**Improving health for people with a learning disability**

**28th November 2017, Strawberry Lodge, Carshalton**

**Conference report**

1. **Welcome and introductions**

Mavis Peart, Chair of Sutton Mencap, welcomed everyone to the conference. Planning for the conference, which has been jointly funded by Sutton Parents Forum and Sutton Mencap, had brought together a number of partners from voluntary and public sector organisations.

1. **Local health services for people with a learning disability**

**Health passports, health action plans and annual health checks**

Jane Watts and Choonwha Jung from the Sutton Clinical Health team gave a presentation.



Additional comments were as follows:

* How to get blank copies of the health passport. These are available at [www.easyhealth.org.uk/listing/hospital-passports-(leaflets)](http://www.easyhealth.org.uk/listing/hospital-passports-(leaflets)). Other information is also available from the easyhealth website.
* St Helier hospital has a Learning Disabilities Liaison Nurse who can provide additional support.
* Whilst the healthcare passport is not attached to the hospital’s electronic record for the person, the record can be flagged to say that the person has a passport.

**Eye care services**

Subodh Rusdharry, Health Commissioning Manager gave a presentation.



Additional comments were as follows:

* The service provides 45 minute eye tests at 5 opticians in the borough. If necessary, the time can be split over a number of appointments. Extra time can be allowed for the optometrist to read and complete the necessary forms.
* People should fill in the ‘telling the optician about me’ form (available for download at [www.seeability.org/preparing-for-an-eye-test](http://www.seeability.org/preparing-for-an-eye-test)) and take it with them to the appointment.
* People should also take a feedback about my eye test form (available for download from [www.seeability.org/after-the-eye-test](http://www.seeability.org/after-the-eye-test)) which will be completed by the optician during the assessment.
* The service seems to be not well known and needs to be promoted more widely, for example through the Sutton Local Offer webpages.

**Free Flu jabs**

Debbie Calver, Infection Prevention and Control Specialist Nurse, Public Health explained that free flu jabs are available for people with a learning disability and for parents and carers and support workers in Sutton. Debbie showed a film made for people with a learning disability which is available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYgH181Xijs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYgH181Xijs).

A specific question was asked regarding whether a nasal vaccine could be used if people have a fear of needles. Debbie explained that whilst this may be an option to discuss with a GP, the nasal vaccine is not licenced for use with adults and may be less effective.

**Improving oral health**

Dr Fereshteh Taleifaz, Senior Dental Officer, Kings College Hospital gave a presentation.



Additional comments were made as follows:

* The service can be provided in a range of different settings, including home visits.
* Orthodontist services can be provided within hospital. If the hospital is aware that someone has a learning disability, they will allow more time.
* A wide range of people can make referrals to the service, including parents and carers.

1. **Service users’ experiences of using health services**

Members of Speak Up Sutton gave a presentation on their experiences of using health services and discussed how health professionals can best support people with a learning disability. Mark Rawlings also gave an account of his recent experience of using local hospital services.

1. **Question time: Improving health for people with a learning disability**

Panel members were:

* Barbara McIntosh, Vice Chair, Healthwatch Sutton
* George Platts, Head of Mental Health, Transitions, Community and Clinical Health, London Borough of Sutton
* Clare Wilson, Deputy Managing Director, Sutton Clinical Commissioning Group

Key themes that came from questions to the panel were as follows:

* The need for better information on the services that are available, and more joined up approach to service delivery.
* A need for greater awareness of the link between learning disability and mental health issues as mental health issues are not always picked up. Concerns were also raised regarding different experiences for children and adults in terms of eligibility for services, ease of access and service delivery.
* The need for training on learning disability awareness and in particular whether frontline staff such as paramedics and emergency staff get the training they need.

**Other sources of information**

London Borough of Sutton Clinical Health Team

[www.sutton.gov.uk/directory\_record/87506/sutton\_clinical\_health\_team\_for\_people\_with\_learning\_disabilities](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/directory_record/87506/sutton_clinical_health_team_for_people_with_learning_disabilities)

Annual health checks

[www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenwithalearningdisability/Pages/AnnualHealthChecks.aspx](http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Childrenwithalearningdisability/Pages/AnnualHealthChecks.aspx)

Eye care pathway for people with a learning disability

[www.locsu.co.uk/community-services-pathways/community-eye-care-pathway-for-adults-and-young-pe](http://www.locsu.co.uk/community-services-pathways/community-eye-care-pathway-for-adults-and-young-pe)

Sutton Local Offer

[www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200611/suttons\_local\_offer](http://www.sutton.gov.uk/info/200611/suttons_local_offer)

Flu vaccination – easy read.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability)

Kings College Hospital Community Special Care Dentistry

[www.kch.nhs.uk/service/a-z/community-special-care-dentistry](http://www.kch.nhs.uk/service/a-z/community-special-care-dentistry)

Mencap health campaign

[www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health](http://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health)

Sutton Parents Forum

[www.suttonparentsforum.org.uk](http://www.suttonparentsforum.org.uk)

Speak Up Sutton

[www.advocacyforall.org.uk/self.php#sutton-su](http://www.advocacyforall.org.uk/self.php#sutton-su)

Healthwatch Sutton

[www.healthwatchsutton.org.uk/](http://www.healthwatchsutton.org.uk/)

Sutton Mencap

[www.suttonmencap.org.uk](http://www.suttonmencap.org.uk)

