



Western Health  
and Social Care Trust

# NEWSLETTER

## Winter 2021/22



## Adult Learning Disability Services

### WHAT IS INSIDE?

Welcome to the Winter 2021/22 edition of our Adult Learning Disability Services Newsletter. In this special edition we highlight some events our Service Users have taken part in over the past few months.

**See inside for more...**

- COVID19 Advice
- Update on Local Involvement Groups
- How to become a Host Carer



**Friends Together Choir**



**Christmas Celebrations**



**NI's first LD Sensory Room Opened at Altnagelvin Emergency Department**



**Crannog Dental Centre Official Opening**



Visit the Adult Learning Disability Services Hub for:

- Latest News
- Upcoming Events
- Information and Resources

[westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/](https://westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/)

Personal and  
Public Involvement  
(PPI)



Involving You,  
Improving Lives

## Adult Learning Disability Online Hub



The Western Trust Adult Learning Disability Hub contains a wide range of information and a "What's On?" section which features events for Adults with a Learning Disability.

The Hub can be found at [westerntrust.hscni.net/services/adult-services/adult-learning-disability-services/](http://westerntrust.hscni.net/services/adult-services/adult-learning-disability-services/)

If you have any suggestions for items you would like to see included in the Hub please contact the Local Involvement Facilitator at [ald.involvement@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:ald.involvement@westerntrust.hscni.net)

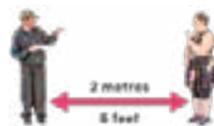
## COVID19 Update - Attendance at Day Centres / Day Opportunities

As you are all aware COVID-19 remains a concern. We have to ensure the health and safety of our Service Users, Staff and all in the community by remaining vigilant and not taking unnecessary risks. Individuals must not attend day care or day opportunities if they are unwell, have a high temperature, cough, or have a change in or loss of taste and smell. Individuals must not attend day care or day opportunities if a member of their household is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms and awaiting a test, or has received a positive result.

Over the next weeks and months there will be an increase in colds, flus and tummy bugs. These symptoms will be treated as potential COVID-19 until confirmed otherwise and we ask that individuals do not attend day care or day opportunities until free from all symptoms.

Thank you all for your continued support. We will continue to review the situation and communicate any updates as required. Meanwhile, we ask you to:

**Stay 2 metres apart to social distance.**



**Wash your hands.**



**Wear a face mask.**



## Get Involved...

If you would like to submit an article for the next edition of the Adult Learning Disability Services Newsletter, please contact Deirdre Kelly by 1st March 2022 at [deirdre.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:deirdre.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net)

## Friends Together Christmas Performance

Congratulations to the Western Trust Adult Learning Disability Choir 'Friends Together' who held their very first Christmas Concert performance in the Alley Theatre, Strabane. The choir which includes service users, carers and staff rehearsed via Zoom over the past couple of months and performed a number of Christmas songs and other favourite songs including 'Wagon Wheel'.

The Friends Together performance was compered by Micky Doherty and service users where delighted to receive a video message from their favourite Country Artist Nathan Carter. Thank you Nathan for taking the time to record this special Christmas message and to Micky for compering – to see the delight and smiles on everyone's faces was truly joyful and the real meaning of Christmas!!

If you would like to join the choir and have fun through singing and dancing contact Deirdre on 02871 864323 or [Deirdre.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:Deirdre.kelly@westerntrust.hscni.net)



Photos courtesy of the Alley Theatre



[westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/](http://westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/)



### Christmas Celebrations!

Throughout December there was a lot of excitement in our facilities for Christmas!

Our service users took part in a range of Christmas Activities including Polliwogs, Christmas Jumper Days and Santa even visited some facilities!

### Evergreen Day Centre



### Maybrook Day Centre



For all the latest News, Information and Events for Adult Learning Disability Services, check out the new-look Online Hub at:



[westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/](https://westerntrust.hscni.net/service/adult-learning-disability-services/)

### Cityside Supported Living Services



### Benbradagh Resource Centre



### Lackaghboy Day Centre



### Dromore Outreach Centre



## Killadeas Day Centre

Our service users and staff got in the Christmas spirit by taking part in Polliwogs, watching films and welcoming Santa to the Day Centre!



## Valley and Oak Tree Day Centres Christmas Ball

The Valley and Oaktree Day Centre clients and staff had their Christmas Ball in the Belfray Country Inn on Tuesday 21st December 2021, everyone enjoyed the meal and dancing.



Excited for the Christmas meal!



Enjoying some dancing!



Gary and Brian



Catriona

## Update on Local Involvement Group (LIG) Meetings

It was decided at the Strategic Involvement Group meeting on 3rd November 2021 to 'pause' the LIG meetings in order to facilitate an evaluation of the involvement process to date.

Group members can expect to be contacted in January by the evaluator in order to arrange a series of one-to-one interviews and focus groups. In the meantime, we would like to reassure members that programmes and events will continue to be co-ordinated by the Involvement Team.

We expect that all LIG and SIG members will come together again in early April for a presentation of the evaluation findings.



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## Crannog Dental Centre Official Opening

Crannog Dental Centre was officially opened recently at Lakeview Hospital. This is a Special Care Dentistry site for patients with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, complex medical needs and elderly patients who are unable to attend a high street dentist (General Dental Practitioner).

