

Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children's Services – For Health and Social Care Scrutiny – For information	30/10/2017
Subject: Employment for people with a learning disability	Public
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Summary

There are two national targets for people with learning disabilities – one for the number of people in settled accommodation and the other for the number of people with a learning disability in paid employment. Being in paid work gives a person an income and helps the economy in general. People with a disability have a right to expect the same opportunities as others. The performance for people in City of London stands at 0% out of a total of 13 people who are supported by the City. The report illustrates the measures that are being taken to assist people into employment.

Recommendation

The report is for information.

Main Report

Background

1.1 There are a total of 13 adults with a learning disability supported currently by the City of London. 6 of are in a residential or nursing placement and employment seems to be a challenge due to their complex needs. Of the remainder most are in a supported living environment (a flat with support provided) and have a varying level of needs. The adult social care team are taking a focussed approach to reviewing the possibility of each of the 13 gaining voluntary or paid employment. The report summarises the position to date.

Current Position

2.1 Each of the 13 people has been allocated a social worker to get to know their wishes – some may not want to be in employment whilst others clearly do, the positive benefits of employment will be explored with everyone. The age distribution is from age 26 to 55 with most being in their 30's. Each worker will visit the person and speak to them and their family/care team, as appropriate, with a view to establishing a focus on employment rather than a more general care review. See Appendix One for the assessment being used.

- Contact has been made with the Tower project who have an employment and training team. They work closely with employers and Jobcentreplus so can give specialist advice and support.
- An action plan is in place to follow up the actions from the initial assessments with an aim of finding paid employment for those who want this and are work ready. Specialist support and training will be given on a spot purchased basis (i.e. support will be bought according to each individual's need to secure training to help them get work ready).
- The Tower employment project has a good record of finding employment, however they caution that for people out of the job market for a long time and with profound needs it may take up to a year or so to get them onto the first rung of the employment ladder. It is positive that around half the people of the current list mentioned above are in some form of voluntary work and therefore it is a logical next step to look for employment.
- The Special Educational Needs action plan includes actions for people coming up to adulthood to be assisted to find employment so that there continues to be a focus on this area in future.
- Two suggested apprenticeship posts within adult and children social care are being explored as a way to assist people with a disability into employment.

Implications

3.1 The action plan is being developed.

3.2 The focussed approach will determine a realistic timeline to follow to ensure that those who wish to be in employment are assisted to do so.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Assessment form

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