Excellence and Choice
A consultation on the future provision of Learning Disability Services in Belfast
Your chance to have your say
12 November 2009 – 4 February 2010
The Future Provision of Learning Disability Services in Belfast

Your chance to have a say

November 2009

Public Consultation Document
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1.0 Foreword

William McKee, Chief Executive

This consultation is being carried out by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to address the future delivery of adult learning disability services across the city of Belfast.

Improving the lives of people with learning disabilities is a priority for the Northern Ireland Executive, the DHSSPSNI, the HSC Board and the Belfast HSC Trust. Citizenship and inclusion are key cornerstones to enabling people with learning disabilities to live full and meaningful lives. Equal Lives, the Learning Disability Report produced by the Bamford Review, stressed the importance to people with learning disabilities of living an ordinary life, participating in society and accessing services in the same way as the rest of the general population.

Belfast HSC Trust works in partnership with a number of bodies to improve the health of the population and to ensure that high quality services are available locally. Significant investment has been made in recent years to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities by enhancing the services available to them in the community. This is part of a bigger plan to reduce the need for people to have to go into hospital and to support them living with the fullest possible participation within their community. In addition, we aim to make the best use of all our resources to promote services that are individualised and of a high standard.

This document explains the reasons why we need to make changes to how community services and inpatient services are delivered in the city of Belfast and in the regional services at Muckamore Abbey Hospital. It also presents an opportunity for you to comment on the plans. Please feel free to raise any other issues that you think have been missed or that you believe need to be taken into consideration.

The Belfast Trust is committed to engaging with members of the public and looks forward to hearing from you. Details of how to submit your feedback can be found in Appendix 3.

As the Chief Executive of the Belfast HSC Trust I would like to thank you for your interest in this consultation exercise and for taking the time to get involved.
1.1. Introduction / Policy Context

This paper outlines the proposed strategic direction for the learning disability service in the Belfast Trust. Some consultation has already taken place with people with learning disabilities and their families in developing the strategy. The purpose of the paper is to seek views on the strategic direction for adult learning disability services from the wider population.

Regional policy for learning disability services has already been developed through the Bamford review on mental health and learning disability. The Review was undertaken because it was recognised nationally that people with learning disabilities were often marginalised in society and found it difficult to access the support that they needed. Valuing People was published in England in 2001 and it laid out a strategy to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities in England. Wales and Scotland produced similar strategies and the Bamford Review was undertaken to examine what was needed in the Northern Ireland context.

The Equal Lives report (2005) was the part of this review specifically aimed at people with learning disabilities and the Government’s Implementation Action Plan (2009) was recently published to take forward the recommendations of Equal Lives. The strategic direction of the Belfast Trust as outlined in this paper is in line with the recommendations in the Action Plan.

The Equal Lives report highlighted that people with a learning disability in Northern Ireland do not enjoy equality of opportunity and that they are often excluded from the opportunities that other citizens enjoy. The report went on to say that whilst there had been some progress in making people’s lives more inclusive, there was need for a major and co-ordinated development programme for learning disability services over the next 15 - 20 years in order to resolve fully the difficulties outlined in the report.

The Belfast HSC Trust published New Directions in 2008 as a means of communicating the Trust’s vision for the modernisation and reform of local health and social care services. The future development of learning disability services as outlined in New Directions was entirely in keeping with the recommendations of the Equal Lives report.

This document goes further than New Directions and outlines more detailed plans for the future services in Belfast and at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

1.2 Resources

The Equal Lives report made 74 recommendations to take forward its vision for the future provision of learning disability services. Full implementation of these recommendations had an estimated additional cost of approximately £175 million over a fifteen to twenty year period. It was recognised that these large sums of money were not immediately available and accordingly the Equal Lives report set out some immediate (2006 –2012) and medium -term (2012 –2020) objectives.
Whilst the report acknowledged that change would be costly and would take time, it also stated that there must be an immediate and ongoing commitment to making financial resources available if the change process is to be real. Whilst the report recognised the need to reconfigure and better target existing resources, it also recognised that the level of change and modernisation envisaged would not happen without this financial commitment.

