

Local Account

Service Area: Adults with learning disabilities

The Care Act 2014 and Children and Families Act 2014

Key Points:

- Improved rights for carers, including a right to a carer's assessment, which is independent of any assessment of the cared for person.
- The right to support in their caring role, and for choices outside their caring role.
- A cap on care costs and other social care funding reforms – by law from April 2016 all individuals will have a lifetime cap on the amount they need to pay for social care costs for care assessed as meeting critical or substantial needs.
- A focus on prevention and personalised services and improving individuals' well-being.
- Unified approach to person centred support planning and assessment with health will ensure good care pathways and outcomes for service users
- The extension of support for young people with an Education, Health and Care plan from 18 years to the end of the academic year in which they reach 25 years old.

How services are commissioned

Services for adults with learning disabilities are jointly commissioned by Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group.

Adults with learning disabilities in Somerset

1. What is a Learning Disability?

- The term 'learning disability' has a range of definitions, and covers a range of both social and health care needs. It includes people who need some day-to-day support to manage daily living to people with complex and profound learning and physical disabilities and complex healthcare needs.
- The definition of a "learning disability" does not include all those who have a "learning difficulty", which is more broadly defined in education legislation.
- A learning disability is not a disease, is not an illness and is not acquired in adulthood or as a result of disease. A learning disability will be evident from childhood and, in many cases, the cause of learning disability may not be clear, while in others, genetics, chromosomal abnormalities or environmental factors may be the cause.

2. Who is this in Somerset?

- Population estimates indicate that there are currently 2037 people aged 18 and over with a moderate to severe learning disability living in Somerset. Of these 441 people aged between 18 and 64 years are estimated to have a severe learning disability. Not all of these people will access social care services. Some will be in contact with the Council's preventative services, and some will be known to the NHS through contact with their General Practitioner (GP). Others will be living independently and not in contact with, or known to, services.
- The number of people aged 18-64 with learning disabilities living in Somerset is not expected to increase. However, young people moving from children's to adult services frequently have severe and complex disabilities that may have made them less likely to survive into adulthood in the past, which require significant levels of support to meet their needs.
- The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 9% between 2014 and 2018 and 35% by 2030. This increase in those aged over 65 is particularly significant as, not only are people in this group likely to have parents who have died or are themselves frail, they are also likely to be suffering from other conditions associated with age, including dementia.
- Increases in local demand for services usually come from the following sources:
 - Young people reaching 18 and entering adult services.
 - People whose needs have increased or who require a significant increase in the level or type of service they receive. Although the needs of some people already in receipt of services will increase each year, the most frequent reason is where a carer experiences a crisis and is unable to continue to provide the level of support to a customer that they have in the past.
 - People with learning disabilities and their families move to Somerset.

People with learning disabilities who received a Social care service in 2013 / 14

Age group	Number of people
18 - 64	1567
65 and over	162

How does Somerset County Council plan to support services for adults with learning disabilities?

Somerset County Council and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group's overall outcomes for services for adults with learning disabilities are that:

- People with learning disabilities and their families will have more control over their services
- People with learning disabilities and their families can make more day to day choices;
- People with learning disabilities are helped to have the same opportunities as everyone else;
- The buildings people live in are high quality and fit for purpose;
- Services are good value for money.

Each of these intentions will require changes to the way we plan and deliver services, which you can read more about in our [Joint Commissioning Intentions for Adults with Learning Disabilities](#).

You can also read about our plans below.

