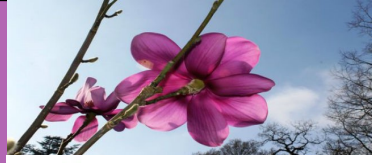
Improving Health Outcomes for People with Learning Disabilities

Learning for Change Newsletter November 2019



eQUALITY
for people with learning disabilities

The Bridging the Gap: Reducing Health Inequalities for People with Learning Disabilities Conference was held on October 3rd, 2019 at the Hertfordshire Development Centre, Stevenage. The conference focused on ensuring equitable services and care is provided to people with a learning disability. Evidence shows that people with learning disabilities die significantly younger than the general population and/or often receive poor treatment to manage their health conditions or care needs. 123 people attended the event, this included health and social care professionals

Neil Hoskin, Expert by Experience chaired the meeting and keynote speakers Kirsten Lamb, Iain MacBeath and Jim Blair spoke about the LeDeR Mortality Review Programme, the Role of the STP and solutions to improving the health with and for people with learning disabilities.

During the day attendees had the opportunity to choose from a range of workshops which provided information about key themes impacting on the health of people with a learning disability and how these health inequalities can be addressed in Hertfordshire. A number of workshops were delivered, including The Mental Capacity Act in Practice, Supporting End of Life, This is Me! (the family), Applying the Equalities Act and Reasonable Adjustments, Recognising Overshadowing, Health Improvement and Advanced Care Planning – Hospital Avoidance, Understanding Eating/Drinking Difficulties faced by People with Complex Learning Disabilities and What I expect!! Several stands relevant to the conference were also present.

Further conference resources:
Jason's story: https://youtu.be/gzg9qJvHnWg
LeDeR song: https://youtu.be/HmJB3I9h3sc
Conference presentations: https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/adult-social-services/disability/learning-disabilities/learning-disability-partnership-board/information-for-professionals-and-carers.aspx

Improving Health, Improving Lives Survey - out now!

This year's survey for adults with Learning Disabilities was posted out to 750 adults who access Social Care Services in Hertfordshire. All received a hard copy in the post with a cover letter explaining the contents, the survey can be completed either online or returned by post in the supplied self-addressed envelope.

We want to make you aware of this survey as families and/ or staff members may well be looking after /supporting someone who requires assistance to complete the document.

Please ring our team on 01438 844686 if you have any further queries regarding the survey.

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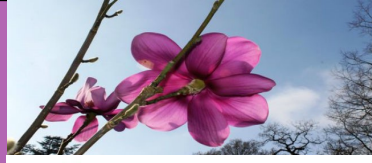

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★ STOMP (Stopping over medication of people with a learning disability, autism or both)

Psychotropic Medicines - A group of West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust (WHHT) pharmacists have been reviewing our inpatient Learning Disability drug charts to ensure that they are not prescribed psychotropic medicines inappropriately as part of STOMP. This has been ongoing over a 3 month period. A report of the findings is in the process of being written.

STOMP-LD Reviews - Charlie Gray, Community Learning Disability Nurse, Hertfordshire County Council has been working with GP practices across the county to help them with their STOMP-LD reviews. So far, she has managed to support 16 practices to review their LD patient list and identify people who should have a STOMP- LD risk assessment. From those 16 practices so far 32 people have been identified and Charlie is in the process of carrying out the STOMP risk assessments for those people and working with the GP to weigh up the risks and benefits of making medication reductions.

★ Acute Care

West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust (WHHT) Learning Disability Forum - The Named Nurse for safeguarding adults ran a Learning disability forum for all WHHT staff in October. Over 40 staff attended. Topics included issues raised from the findings in this years LeDeR annual report. Guest speakers included the Sepsis specialist nurse who did an interactive session on sepsis and recognising the deteriorating Learning disability patient, Speech and Language Therapy staff talked about how to present aspiration pneumonia, Palliative care team talked about end of life and our Acute Health liaison team talked about having difficult conversations and the importance of included carers/family. Feedback was very positive.

Makaton signing at West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust (WHHT) - As part of Learning disability awareness week in May, the safeguarding team took a pledge to improve care and communication for people with learning disabilities. Staff learnt Makaton signs to declare each individual promise. Lanyards were issued to staff with common signs that may be used in hospital attached to them. This has proved really popular with staff and there is a plan to make more.

★ Primary Care

Flu Vaccine and Annual Health Check - Reminder to providers/staff to make sure that people with a Learning Disability are registered with their GP to receive their Annual Health Check and their free Flu vaccine either by injection or nasal spray.

Link to EasyRead flu leaflet for people with a learning disability:
https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/34/resources/4049

For any queries around the LeDeR Mortality Review Programme please contact: Kathryn.dempsey@hertfordshire.gov.uk
To be added or removed from the distribution list please contact: Elaine.scott@hertfordshire.gov.uk