The Department of Health has recognised that additional resources are required for the adult learning disability service to deliver the modernisation of services set out in Equal Lives. Initially an extra £17m has been secured by the Minister to begin this process within N. Ireland over the 3-year period 2008/09 to 2010/11.

The Belfast Trust’s share of this is almost £3.8m and the Health and Social Care Board is making this new investment available over the three year period. This will enhance the range of adult community services available within Belfast which will support the delivery of the proposed new adult learning disability service model.

The Belfast Trust currently has around £52m available annually from the Health and Social Care Board to support the delivery of adult learning disability services. The Trust however has to achieve efficiency savings of 3% a year from 2008 – 2011 as well as managing an underlying deficit. This equates to £5m efficiency to be achieved over the 3-year period for adult learning disability services. The service will use its existing resources and the new funding to invest in more modern services and achieve efficiencies.

The challenge for the Trust over the next few years will therefore require us to take a radical review of both the core services and new investments to ensure that we continue to reform services whilst making efficiencies at the same time.

1.3 About the document

It is against this background that the Trust has developed this document, which describes how the Trust proposes to deliver high quality adult learning disability services in the future.

The document outlines:

- The principles that have guided the proposed service models.
- The influencing factors i.e. what Equal Lives says about services.
- How we currently provide services.
- The way the Trust would propose to deliver adult learning disability services into the future.
The implementation of aspects of this strategic direction will rely on appropriate levels of funding being secured, as well as changing some of the ways we currently work.

1.4 Guiding Principles

The fundamental principle underpinning reform in learning disability services is **individualisation**. People with learning disabilities want to have their needs met through a range of services that are flexible and diverse. This differs from services in the past that all too often failed to plan services around the person but required the person to fit into existing provision. The direction of travel for the service is away from congregated living and large institutional establishments towards services that are flexible and tailored to suit the needs of an individual.

In developing the direction, a number of principles were agreed on by service users, carers and families and staff. These can be seen in Appendix 1.

2.0 HOW SERVICES FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITY ARE CURRENTLY DELIVERED

There are three strands to the services that will be delivered to people with learning disabilities in the Belfast Trust. They are:

1. Somewhere to live and a fuller life.
2. Access to additional support in the community, including specialist community treatment and support services and respite.
3. Access to specialist inpatient assessment and treatment services.

Each strand encompasses a range of services that people with learning disabilities can access depending on their individual needs. The diagram below illustrates this.
Belfast HSC Trust Learning Disability Services
3.0.  SOMEWHERE TO LIVE AND A FULLER LIFE

3.1  What Equal Lives said about having somewhere to live:

Some comments from Equal Lives were:

*An extended range of housing options should be developed for men and women with learning disability.*

*All new housing with support provision for people with a learning disability should be for no more than 5 individuals with a learning disability - preferably less - within the same household.*

*An additional 100 supported living places per annum for the next 15 years (2005 – 2020) should be developed to enable people to move from family care without having to be placed in inappropriate settings.*

3.1.1  What the Trust currently provides

The majority of adults with a learning disability are accommodated and supported directly by their parents and carers in the parental home. The Trust has a range of services designed to support parents and carers in their own homes but the Trust also provides a range of accommodation, both directly and through the private and voluntary sectors.

The Trust currently has the following range of accommodation across Belfast:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation Type</th>
<th>Places</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust Residential Homes</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent residential Homes</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Nursing Homes</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supported housing tenancies (both Trust and independent sector)</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2 Future Plans for Accommodation Provision.

A key objective for the Trust’s service is to support people with learning disabilities in their own home first and foremost. For the majority this will be their family home, for others this will be their own home, or housing they share with others.

The Trust will provide a range of supported living options. This means that people can be tenants or own their own home and receive the level of support that they need. This will range from minimal support to intensive 24 hour support to enable adults with learning disability to continue to live their lives in the community and to enable those living in hospital or residential or nursing homes to experience community living.
The use of residential accommodation and private nursing home facilities will, in future, only be used in exceptional circumstances where housing with support options are not adequate or available. People who currently live in these types of accommodation will remain there as long as it meets their needs but new admissions will be by exception.