Our spending on services for adults with learning disabilities

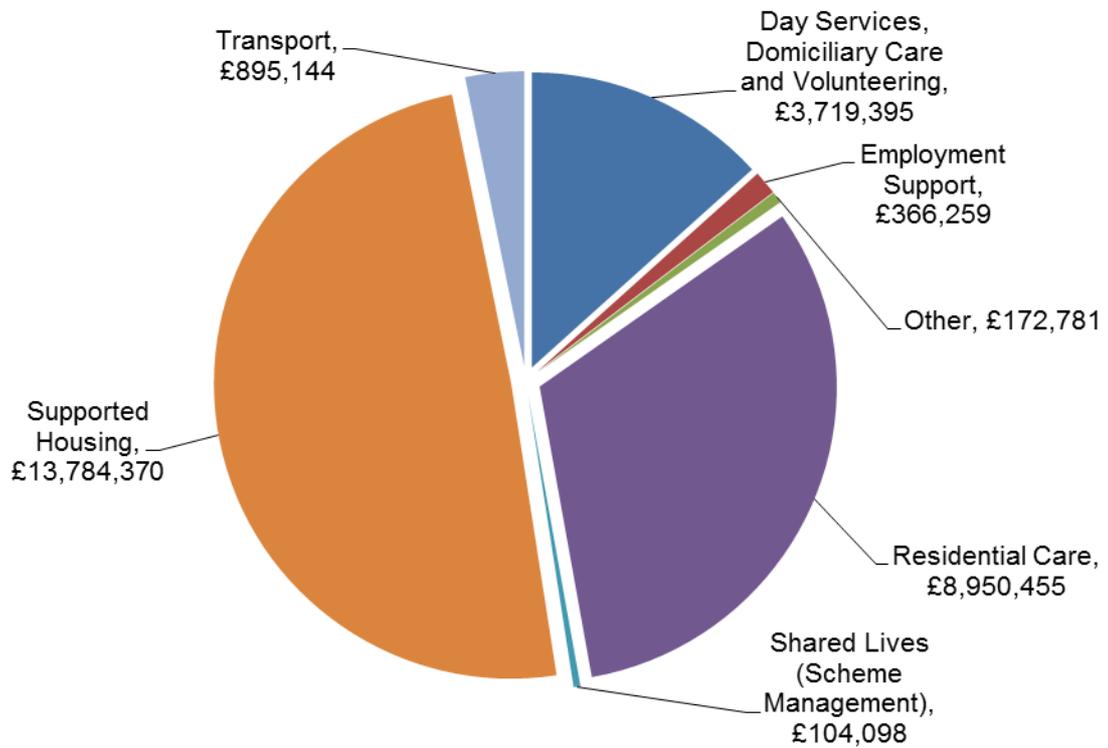
Somerset County Council has operated a pooled budget arrangement with the NHS for adult learning disability services since the early 1990s.

Unlike other areas of adult social care, Somerset County Council still has an internal service that provides care and support to adults with learning disabilities. As lead commissioner the County Council also contracts with a wide range of external providers for rest of our service provision. Our expenditure during the 2013/14 financial year is therefore broken down into three parts – our spend on our internal Assessment and Care Management function (Community Teams for Adults with Learning disabilities), our internal Learning Disabilities Provider Service and external providers as follows:

