting independence in line with progressive model approach
- ii) Cost savings once individuals have transferred

Gwynedd continue to share their experiences within the council and at monthly meetings with lead LD officers from other North Wales authorities.

4. Concluding challenges and issues

Each authority have been faced with various and differing challenges, here are some that they highlighted:

Vale of Glamorgan: Use of the regional procurement hub had proved unsuccessful in delivering savings, and there are ongoing issues regarding IT development for case management.

Western Bay: Differences in interpretation of terms and concepts across and within partner agencies, along with identifying sufficient capacity within the project continues to be an issue.

West Wales: Agreeing the governance for the regional learning disability service and the project proved challenging. Each agency also had to deal with significant internal challenges and change in officers/area of responsibility (the latter particularly impacted due to budget cuts).

Caerphilly: Accessing continuing healthcare funds for those eligible continues to be problematic.

Gwynedd: There is an ongoing challenge where individuals placed in Gwynedd by other authorities, and then referred on as an Ordinary Resident in Gwynedd. At present there are potentially 34 cases, of which 6 are currently being referred. The associated cost implications on the council with each case has an average cost of £65,000 - £80,000 per year. Eligibility for service criteria is currently being reviewed and Gwynedd continue to work with health with regards to Continuing Health Care eligibility.

***To note:** areas reported significant savings in the first tranche of applying the Opportunity Assessment. Whilst this approach by authorities will continue to improve LD services for individuals (through empowerment and citizen centred planning) it should be recognised that financial savings of those achieved are unlikely to be sustained moving forward.*

Tracy Hinton
SSIA Business and Knowledge Officer

Appendix 1 – Update Report from Vale of Glamorgan

Local Authority:	Vale of Glamorgan
Other partner LA's, HB involved:	Cardiff, Cardiff and Vale UHB, ABMU
Lead Contact Name:	Lance Carver
E-mail address:	lcarver@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Contact number:	

What is your current position in implementing the Opportunities Assessment Approach?

The evidence from the assessment has been used to inform our new commissioning strategy.

Has your learning disability services improved since being a part of this programme? If Yes how?

Greater focus on progression within day services model and clarify around the commissioning model. The newly established Learning Disability Strategic Board provides clear direction about the priorities for the service. The Joint Operational Manager for Learning Disabilities, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan continue to drive improvements and having the opportunities to share services and learning between the authorities has been beneficial.

Are you able to provide information where your local data shows an improvement, ie has there been an increase in usage of assistive technology, reduced number of individual in high cost placements?

Increase in the use of assistive technology to right size care packages. This has meant that the costs of supported accommodation have considerably reduced. Closer to Home is working effectively to identify those individuals to return to their local community from high costs residential placements.

Following this programme, have you found your strategic and/or commissioning planning for LD services is better informed?

Yes. The strategy includes a focus on high cost care packages, improved local arrangements to facilitate care closer to home and improved outcomes for individuals and their families. Further, a specific joint Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan strategy for day opportunities has been developed to modernise the local model of provision and create an outcome focus to this area.

Are you able to provide information on the cost saving to your authority? If so please provide a year on year comparison (ie 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14).

No. Savings have been achieved however these have been delivered as part of wider plans and so it is difficult to isolate those achieved through the opportunity assessment.

Have you shared your experience from this with other authorities in your region? If so how?

Yes – a presentation was given to colleagues from the partner organisations. This was a summary of the key findings from the report.

What have been your key challenges?

The use of the regional procurement hub had proved unsuccessful in delivering savings. Ongoing issues regarding IT development for case management have been improved through improvements in mobile technology and connectivity although challenges remain.

What are your next steps?

Implement the Joint Day Opportunities Strategy.
Consider the future model for Adult Placement and respite care.
Develop further regional networks for commissioning.
Progress the integration of the Learning Disability Service.

Appendix 2 – Update Report from Western Bay

Local Authority:	City and County of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Bridgend County Borough Council
Other partner LA's, HB involved:	
Lead Contact Name:	Sue Cooper
E-mail address:	susan.cooper@bridgend.gov.uk
Contact number:	

What is your current position in implementing the Opportunities Assessment Approach?