Subject to available resources, the Trust, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Supporting People, will continue the expansion of supported housing across the city of Belfast. It will do this at a level commensurate with the need to resettle adults from Muckamore Abbey Hospital and in order to meet the growing demand for ordinary housing from adults with learning disability already living in the community.

Subject to available resources, the Trust proposes to replace its four remaining residential homes with a range of supported living options. Many of the people who currently live in these homes have told us that they would like a place of their own where they do not have to share with so many other people. Our plan is to provide this for those residents in a way that continues to meet their needs.

3.2 What Equal Lives says about A Fuller Life:

Some comments from Equal Lives are as follows:-

*A new service model needs to be developed, based on social integration, drawing a line under the notion that people with a learning disability should be grouped together and segregated from services enjoyed by the rest of the population.*

*Day centres will in future provide a service to men and women with increasingly complex needs who should also be enabled to access opportunities for community integration.*

*Future investments in day services should be targeted at the development of other supported placements including voluntary work and leisure opportunities.*

*Supported employment services should be developed further.*

3.2.1 What the Trust currently provides

Having a Fuller Life includes being meaningfully occupied. One of the ways in which the Trust helps with this is through the provision of day services.

Day services range from being supported into full employment, to attendance in a day centre, with a variety of options along this continuum.

The Trust has already made significant progress in developing its community day services model in partnership with other statutory and voluntary sector organisations. This model enables individuals, with staff support, to develop their own plan for the week which is likely to include further education, social and leisure activities and other training opportunities.
This supports the concept of individualisation and allows people to mix and match from a range of activities to suit their own needs.

The following services are in place. (They are not mutually exclusive).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service type</th>
<th>People supported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Day centres</td>
<td>620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment and training services</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community day services</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### 3.2.2 Future Plans for Leading Fuller Lives

The focus for the future will be to move away from large congregated day centres and to continue to build on the more flexible model provided through community day services. This relies less on buildings and more on the provision of individualised support to access a range of activities and opportunities available in local communities.

The Trust does acknowledge however, that that there are a significant number of individuals who are used to receiving day services in a day centre and who at this time would be reluctant to consider more inclusive community based options.

Whilst many individuals who currently attend day centres value the support provided there, as do their families, the Trust does not believe that a majority of adults with learning disabilities, having the choice, would choose to spend their days in a day centre.

In the first instance the Trust will focus these developments primarily to meet the needs of school leavers, bearing in mind that these young people are leaving school with different expectations and aspirations than those who have been receiving traditional forms of day service.

The provision of centre based day support has already been reviewed by the legacy Belfast Trusts and plans exist to re-provide existing out dated centres with smaller, purpose built facilities providing no more than forty places at a time. This development is however, dependant on capital being made available.

There is an understanding that some people with complex needs who are unable to meaningfully participate in integrated community opportunities may still require a building based solution. Plans have been designed to ensure that any new centres can accommodate such individuals, providing them with an enhanced service at the same time as facilitating high levels of socialisation and inclusion for them. This means that increasingly people with learning disabilities can be in receipt of day services that are not provided through the traditional model of attendance at a day centre.
The Trust, in partnership with the voluntary sector, will support the further development of the supported employment model and supported employment opportunities in Belfast.

A multiagency partnership approach is already well developed which provides a range of training opportunities and real jobs for individuals with learning disabilities throughout Belfast. The Trust has been instrumental in developing this and will continue to view it as a high priority so that people with learning disabilities can be supported into employment.

As the largest employer in Belfast the Trust will engage proactively with others in the sector in providing real job opportunities for adults with learning disabilities.

4.0 HAVING ACCESS TO ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY, INCLUDING SPECIALIST COMMUNITY TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES AND RESPITE

4.1 What Equal Lives said about community support and Treatment:

People with a learning disability should have access to the wide range of specialist health care services available in the community including neurology services, epilepsy nurse specialists and diabetes nurse specialists.

