

Protecting Adults with Learning Disabilities from Abuse

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Protection moves forward with local practice

It is somewhat satisfying to be able to say that the issue of protection and its requirements are not being lost amongst the vast range of priorities facing services.

The danger signals that have come from the investigations into learning disability services in both Cornwall and Sutton and Merton provide us with much food for thought. Services in HSE Dublin NE have been participating in development of their quality framework by piloting their Guidelines on the Protection from Abuse of Vulnerable Adults with a Disability and accompanying staff, manager and designated role training.



Staff in the Sperrin Lakelands area are exploring the protection issues raised from work supporting parents with learning disabilities. Effective joint working between learning disability teams and child/family intervention teams is required if learning disabled adults are to have quality opportunities to be successful parents.

Efforts in HSE West have combined issues governing risk assessment and management with the requirements of working to protective policies outlined in Trust in Care and Safe Care for Adults to ensure improved protection practice. This is supported in Donegal with the development of 3 pilot sites where training on Relationships and Sexuality has taken place for staff and parent/carers.

Day Service Managers in the Foyle area have taken the opportunity to examine how the lessons offered from failing service investigations can be used to support plans for the modernisation agenda that they are facing.

Increased time for project activity

The CAWT Development Centre has confirmed that the funding for this project is available until the end of March 2008, 6 months beyond the original date. This means that the learning disability sub-group can commission some further work.

If any services have ideas about gaps in the protection practice area that they would like developed via the project, then please contact your project board representative in order for your suggestion to be considered.





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Update on project training events

Tool-kit Train the Trainers events have now happened in: HSE Services in Sligo, Foyle area Day Services, Stage Beyond Theatre Workshop in Derry, Rehab Care Services in Monaghan. Unfortunately there have been production problems but these have now been resolved and any services still awaiting delivery of their tool-kits should receive them in the near future. Further training is planned for Navan and has been requested in the Sperrin Lakeland area. Other events will be announced soon, but individual services are welcome to request a local event.



Manager training exploring the issues of service practice and governance aligned with protection have happened in: Letterkenny, Dungannon, Derry and with Foyle area day service managers. Unfortunately the event planned for Monaghan had to be cancelled due to ill health but this and other local dates will be announced soon. These will be offered in Newry, Sligo, Omagh and Dundalk

Calling for examples of good practice

One of the outcomes of the project is to enable the sharing of information and good practice ideas regarding adult protection. So far the information collected has been sourced from services in mainland UK and America.

I would like to develop a register of good practice from services here on the island of Ireland. If you have any examples e.g. procedures, information provision, assessment formats, communication systems, care and support programme practice; I would like to hear from you. Contact the project office via telephone or e-mail leaving your details and I will send you a pro-forma to complete.



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