The information from opportunity assessments carried out in Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea along with extensive consultation with staff, service users and families has enabled Alder to develop a new Community Learning Disability Team model.

The new model involves joint assessments and mechanisms being put in place to ensure that the most appropriate professional has care coordination of the individual. This will facilitate compliance with the Health and Social Services Act and enable a closer, more integrated working relationship between Health and Social Care.

The information derived from Opportunity assessments have also provided valuable information in developing other workstreams within the Learning Disability Project.

In Neath Port Talbot, the OA was carried out in 2012 and as a result, the pathways to Independence Project was established to implement the recommendations in the OA report provided by Alder.

Has your learning disability services improved since being a part of this programme? If Yes how?

The Western bay Learning Disability Project has been able to progress and develop a new, more effective model for CLDT's as a result of this programme. We are currently at an implementation stage, however we would expect to see the following benefits:

- Each person with a LD has the care and support that reflects their needs based on a single integrated assessment and care plan that includes health and social care requirements.
- The personal aspirations are understood and aims for independence are reflected in a realistic integrated care plan that may reduce need for support and associated costs over time as the person's independence increases.
- Prevention of possible crisis and improved and coordinated care pathways, less demand on high level services, increased control for individuals and carers, progressions to lower levels of care as skills are developed, thus enabling individuals to be as independent as possible (the progression model).
- In NPT, the outcomes of the Pathways to Independence Project were significant in terms of a change practice for staff in terms of developing a progression based model and reducing over supported individuals, supporting move on from residential care and developing pathways to independence

Are you able to provide information where your local data shows an improvement, ie has there been an increase in usage of assistive technology, reduced number of individual in high cost placements?

In NPT, the reliance on residential care has significantly reduced from 48% of expenditure of overall placement budgets to 25% and an increase in accommodation with support models. In 2012, there

were 78 residential care placements. In 2014 this has reduced to 42 with an increase from 92 accommodation with support packages to 127.

In Bridgend CBC, the Opportunities Appraisal highlighted potential to use the 'progression model' in order to support greater independence. As a result, several developments were taken forward as part of a project within LD services. As a direct result, £440,000 has been saved in 2014/15, with a projected saving of £520,000 for 2015/16.

Following this programme, have you found your strategic and/or commissioning planning for LD services is better informed?

The work that Alder has done in NPT and BCBC has helped the Western Bay Learning Disability Project to develop a joint Commissioning Strategy. This strategy has been approved by the Western Bay Programme Board and will act as an important basis for strategic regional commissioning.

Are you able to provide information on the cost saving to your authority? If so please provide a year on year comparison (ie 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14).

Each workstream is either at the point of implementation or has only just completed implementation, therefore the full impact is not likely to become apparent within this financial year, however the Learning Disability project has delivered several outputs, which have been developed to produce the outcomes above. These are expected to be realised in the coming financial year.

Some of the work done by Alder in identifying opportunities to promote greater independence for individuals with a learning disability and ensure they progress to achieve their full potential has been fed into the LD Project's workstreams and been incorporated in the vision set out in the 'Joint Commitments for Learning Disability'. It has been embedded in the Joint Commissioning strategy and has been instrumental in developing innovative regional solutions to developing new models of care, such as the regionally commissioned Shared lives scheme.

This has resulted in an increase of levels of independence amongst individuals with a learning disability, as well as a saving for Western Bay partners.

Specifically, cost savings identified as a result of this work are detailed below:

- In NPT, the financial commitment to Residential Care in 2011/12 was 48% at a figure of 4.8m. In 2014/5, this has reduced to 25% at a figure of 2.6m.
- In Bridgend County Borough Council, principles of the Joint Commitments for Learning Disabilities have been translated into local initiatives, promoting independence and taking forward the progression model, along with savings as a result of project workstreams such as a regional adult placement scheme have resulted in substantial savings.

	14/15 saving	Projected savings 15/16
Bridgend county Borough council	£440,000	£520,000
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	2,200,000	2,200,000
Total	£2,640,000	£2,720,000

Have you shared your experience from this with other authorities in your region? If so how?

We have met with colleagues involved in a similar programme of work in Cardiff and The Vale of Glamorgan in order to share information and learning. We have exchanged project documentation, plans and processes in order to enable us to learn from each other's experiences.