Community based assessment and treatment services should be developed on an incremental basis to provide assessment and treatment of men and women with a learning disability who have specific mental health needs and/or challenging behaviours.

There is a need for Community Forensic Services to support the full range of people with a learning disability in the community, including those who have been discharged from hospital or released from prison.

4.1.1 What the Trust Currently Provides

In Belfast, this strand of the service currently relies on 4 community learning disability teams, supported by a very small specialist service for people with more complex difficulties.

The community teams are made up of social workers, community learning disability nurses and support workers with input from psychiatry, psychology and the allied health professions. The teams assist people with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible and to access the services that they need.

4.1.2 Future plans for community treatment and support

The service aims to provide this strand of the service in three different levels or tiers.
Level 1
Many people with learning disabilities do not need specialist services and should be able to access the same health and social care services as the rest of the population with little or no support. Individuals who are able to do this, may contact staff in community teams from time to time for advice or to access additional support, e.g. how to find employment, but are likely to have minimal contact with learning disability services.

Level 2
The community teams provide this tier of service. Their core role will remain one of providing support to service users and their families, signposting individuals towards appropriate services and fulfilling statutory functions such as assessing and managing risk and vulnerability.

Sometimes services that are available to everyone (mainstream services), need some help from learning disability staff to be able to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities. So the second tier of service also encompasses the support that the teams provide to mainstream services to make suitable adjustments in order for their services to be accessible to people with learning disabilities. Examples of work already underway are in hospital neurology services and family and childcare services. Primary care services are another good example of people using mainstream services with minimal support. The learning disability service has been funded to begin assisting GPs with delivering improved health screening for people with learning disabilities. This is a positive development in helping people use ordinary services with minimal adjustments.

Over time, the teams will be expanded to become fully multidisciplinary so that people can more easily access the range of support that they need. Staff in the teams will develop service networks with other services such as dementia, addictions and services for older people with the aim of assisting people with learning disabilities to get the same level of service as the rest of the population. Networks to support parents with learning disability and young persons leaving care will also be further developed.

Level 3
This relates to specialist community services and in 2009/10, the expansion of more specialist community treatment services will begin. The investment will enable the development of a specialist community mental health team and the expansion of the behavioural service. This will enable people with learning disabilities in Belfast who require specialist mental health support to receive this in a community setting.

Existing specialist treatment options will be enhanced/ provided across the city of Belfast. These options will include:

- Development of a service for people with learning disabilities who have complex mental health difficulties. This service will be developed from the existing Hear to Help Service which currently delivers psychological therapies and emotional support. The newly developed service will deliver both assertive outreach and psychological interventions.
- Enhanced **Behaviour Support Service**, a time limited intensive assessment and intervention service, which reduces placement breakdown and increases capacity of individuals, families and service providers to cope with behaviour that challenges.

- **Community Forensic Service**, providing risk assessment and offence related intervention services to those with histories of, and at risk of, offending.

These services will be person centred, task focused and offer short interventions based on the need of individuals. They will be developed over time commencing in 2010/11.

The specialist community treatment service has a longer term aim of being able to support people in their own homes 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This will require the enhancement of community treatment teams and support services, which would wrap around the individual and or family in times of increased need. It will provide an enhanced level of treatment and support required to support the individual in their normal place of residence or in the community and avoid escalation of the situation.

### 4.2 Respite Services

#### 4.2.1 What Equal Lives said about Respite Services:

*Respite will have a focus on the support needs of parents and carers.*

*Respite services will also be designed and delivered in an individualised way ensuring that they meet the aspirations of the person for a stimulating break from their normal support arrangements.*

*Respite will be designed and delivered in a way that is conscience free that is enabling parents and carers to relax in the knowledge that the person they support is having an enjoyable experience.*

#### 4.2.2 What the Trust currently provides

Respite provision currently encompasses short stays in residential accommodation, short stays with another family and a range of social and leisure activities. Some of this is provided directly by the Trust and some by voluntary partners. The Trust has 19 places for residential respite and contracts with the independent sector for a further 9 places. The Trust provides respite services to approximately 520 people.

