



# Adult Learning Disability Services NEWSLETTER February/March 2019

**W**elcome to the third edition of the Adult Learning Disability Service. The team have been busy since the beginning of the year with Local Involvement Group meetings and the purchase of buses meaning more people getting out and about. See inside for more details and events in the coming months...

## What's inside...

A message from the Assistant Director Adult Learning Disability Services.....Page 2

Regional Transformation Projects and Shared Lives.....Page 3

Services receive shiny new buses.....Page 4



### Read all about it!

Lilliput Theatre Company performed Let's Do Panto at the Derry Playhouse - read the story and see more pics inside.



## Reminiscing about the past and looking ahead to the future of ALD Services

**Dear all,**

Welcome to the third edition of our Involving You Improving Lives Newsletter. While this edition has been a little slower in being issued I truly hope you enjoy the latest news and updates we have put together to keep you informed and involved.

This edition will provide you with an update on Local Involvement Groups, Local Engagement Partnership, latest news and events, a story on the purchase of new buses/cars for day care and residential services and some news of regional transformation projects, which will support learning disability.

**Goodbye**

I also want to share with you news of my retirement at the end of March 2019. I have worked in Health and Social Care for almost 34 years and one third of my time has been served as the Assistant Director for Adult Learning Disability Services.

I came to the post in 2007 and have seen many changes over the last 11 plus years. I must pay tribute to you as service users and carers and to all of the staff and people who have worked with me and my team to continue to advocate for people with a learning disability and to work to improve services in the Western Trust. I also want to acknowledge the support and partnership arrangements we have with a range of independent providers who also support people with a learning disability and their carers.

**Work together**

Services need to continue to grow and respond to presenting need now and for the future. Through the statutory duty of involvement we also need to continue to work together to shape service provision into the future both at a local level through the Local Involvement Groups and at a strategic level to influence and shape services.

While I will exit the stage at the end of March, it has been a very great privilege for me to serve you and to travel part of life's journey with you. I wish you all the very best for the future and I hope that services can go from strength to strength.

Rosaleen



**Rosaleen Harkin,  
Assistant Director,  
Adult Learning  
Disability Services,  
Lakeview Hospital**



## Regional Transformation Projects: Moving ahead to the next level

Regional Learning Disability Service Model: There is a need to review learning disability service provision. We have worked to implement the Bamford Review and it is now time to move to the next level. This regional project will have involvement across the five Trusts in Northern Ireland and will be led by the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency. The Western Trust has been provided with funding to appoint a project coordinator to support this work.



The aim of the review is to design a model for learning disability services that:

- Are regionally consistent
- More closely reflective of the needs and expectations of individuals and families
- Develop primarily community-based support

rather than institutionally-based support

- Provide a strategic response to the many interrelated challenges facing learning disability, such as transitions from children’s services, the growing number of delayed

discharges from hospital, the provision of short breaks for people with complex and challenging behaviours and support for older carers

- Will specify what effective and efficient services should look like regionally

## Shared Lives Approach

Shared lives and Shared Care schemes, also referred to locally as Adult Placements, have been in operation in Northern Ireland for more than 20 years.

The service has traditionally been offered to people with a learning disability. However, in England and Scotland the service has been expanded to support people with other disabilities, including older people.

The purpose of a shared lives approach is to recruit and match dedicated individuals to service users who require placements, short breaks, day opportunities, or those who need support to transition from hospital to home. Care is

provided in their own homes. Shared Lives is a regulated service that provides choice and person-centred care to service users and their carers. This

approach offers a model of social care that is based on relationships which enable service users to remain living in their communities, build long-term sustainable relationships and reduce social isolation.

Funding has been provided to the Western Trust to appoint a project coordinator to support this work.

We will seek your involvement in both of these projects over the next 12 months and we will keep you updated on progress.