The Western Bay Programme has also shared information with the Health and Social Care Programme in Carmarthenshire.

What have been your key challenges?

Key challenges for the collaborative have been:

- Differences in interpretation of terms and concepts have been an issue, for example the difference of view of what constitutes a 'business case'. The project team now refers to this document as Strategic Outline Case.
- Capacity within the project continues to be an issue and there is a 'tension' between delivering an individual organisation's savings targets and the collaborative effect.
- Given the lack of capacity and the volume of information/consultation required to produce either the business cases or a strategy, timescales for deadlines to be met have been challenging.
- Some conflicting views emerging within individual organisations of the collaborative to integration has caused ongoing discussion amongst the team and this has impacted upon the timeliness of the development.
- Members of the Learning Disability Project Board are allied with differing models of integration, causing some blockages and impacting on timescales.

What are your next steps?

CLDT MODEL

- Approval of the final Community Learning Disability Team Operating Model Framework **by Nov 14**
- Implementation plan to be agreed by the Learning Disability Project Board – **Feb 15 (does this need to go to Programme Team?)**
- CLDT Model to 'go live' – **July 15**

Commissioning Strategy

- Implementation Plan to be developed and to be submitted to Programme Team and Programme Board following completion of the consultation process by **Jan 2015**
- Decision made regarding the potential for the Commissioning Strategy to be carried forward by the ABMU Commissioning Boards – **Feb 15.**

Shared Lives

- Formal award start of contract by **March 15**
- Contract mobilisation period – **March – July 15**
- Ongoing monitoring to Western bay by the 'Shared Lives Project Board' – **July 15**

Transitions to Adulthood

- Approve Transitions Model – Prog Team – **Jan 15**
- Approve Transitions Model – Prog Board – **Jan 15**
- Implementation plan to be developed by each LA – **Feb 15**

Closer to Home

- Decide who will be commissioning Fairwood development - **Completed**
- Decision regarding who the registered social landlord will be - **Completed**
- TOR for the Fairwood steering group to be agreed (by the Fairwood steering group) - **Feb-15**

- Communication and engagement plan for this workstream to be agreed at Programme Team - **Feb-15**
- Review organisational arrangements against the 5 principles (Winterbourne) - **Feb-15**
- Take the results of the review against the 5 principles through Project Board and WB Programme – **Mar - 15**
- Agree arrangements for the C2H project to be established as BAU - **Mar-15**
- Develop an agreement in order to formalise the work done so far within C2H and standardise the processes involved in implementing the model agreed. Formal arrangements for operational usage of the Fairwood development to also be included. - **Jun-15**
- Establish rental agreement - **Mar-15**
- Contract arrangements with Gwalia/Local Authorities to be outlined for Fairwood. - **Mar-15**
- Fairwood EIA to be completed – **Mar -15**
- Contract to be signed by all parties - **Apr-15**
- Agree requirements for the Fairwood development service specification with Gwalia, including what date they require the specification to be produced in order to enable building by the required date - **May-15**
- Confirm identified individuals who could be placed in the unit - **Apr-15**
- Decision about what needs to be done with the house which is currently on Fairwood - **Apr-15**
- Decision on clinical inputs and Psychiatric responsibility for Fairwood - **May-15**
- RSL to decide on building contractors - **Jun-15**
- C2H Project group to review regularity of meetings - **Jun-15**
- C2H group to review the arrangements of the C2H Framework agreement - **Jun-15**

Appendix 3 – Update Report from Carmarthenshire

Local Authority:	Carmarthenshire County Council
Other partner LA's, HB involved:	Ceredigion County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council, Powys County Council, Hywel Dda University Health Board, Powys Teaching Health Board
Lead Contact Name:	Lois Poynting
E-mail address:	lcpynting@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
Contact number:	01267 228777

What is your current position in implementing the Opportunities Assessment Approach?

The Opportunities Assessment, particularly the findings in Pembrokeshire County Council provided the catalyst and the focus of the 'Modernising Learning Disability Services across Mid and West Wales' project funded by RCF. As a result of this work the M&WW Learning Disabilities Partnership have reviewed their approach to transforming LD services culminating in the development of a Statement of Intent (SOI) for Learning Disabilities Services. The SOI will set the strategic direction for the next three years and describe the collaborative and integrated approach that is required to transform LD services in the region. The aims, objectives and recommendations from the SOI will be translated into an outcomes-focused delivery plan.

