

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

Quarterly newsletter / autumn edition



Are you interested in finding out about the health and wellbeing of adults with learning disabilities in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames (LBRuT)? Read on for more information on the health needs of local people and how local programmes are aiming to make a difference and improve health

Many of you will be aware that the JSNA newsletter is a rolling publication produced by Public Health to raise awareness of health issues that affect local residents. In this eighth edition we delve into more detail on the health and social care needs of adults who have a learning disability (LD).

People with a learning disability generally have higher and more complex health needs, a higher level of unmet health needs and a different pattern of health need compared with the rest of the population. Specific health problems experienced by people with a LD may be a result of the physiological issues inherent in the underlying causes of LD (e.g. genetic factors), but health problems will also be exacerbated by other, more controllable factors such as access to services.

In Richmond borough, it is estimated that 3,621 adults have a LD. Of these, 770 adults are estimated to have a moderate or severe LD, and therefore likely to be in receipt of services.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of this JSNA newsletter please get in touch with us at jsna@richmond.gov.uk. We will gladly receive and consider your feedback, data, information and intelligence for future newsletter publications. The next topic will have a focus on winter wellbeing.

Dr Dagmar Zeuner

Director of Public Health, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

National and Local Strategies

A number of national strategies aiming to improve the quality of life for people with LD have been developed. Themes within these recent reports include citizenship, empowerment, having choices in making decisions, having the same rights and opportunities as other people and promoting social inclusion.

Valuing People (2001) and Valuing People Now (2009)¹

This national LD strategy highlighted key outstanding issues experienced by people with LD which need to be considered, such as poorly co-ordinated services, insufficient support for carers, substantial unmet healthcare needs, limited choice, limited opportunities and lack of control over their own lives. The updated report in 2009 acknowledged that wide variations remain in the quality of health services for people with a LD.

Our Health, Our Care, Our Say (2006)²

This White Paper reinforced the key role of the services provided by healthcare professionals working in community settings. The need for comprehensive annual health checks for people with LD was outlined, alongside developing community based arrangements.

Transforming Care (2012)

This report of an investigation into reports of abuse of patients at Winterbourne View Hospital set out a programme of actions to transform care and support for people with LD or autism who also have mental health conditions or behaviours viewed as challenging.

Richmond Carers Strategy

The 2010-13 Richmond Carers Strategy sets the agenda for continued improvements in the quality of life, health and well being of carers. This strategy is currently being refreshed.

A new LD strategy is currently being developed in Richmond borough.

Priorities

The NHS and London Borough of Richmond upon Thames work in partnership to improve the health and social care of adults with a LD who live, or are registered with a GP practice, in Richmond borough. Work programmes are planned through the joint Learning Disability Partnership Board.

The 2011-12 submission of Richmond's LD Self Assessment Framework provided some evidence of progress but also indicated areas still in need of improvement.

¹ www.valuingpeoplenow.dh.gov.uk

² Our Health, Our Care, Our Say - a new direction for community services January 2006

Snapshots

Population

- Around 400 adults with a LD are receiving specialist health and/or social care services
- Following national patterns, prevalence is expected to rise by around 1% per annum for the next 10 years. This increase is predicted to be highest among the older age groups
- 59% of adults live at home and receive community services, whilst 41% live in care homes. The percentage living at home is higher than in London
- In Richmond, the median age at death for people with a LD is 54 years which is similar to the national age (55 years).

Health services

- The Richmond Specialist Health Care Team for adults with a LD is provided by Your Healthcare. The service is multi-disciplinary and co-located with the borough's care management team for adults with a LD
- Your Healthcare have developed a local protocol to ensure that people with a LD are able to access high quality healthcare when attending Kingston Hospital for diagnostic investigations, medical or surgical interventions and treatment
- Richmond has appointed a GP lead on LD. In addition, further support is available from two specialist GPs who work with Your Healthcare
- The NHS Health Checks programme is for all people aged 40-74 who do not have cardiovascular disease. In 2011-12, there was a 15% uptake for adults with a LD, compared to a 44% uptake for the total population

Evidence from engagement

- 22% of respondents rely on friends and family to act as their carers
- Respondents were generally non-smokers and non-drinkers who undertake some form of physical activity on a regular basis
- More than 90% of survey respondents visit their GP surgery and dentist at least once a year and are satisfied with their experience
- 71% of respondents have had an annual health check within the last year, and 55% have been given a health action plan
- 82% of women surveyed had not had a breast screening test despite 56% of respondents falling into the 40+ age group

Community services

- The majority of adults with learning disabilities in the younger age groups are living at home and receiving community services
- Local data indicates that the 55+ age groups do not access direct payments or other community facilities, which is fairly typical for older service users with long established lifestyles
- In 2010-11, 9% of adults with a LD were in paid employment, which was significantly higher than in England (6%)
- Three new supported living homes have been recently established in the borough, as a result of collaboration between adult social care, housing, registered social landlords and families

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What next?

A deep-dive JSNA is currently being finalised. This will support the development of an updated strategy for LD, which will be a joint strategy between health and social care and will cover all age groups.

Further resources

LiveWell, Richmond (health promotion service)
www.livewellrichmond.nhs.uk

Richmond Aid
<http://www.richmondaid.org.uk>

Richmond Learning Disability
http://www.richmond.gov.uk/learning_disability_service

The garden gang
http://www.richmond.gov.uk/garden_gang

Supported living
http://www.richmond.gov.uk/learning_disability_supported_living

Mencap Richmond
<http://www.mencap.org.uk/local-groups/group/richmond-mencap>

Contact us

If you have any topics or issues you think the JSNA team could analyse, or if you'd like to get involved in any of the work currently underway, please email us at jsna@richmond.gov.uk