#### 4.2.3 Future Plans for Respite Provision

*Residential respite services* will be provided in dedicated respite facilities with no more than four beds in any one facility. The first of these is planned for development in East Belfast.
Respite services will be developed to meet the needs of those **adults with specific complex health needs** and those with **challenging support needs**.

The provision of **community/leisure-based respite** exemplified by the Caring Breaks service will be enhanced and developed to become accessible to all. The Trust recognises the increasing importance placed by families on this form of non-residential provision.

The Trust will increase the opportunities to experience **family placement** as a form of respite break.

### 5.0 ACCESS TO INPATIENT ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT SERVICES.

#### 5.1 What Equal Lives said about inpatient assessment and treatment services:

The focus of the Equal Lives report was on the development of community services with little emphasis given to Inpatient services. However the following statements were made:

*There must be a full range of forensic inpatient care, including high, medium and low security services.*

*By June 2011, all people with a learning disability living in a hospital should be relocated to the community. Funds need to be provided to ensure that on average 80 people will be resettled per annum over the 5-year period from 2006 to 2011. (Subsequently, the Minister of Health set a target that no-one should live unnecessarily in hospital beyond 2014.)*

*As a matter of urgency the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety should consult with all 4 Health and Social Services Boards about their present and future plans for specialist assessment and treatment services for men and women with a severe learning disability with a view to greater sharing of existing and planned resources and the development of new forms of community based services.*

#### 5.1.1 What the Trust currently provides

Muckamore Abbey Hospital provides a regional specialist assessment and treatment service for people with learning disability who require a period of inpatient care, allowing assessment and treatment of their mental health and complex behavioural needs. New buildings have been developed which provide a therapeutic environment for assessment and treatment and for a regional inpatient forensic service for men with learning disabilities.

There are in addition, a number of people (174) in the hospital who are living in Muckamore Abbey Hospital because resources have not been made available for them to resettle to appropriate community settings.
Although the care provided to these individuals is of a high standard, the environment that they live in is inadequate and no-one should live in a hospital if they do not need to do so.

5.1.2 Future Plans for Inpatient Assessment and Treatment Services

The children’s assessment and treatment service will move from the Muckamore site to Belfast in March 2010. A new purpose built centre is being developed which will provide 8 beds for children from the Belfast Trust, the Northern Trust, South Eastern Trust and Southern Trust.

Some adults with a learning disability who require a period of inpatient assessment and treatment for mental illness can receive this in mainstream mental health services. In Belfast, there are plans for a new inpatient mental health unit and the learning disability service will work with colleagues in mental health services to ensure that people with learning disability have access to this facility.

Other people require support from learning disability services to enable them to benefit from mainstream mental health services. Once again, for people in Belfast, we will develop improved ways of working across mental health and learning disability services to make this happen.

A third group of adults will require the support provided by a specialist inpatient learning disability service and this is what the new facilities in Muckamore Abbey Hospital will provide in future.

Equal Lives recommended that sharing of inpatient resources on a regional basis should be given further consideration. The Belfast service has started to examine regional care pathways with the other two learning disability hospitals in Northern Ireland and the Health and Social Care Board. The outcome of this work, alongside the future development of community treatment services, will help shape the future bed numbers at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

5.1.3 Resettlement

Belfast Trust, in collaboration with Northern Trust, South Eastern Trust and the Health and Social Care Board, has produced a paper for the Department of Health and Social Services which describes a costed model to complete the resettlement of patients from Muckamore Abbey Hospital. There is a Ministerial target which states that no-one should live unnecessarily in hospital beyond 2014. The paper outlines the resources and actions that are necessary to achieve this target.

When these individuals have been successfully resettled to new facilities, their beds will be closed.
6.0 CONCLUSION

This paper has highlighted that the Trust will aim to improve the lives of adults with learning disabilities by modernising services and developing new ones that support the principles of individualisation and inclusion. The Trust recognises that there will be challenges in doing this in the current financial climate but will aim to make the best use of existing resources and any new investment to deliver the services that people with learning disabilities have said they want and which are detailed in Equal Lives.