# ALD day centres to get more mobile with the purchase of amazing new buses



**A** number of new vehicles have been purchased by the Trust following feedback from families at involvement meetings. During discussions with service users and families, some issues were raised highlighting the transport difficulties being experienced by service users attending day centres and also for those residing in residential homes.



Day care managers from the ALD service said the buses would make a real difference to people. "The clients were spending a lot of time on the bus because there was only one bus, especially clients who were in rural areas. "It gives them more flexibility to get out and about and spend more time in the day centres. The Omagh and Fermanagh buses will make a real difference when they come at the end of March." The following facilities

All smiles as the new buses are delivered to day services at Glenside, Maybrook and Lilliput Theatre Company.

will receive the additional vehicles over the next few weeks: Benbradagh Day Centre and Willow Group will receive two minibuses; Creamery House Residential Home will get one minibus; Lilliput Theatre Group (day opportunities) is set to get one minibus; Glenside Day Centre is getting one minibus; Maybrook Day Centre has received one minibus;

Oaktree Day Centre has received one minibus; Omagh Day Services is set to receive two minibuses; Ralps Close Residential Home will receive one car while Fermanagh Day Services will received three people carriers. The vehicles are currently being delivered to these facilities, which will be completed by the end of March.



## Involvement in Adult Learning Disability Services

We have been on a journey of involvement over the past year to help improve services in the Trust and develop an involvement mechanism for service users, carers, Trust staff and providers. As part of the new agreed model for the service, five Local Involvement Groups (LIG) were initiated in Derry/Londonderry,

Enniskillen, Limavady, Omagh and Strabane. The groups met for the first time last September and again in November and January/February. More are planned for the coming months (See back page for details). The recently developed Local Engagement Partnership is hoping to come along to the

Local Involvement Group meetings soon to tell them about its work. If you would like to hear more about the Local Engagement Partnership please contact Carina Boyle, Head of Service/Professional Social Work Lead, at Lakeview on 028 71864363 or email [carina.boyle@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:carina.boyle@westerntrust.hscni.net).



ALD services Local Involvement Group in Bendradagh, Limavady.

The Local Involvement Group held in Maybrook, Derry.



Local Involvement Group meetings held last November in (clockwise from above), Omagh, Strabane and Enniskillen.





## Dragons, drama and dancing with Glenside in Strabane



Inclusion dance group performed 'Let the Dance Begin' on February 7 in the Alley Theatre Strabane. The project was funded by Arts Care and the Pushkin Trust, and brought together community groups and schools to celebrate dance, music, art and the spoken word. A Valentine's Day disco was also held, with music provided by Ann Marie, a local artist. Service users and staff danced and partied all afternoon to celebrate the day of love.



On February 21, Mary's Ark, a mobile micro zoo, visited the centre, bringing a number of animals for service users to hold, pet and feed. There was a lamb, a goat, chicks, rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, a hedgehog, chinchillas, a bearded dragon and snakes. The visit was a huge success, with the bravest holding the snakes, and everyone finding out about the animals, some of which they had never seen before.

## Nurses take the lead in bespoke programme of learning

### Caring cultures: Success for these amazing nurses in a new course for Learning Disability

Six Western Trust staff have completed, along with nursing staff from the other HSC trusts, the Foundation of Nursing Studies (FONS) Creating Caring Cultures, which is a bespoke programme for learning disability nurse-led teams.

The programme aims to create healthcare workplaces that are person-centred, conducive to the delivery of high quality care and which provide a supportive place for staff to work.

The six Western Trust nurses, from left to right: Lorraine Feeney (ward sister), Rita



Traynor (deputy ward sister), Lorraine Clarke (acting head of service and lead nurse), AnneMarie McColgan (community nurse, adults), Jacqui Boyd (community nurse, children) and Helen Coyle (community nurse, adults).



## Lilliput Theatre Company rose to new heights at Christmas with their first panto

After 26 years in the running Lilliput Theatre Company did something they had never done before.