A key component of the initial phase of modernising LD is the Accommodation and Efficiency work stream. It has two main areas of focus:

- Financial efficiency ('right-sizing'): Reviewing existing contracts with providers of LD services, package and contract re-negotiation and putting in place arrangements and responsibilities for monitoring and maintenance of the renegotiated contracts.
- Capturing best practice, recommending new ways of working, collating lessons learned and development of resources to support partners in changing commissioning front line practice thus ensuring citizen focused services and value for money

To date – financial savings have been identified – details of cost savings are shown below and will continue into the next few years

Improvements in processes, procedures and decision making have been identified and work is taking place to implement.

This work is currently being reviewed as part of the development of the outcomes-focused delivery plan.

Has your learning disability services improved since being a part of this programme? If Yes how?

Restructure and refocus of regional governance of LD resulting in stronger collaboration for LD services in the region.

Confirmed agreement that the region needs to develop and implement a model of care and support for learning disabilities that promotes independence and improved outcomes for service users.

The work of the Accommodation and Efficiency has prompted a review of processes, procedures and decision making structure for the delivery of residential services. Work is ongoing on how to implement and follow through. The findings will be fed into the development of the outcomes –focused delivery plan.

Are you able to provide information where your local data shows an improvement, ie has there been an increase in usage of assistive technology, reduced number of individual in high cost placements?

Clear outcomes to be developed based on the Statement of Intent to take forward the Learning Disabilities and Complex Needs projects.

Following this programme, have you found your strategic and/or commissioning planning for LD services is better informed?

This has been identified as a recommendation in the SOI and will be developed as part of the outcomes-focused delivery plan.

Are you able to provide information on the cost saving to your authority? If so please provide a year on year comparison (ie 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14).

During 2014/15 the following savings have been achieved:

	Total number of contracts reviewed	Total value of contracts reviewed	Savings achieved to date 2014-15
TOTAL MWW	60 settings	7,510,000	617,654

Have you shared your experience from this with other authorities in your region? If so how?

All work is carried out collaboratively through the Mid and West Wales Learning Disability Partnership which consists of the partners as listed at the start of this report.

What have been your key challenges?

Agreeing governance for regional learning disability services and the project.
Gaining consensus across the partnership on approach and priority of regional working
Each agency having to deal with significant internal challenges and change especially around budget cuts

What are your next steps?

Using the Statement of Intent as a basis, defining a regional model of care and support.

Developing a communication and engagement strategy with stakeholders in Learning Disability services

Reviewing delivery plan in light of cuts to RCF budget

Appendix 4 – Update Report from Caerphilly

Local Authority:	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Other partner LA's, HB involved:	
Lead Contact Name:	Karen Morris
E-mail address:	morrik@caerphilly.gov.uk
Contact number:	01443 864925

What is your current position in implementing the Opportunities Assessment Approach?

The Learning Disability Team continues to follow the opportunities assessment approach and takes into consideration, as part of daily practice, the recommendations made by Alders Consultancy during their time spent in Caerphilly County Borough Council.

Has your learning disability services improved since being a part of this programme? If Yes how?

Learning disability services have progressed considerably over the past few years. Commissioning of services is far more streamlined and robust. Being part of the programme was a positive experience in that Alders noted the significant work that had already been undertaken in Caerphilly and comments were received that strategies observed were "some of the best we have seen". Recommendations made by Alders were acknowledged and the Learning Disability Team are always striving to improve further in line with these suggestions.

Are you able to provide information where your local data shows an improvement, ie has there been an increase in usage of assistive technology, reduced number of individual in high cost placements?

Commissioning of placements has changed considerably and there is a noted reduction in referrals into the team of providers requesting increased funding. The Learning Disability Team are now in a much stronger position to negotiate requests for increased funding as they are in receipt of care matrices for each property and know exactly what they are paying for. Providing evidence of this, however, would prove difficult as, very often, requests would be received via e-mails from providers.

Following this programme, have you found your strategic and/or commissioning planning for LD services is better informed?