There is an opportunity for you to have a say about the strategy outlined in this paper by considering the questions in Appendix 3.
Appendix 1  Guiding principles

- Services will focus on the needs of individuals.
- People with learning disabilities and their carers will be fully involved in the planning and development of their own health and social care services.
- People with learning disabilities have the right to experience community living, community presence and participation. Inclusion is a right for all.
- People with learning disabilities in Belfast have the right to experience the same level of service regardless of location.
- Service improvement and modernisation will be based on best practice.
- Staff will be supported in their professional and personal development.
- Services will be delivered in an efficient and effective manner within available resources.

These principles are consistent with the Equal Lives Review, New Directions and the Belfast Way, the strategic direction for Belfast Health and Social Care Trust 2008 to 2013.
Appendix 2  Programme of consultation

This paper is based on the strategic direction set out in Equal Lives which was widely consulted on. The document is therefore the Trust’s means of communicating how it will begin to address the recommendations of Equal Lives. The Trust wishes to receive comments from the citizens of Belfast and from families elsewhere who have relatives in Muckamore Abbey Hospital about the direction of travel outlined here.

The consultation period will open on 12th November 2009 and close on 12th February 2010.

We are sending this paper to staff, service users and carers and key stakeholders to ensure we consult as widely as possible. Based on the responses we receive, a report will be presented to Trust Board.

An Easy Read version of the paper will be circulated to service users and Trust staff will be arranging to discuss the content of the paper with service users who wish to do so.

Further consultation may be required on specific service issues as a result of the responses we receive. We are committed to ensuring that we consult broadly on these issues.
Appendix 3

Tell us your views - Your invitation to comment

We would like to hear your views on the proposals that we have made for the future delivery of adult learning disability services in the city of Belfast and at Muckamore Abbey Hospital.

Please use this form to register your comments by 12th February 2010.

Please tell us your name and address at the beginning of your reply. If you are commenting on behalf of an organisation, please tell us its name and what it does. If you have consulted other people or organisations, please let us know.

The consultation period will open on 12th November 2009 and close on 12th February 2010.

Responses in writing should be sent to:

William McKee, Chief Executive
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
c/o Public Liaison Services
Communication Department
1st Floor, Nore Villa
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
Belfast BT8 8BH

Alternatively, comments may also be emailed to: Publicliaison@belfasttrust.hscni.net

It would be helpful if you could entitle your email ‘Consultation’. 
1. Somewhere to live and a fuller life.

The Trust is proposing:

1. An expansion of supported housing across the city of Belfast

2. The replacement of the four remaining residential homes with a range of supported housing options for the people who live there to improve their quality of life.

3. The further enhancement of its community based (non centre) daytime provision for adults with learning disability, focusing initially on the needs of school leavers.

4. The re-provision of existing out dated centres with purpose built facilities providing no more than forty places at a time.

5. That in future day centres will only provide services for people who are unable to meaningfully participate in integrated community opportunities.

6. The further development of the supported employment model and supported employment opportunities in Belfast.

Question 1.

(a) Do you agree with the above Trust proposals in relation to having somewhere to live and a fuller life?

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(b) What are your concerns about accommodation and day services and do you think these plans will answer your concerns? If not, why not?

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(c) Do you have any suggested additions to these plans?

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(d) Are there any other issues that you think need to be taken into consideration?

Please state them here:

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2. Access to additional support in the community, including specialist community treatment and support services and respite.

The Trust is proposing:

1. The reprovision of residential respite services in dedicated respite facilities no more than four beds in any one facility.

2. Enhancement of Community/ leisure - based respite.

3. Increase of Family respite placements as a form of respite break.

4. Increased access to mainstream services where appropriate.

5. The expansion of Multidisciplinary Community Learning Disability Teams to provide proactive services and support to people with learning disability to access mainstream & learning disability specific services.

6. Development of Specialist service networks including epilepsy services, genetics, complex health services, autism services, primary care mental health services, dementia services, and addictions services.