The Centre was officially opened by Chief Executive, Neil Guckian.



## New Directions

The New Directions service works to connect adults with a learning disability to activities that interest them in their own local communities. It might be support to start a work placement, take up a new hobby, get involved in a social activity, a course of education or help to get involved in sport and recreation.



If you are interested, you

- Must have a Social Worker in the Learning Disability team
- Aged 18+ at time of referral
- Be willing and able to take part in day opportunities in the local community
- Have ability to work towards becoming independent within chosen activity and be able to sustain the day opportunity independently or with natural supports.

For more information, please contact Margaret McDaid  
c/o Lakeview Hospital, Gransha Park  
Email [margarets.mcdaid@westerntrust.hscni.net](mailto:margarets.mcdaid@westerntrust.hscni.net)  
Telephone: 028 71864362 or 07903078026



## LD Sensory Room Opened in Altnagelvin ED

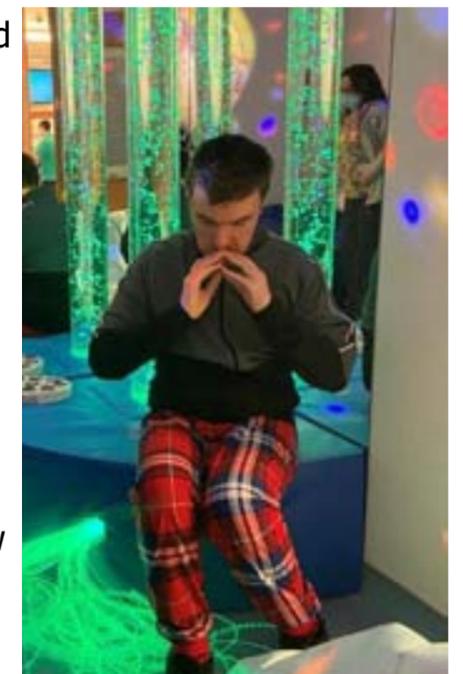
The first Sensory Room in Northern Ireland to support Adult Learning Disability patients opened in the Emergency Department (ED) at Altnagelvin Hospital on 1st December.



Clionagh McElhinney, Acute Liaison Nurse for Adult Learning Disability, said "I am the first Acute Liaison Nurse in Northern Ireland and have been in post at Altnagelvin Hospital from 2019. Since then I have realised that patients with a learning disability find it very difficult to cope with an over stimulating, busy environment such as the ED. I am delighted to say that with the support of my colleagues here in Altnagelvin Hospital's ED we secured a room which was formerly used to triage patients and transformed it into a sensory room. It provides a soothing, calming environment with comfy chairs, colour changing led lights and a digital sound system. Patients can have their clinical procedures undertaken away from busy, over stimulating cubicles or waiting area. Feedback from our patients and their families has been very positive."



Patient, Christian, really enjoyed his experience and was in and out of the ED in 30 minutes. His mum, Jeannette, said "Christian's experience in the ED in comparison to previous visits has been incredible. It helped keep him calm so he could get tests and procedures carried out without causing stress and anxiety. This will help so many patients like Christian and their families. It will alleviate their anxiety and minimise stress of having to take their relative to ED."



Sr Trudy Wallace, ED Manager at Altnagelvin Hospital said "We are very excited to have this new sensory room installed in our ED. This room will help to support the needs of patients with a learning disability requiring treatment."

### Could you be a Host Carer?

- Do you have free time which you would like to fill in a meaningful way?
- Do you have the space to open your home to an individual with a Learning Disability for short breaks?
- Do you enjoy outdoor activities, going out socially, going long drives in the car and other leisurely activities?
- Are you interested on taking on a new challenge?
- Are you interested in receiving an allowance?
- If so then read on as we would like to hear from you!

The Host Care Scheme is an alternative to Trust facility short breaks. It enables individuals with a learning disability to enjoy their short break in the comfort of their Host's home.

Host Carers nominate themselves and their family home to offer a short break service. They are assessed by our scheme social workers to determine their suitability to provide a service. The assessment includes an Access NI check for everyone within the household over 16 to ensure they have no criminal convictions and a medical for the Host Carer completed by their GP. The Host Carer must provide references and complete the scheme's training. The assessment is then heard at a panel which includes a number of professionals from different backgrounds and a decision is made in regards to their ability to provide care. If the Host Carer is passed at panel the 'matching process' will begin with Service Users.

An 'introduction session' will be arranged between the Host Carer and Service User (including their family). The Host Carer will be provided with the details of the Service Users' needs. If this is successful a further session will be arranged when the Service User will go on their own and spend some time with the Host. A plan will be worked out to accommodate the end goal of overnight short breaks if this is what the Service User wants.

We would like to expand the number of Host Carers we have. If you have read the above and think you or someone you know could open up their home for a number of hours or nights per week to provide an invaluable service to an individual with a Learning Disability please get in contact with us on the numbers below. We will be happy to provide you with more information in relation to the Host Care Scheme:

Address: Adult Placement and Host Care Scheme  
Lakeview Hospital  
12a Gransha Park  
Londonderry  
BT47 6WJ



Glenda Barnett - Scheme Manager- 07747268049 / 02871864362  
Emma Nutt - Scheme Social Worker- 07795224118 / 02871864362