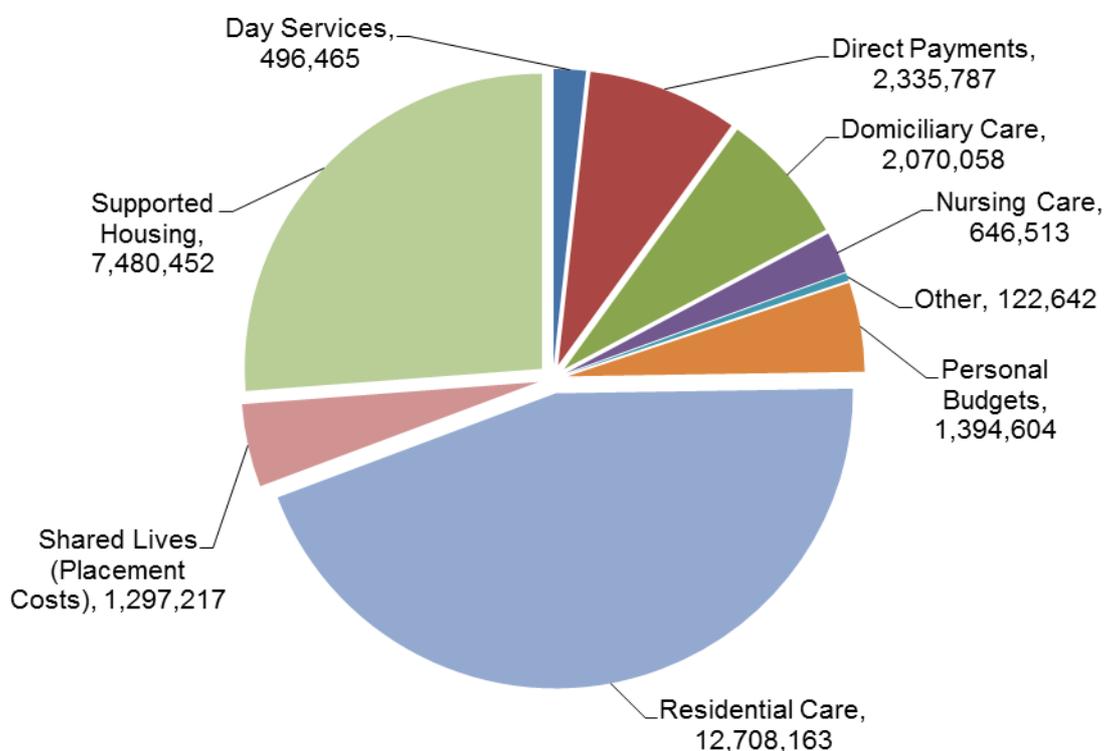
Assessment and Care Management

Budget	Amount
Employees	£1,521,307
Running Expenses	£72,710
Income	£41,074
Total	£1,552,943

The Learning Disabilities Provider Service



Services Purchased from External Providers



Case Study

You can watch and read about people stories on the Local Account home page.

<http://dimensions-uk.org/news-and-events/explosive-role-for-wells-man/>

<http://dimensions-uk.org/about-us/our-stories/mark-and-supported-employment/>

Plans

What you have already told us	What we have already done	What we are going to do in 2014 – 15 and beyond
That, if it could not remain part of Somerset County Council, the Learning Disabilities provider service should transfer to a Social Enterprise Partnership with customers, carers and staff integral to the process	The Somerset County Council Cabinet decided to pursue the option of creating a Social Enterprise Partnership “in which customers, carers and staff are an integral part of the design of the social enterprise and the selection process”	We expect to continue to ensure that customers, carers and staff are integral to the creation of the Social Enterprise Partnership during 2015 as we work towards launch of the new organisation by April 2016.

	Since the decision was taken we have actively involved customers, carers and staff in the programme of work to create the Social Enterprise Partnership	
That customers want to be able to make more choices about who supports them, when they are supported, the things that they do and be part of the communities where they live.	We are working with our Community Teams for Adults with Learning Disabilities to increase the number of people with Person Centred plans	<p>We will recommission a number of contracts with external providers by the summer of 2015 with the aim of increasing customer choice.</p> <p>We will reduce our commissioning of residential care services by at least 50% by 2020 through the commissioning alternative community based services</p>
That we should have outcomes focused service specifications that customers and carers have been integral in writing	We have rewritten all our service specifications with customers and carers to make them outcomes focused	We will use the new specifications from 2015 onwards, and periodically review them with customers and carers
That customers with learning disabilities wanted the support to enable them to get and keep real jobs paid at the national minimum wage or above with the same terms and conditions as anyone else, or to work for themselves at the "going rate" for the type of work they do.	<p>We have changed our employment services so that they are focused on getting people a job or become self-employed.</p> <p>We exceeded our target of 40 people achieving employment by 31/03/2014</p>	Although the changes we have made have been successful, we know that there are many more people who want to get a job or work for themselves. We will therefore be working with our Community Teams for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Employment Support Providers to significantly increase the number of people in real, paid, work.
That customers have difficulty accessing	We are working with partner organisations to	We will work with partner organisations

housing opportunities in the community.	ensure that reasonable adjustments are made so that customers with learning disabilities are not disadvantaged	to develop a housing strategy
That we should avoid making placements outside of Somerset as this often means people moving away from their families, communities and the places that they know.	We have worked jointly with Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group to identify people placed outside of Somerset that meet the criteria of the Winterbourne View Concordat and successfully put in place alternative arrangements for all but one person.	<p>We will continue to work to identify appropriate options for the remaining customer that meets the criteria of the Winterbourne View concordat</p> <p>We will review all residential care placements outside of Somerset to ensure they are appropriate.</p> <p>We will avoid making any new specialist placements outside of Somerset unless there is a clear, evidence based rationale for doing so, that must demonstrate that all options for supporting the customer within Somerset have been exhausted.</p>
That the ways our Community Teams for Adults with Learning Disabilities support people is not always working.	We have listened to the feedback given at the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board in September 2014 and will coordinate a small group to agree what changes are needed.	We will agree a plan to implement the changes that are agreed

Sources of information

- Population data available from www.poppi.org.uk and www.pansi.org.uk
- Activity data for 2013/14 financial year is available from the Health and social Care Information Centre (HSCIC) Referrals, Assessments and Packages of care (RAP) return for the 2013/14 financial year. Available from:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/searchcatalogue?productid=16628&topics=2%2fSocial+care%2fSocial+care+activity%2fReferrals%2c+Assessments+and+Packages+of+Care&sort=Relevance&size=10&page=1#top>