7. Development of Specialist Mental Health and enhancement of Behavioural Services.

8. Enhancement of specialist treatment options provided across the city of Belfast, including a community forensic service.

QUESTION 2:

(a) Do you agree with the development plans for community treatment and Support (Including respite) services outlined above?

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(b) What are your concerns about these community services and do you think these plans will answer your concerns? If not, why not?

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(c) Do you have any suggested additions to these plans?

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(d) Are there any other issues that you think need to be taken into consideration?

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Please state them here:
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3. **Access to specialist inpatient assessment and treatment services.**

The Trust is proposing:

- To provide access to acute inpatient mental health beds for people with high levels of adaptive functioning/mild learning disability who require therapeutic intervention as a result of mental health problems.

- To bring forward a plan to resettle all remaining longstay patients from Muckamore Abbey hospital by 2014 subject to the appropriate levels of funding being available.

- To commence a discussion with all relevant stakeholders on the future of inpatient specialist assessment and treatment services at Muckamore Abbey hospital.

**QUESTION 3:**

Do you agree with the development plans for specialist inpatient assessment and treatment services outlined above?
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(e) What are your concerns about specialist inpatient assessment and treatment services and do you think these plans will answer your concerns? If not, why not?
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(f) Do you have any suggested additions to these plans?

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(g) Are there any other issues that you think need to be taken into consideration?

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Please state them here:
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Appendix 4

Availability in other formats

In the interest of accessibility the Future Development of Learning Disability Services, this document can be made available in a range of alternative formats, including an Easy Read version.

For further information please contact:

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Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
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BT8 8BH

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Appendix 5

Equality and Human Rights

Human rights belong to everyone – they are the basic rights that we all have simply because we are human, regardless of who we are, where we live or what we do.

Human rights cover those things which are important to us such as being able to have a choice as to how to live our lives and being entitled to respect, dignity and privacy.

The basis of human rights is founded on 5 values, which are Fairness, Respect, Equality, Dignity and Autonomy.

Equality in health and social care does not mean everyone receiving equal treatment – equality means individuals accessing the highest attainable standard of health and social care, which meets their needs.

The principles of human rights and equality have been core to the delivery and policy formulation within learning disability services. Services, which uphold and promote equality and human rights, will enhance the experience and outcomes for service users and staff by using a person centred approach. In 1998 the introduction of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act and the Human Rights Act enshrined these principles in legislation in Northern Ireland.

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the Belfast HSC Trust is obliged to consider the implications for equality of opportunity and good relations. As part of this assessment, the Trust also considers implications for human rights and disability.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

Section 75 (1) of the NI Act 1998 requires Belfast HSC Trust, in carrying out its work, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity:

- Between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation
- Between men and women generally
- Between persons with a disability and persons without
- Between persons with dependants and persons without

In addition Section 75 (2) requires the Trust to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

This meant that a Public Authority such as the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is not only morally and ethically bound to deliver its learning disability services to its users in an equitable fashion with respect and dignity; but it also is statutorily bound to do so.
Any service user or potential user of learning disability services should be treated with respect, sensitivity and dignity irrespective of age, disability, ethnic origin, religious belief or political opinion, gender or marital status or sexual orientation or caring responsibilities.

Key stakeholders can now have their say in how the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust reforms and modernises its Learning Disability Services.

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust is committed to listening to the view of staff, service users, carers and families and advocacy groups and the wider public and making informed decisions on the basis of these consultation responses.

The Trust is committed to the principles of Equality and Human Rights underpinning the delivery and policy formulation of Learning Disability Services.

The Trust welcomes any comments on Equality and Human Rights that you consider relevant on the views detailed in this paper.
Appendix 6


Belfast Trust will publish an anonymised summary of responses following completion of the consultation process; however your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. We can only refuse to disclose information in limited circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a general right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, Belfast Trust in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. We cannot automatically consider information supplied to us in response to a consultation as information that can be withheld from disclosure. However, we do have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or withheld.

Any information provided by you in response to this consultation is, if requested, likely to be released. Only in certain circumstances would information of this type be withheld.