The company presented their very first panto at the Playhouse in Derry, including a private matinee and two evening shows – a spectacular Christmas delight! The premier show 'Let's do Panto!' featured 22 passionately talented actors of Lilliput presenting a cleverly written piece by their very own staff member Brian Hasson. The show featured a few of everyone's favourite and iconic panto scenes including Snow

White and the Seven Dwarfs, Cinderella and Peter Pan. There were also special guest performers from the local community including class P5A from Oakgrove Primary School, Lia Della Friel from Clonmany, Jessica Ogilvie from St Cecilia's College and St Joseph's Musical Society. Last but not least to mention was an appearance from the big man himself – Gerry Temple local Santa impersonator, who posed for photos after the show in exchange for a donation to Foyle Hospice. Clare-Ellen Duddy, senior day

care worker at Lilliput Theatre Company, said: "The three performances were a major hit and came very close to a sell-out for each show. "Now being back to their every day schedule with a few events planned in between; Lilliput are not ones to be hanging around as they are also already in the early stages of composing their second panto expected to be just as good if not better than their first – so watch this space." For more information on the theatre company, please contact Clare-Ellen Duddy on 07342061591.



## What's on: Festivals and Easter fun

The first ever festival for people with disabilities is being launched in Fermanagh and Omagh District.

The 'I Can Fest' will take place at venues across the district from Monday 4 March until Saturday 9 March 2019. For a full programme of activities you can download the brochure using the link below or by clicking here (<https://www.fermanaghomagh.com/app/uploads/2019/02/Icanfest-Programme.pdf>)



### Bunnies and bonnets

An Easter party is being held for service users at Benbradagh, Willows and Garden in Limavady on April 18. There will also be an Easter bonnet/cap parade. For more information contact the Benbradagh Centre on 028 777 61103.

The Berryburn Centre in Lakelview is co-ordinating some events for clients within the hospital. This will include the clients taking part in pancake making on Pancake Tuesday and making decorations for St Patricks Day. They are also organising an Easter bunny hunt.

### A little me time

St Columb's Park House in Derry is holding an event to encourage people to look after themselves. On Wednesday, 20 March, 2019 from 11am-1pm there will be health checks, complimentary therapy taster sessions, health

information and tea/coffee and scones on arrival.

To register, contact Alison Gallagher of the health improvement, equality and involvement department on 028 8283 5026 or email: [Alison.gallagher@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Alison.gallagher@westerntrust.hscni.net).

### Seasonal celebrations!

Maybrook Day Centre will be celebrating St Patrick's Day on Friday, 15 March, with a tea dance/disco. Clients will be dressed in green and the centre will be a sea of green! Easter preparations are also underway, with lots of painting and creating displays. We will host our annual Easter bonnet competition

with prizes for the most creative. We will also be hosting a coffee morning on Easter week and invite parents in to admire our courtyard, which we are currently working on for spring/summer.

Glenside Centre in Strabane hopes to hold a Mothers' Day tea at the end of March and an Easter disco.



## It's never too late to become involved!

### Your next Local Involvement Groups meetings:

Independent facilitator, Joni Millar, was appointed to support the Local Involvement Groups to establish themselves. After discussion with carers at meetings, it was agreed that Joni would meet carers informally without Trust staff being present. The ALD PPI Advisory Group views this as the next crucial step in moving the PPI process forward alongside development of the Strategic Involvement Group. Joni had her first round of meetings with the local groups in January/February 2019. The second round of meetings has been agreed as the following:

Monday 11 March	7pm-8.30pm, Glenside Centre, Strabane
Monday 25 March	7pm-8.30pm, Bendradagh Centre, Limavady
Tuesday 12 March	11am-12.30pm, Omagh Enterprise Centre

If you would like to get involved either visit the website below to fill out the relevant form or contact Ann Gormley or Geraldine Holmes on 028 71 864323.

**Check out the latest ALD news online at [westerntrust.hscni.net/3660](http://westerntrust.hscni.net/3660)**