Yes, CCBC now have consistency in fee levels, a standard hourly rate in supported living and a robust system in place when requests for increased fees are received from providers and, similarly, when new placements are required.

Are you able to provide information on the cost saving to your authority? If so please provide a year on year comparison (ie 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14).

2011 - 2012 £144,224 savings achieved
2012 – 2013 £41,169 savings achieved
2013 – 2014 £16,199 savings achieved

Have you shared your experience from this with other authorities in your region? If so how?

Yes, a regional learning event was held on the 13th March, 2013.

What have been your key challenges?

Alders recommended that we access more income by accessing continuing healthcare for individuals who may be eligible. This is proving particularly challenging as the majority of meetings in the Learning Disability Team result in the dispute process being invoked with outcomes remaining unresolved.

What are your next steps?

1. Continue to work with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board to resolve ongoing CHC issues.
2. Work closely with provider services both internal and external to identify opportunities to further enhance independence e.g. increased use of community resources, volunteers where appropriate.
3. Continue to progress the Learning Disability Team's evolving philosophy of moving from a maintenance care planning model of care to a progressive model.
4. Continue to encourage uptake of Carer's Assessments during assessments and reviews with a view to better manage midlife transition for service users.
5. Continue to encourage social workers to compile creative outcome focussed care plans that encourage independency.
6. Continue to ensure that robust commissioning of services and budgetary management systems remain in place.
7. Continue to consider areas where assistive technology can be deployed.
8. Continue to ensure transition from children services to adult services is effective.

Appendix 5 – Update Report from Gwynedd

Local Authority:	Gwynedd Council
Other partner LA's, HB involved:	
Lead Contact Name:	Olwen Ellis Jones
E-mail address:	olwenellisjones@gwynedd.gov.uk
Contact number:	01286 679 975

What is your current position in implementing the Opportunities Assessment Approach?

There are currently a number of projects which concentrate on several different service delivery with Learning Disability. These include proactive lead projects on day service provision in all three Gwynedd areas, re-reviewing all supported housing placements within Gwynedd, inter county discussions with service providers and reviewing current out of county placements.

Has your learning disability services improved since being a part of this programme? If Yes how?

Progressing and implementing pro-active approaches to care plan reviews in line with eligibility criteria. All assessments are completed and undertaken which encompasses the progression model approach.

Are you able to provide information where your local data shows an improvement, ie has there been an increase in usage of assistive technology, reduced number of individual in high cost placements?

Assistive technology is actively being used and has improved service expenditure in some examples, some of these would be evident in our enablement support plan.

For the years leading up to march 2015 the statistics are as follows:

March 13 basic package = 3, enhanced =1, total = 4
March 14 basic package = 6, enhanced = 3, total= 9
March 15 basic package = 7, enhanced= 8, total= 15

As is evident the number seems low but there is a positive growth year on year.

Following this programme, have you found your strategic and/or commissioning planning for LD services is better informed?

The recommendations that have been shared have all been incorporated in the Learning Disability commissioning and contracts programmes.

Are you able to provide information on the cost saving to your authority? If so please provide a year on year comparison (ie 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14).

The new eight house project in Harlech will be a project with two lead objectives:

- i. Promoting independence in line with progressive model approach.
- ii. Cost savings once individuals have transferred.

Have you shared your experience from this with other authorities in your region? If so how?

Experiences are shared within Gwynedd Council and in monthly meetings with the Learning Disability Leads of the North Wales Counties.

What have been your key challenges?

Individuals who are placed in Gwynedd by other authorities and are then referred on as an Ordinary Resident in Gwynedd.

Currently there are potentially 34 such cases, and 6 are currently being referred.

The costs for Gwynedd Council is immense and each case has an average cost of £65,000 - £80,000 per year

The eligibility for service criteria needs and is currently being reviewed.

Continued work is ongoing with our health colleagues, LD CHC eligibility, needs to have a cohesive approach and decision making protocols.

What are your next steps?

Continue to concentrate on the challenges as above.

Continued proactive approach to all assessments and reviews.

Supporting individuals to the new supported housing project at Harlech for 8 individuals, which is an existing progressive model approach between Gwynedd and Tai Cynefin.