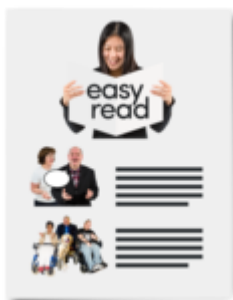


Response to the Social Care Taskforce report and the Winter Plan



From the co-chairs of the Advisory Group for People with Learning disabilities and Autistic people

23rd September 2020



We are glad to see our report from the Advisory Group has been published in full with the Taskforce's big targets.



We think it is good that the Taskforce report and the Winter Plan from the government have plans on

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE),
- Testing people to see if they have Coronavirus,
- Flu vaccines for everyone in social care,
- Support for support workers
- Helping support organisations keep going



The Taskforce report and the Winter Plan say a lot about care and support for older people and help for care homes.



We think there must also be more work and plans to support everyone who has support in the community and who lives in their own home.



The Taskforce said the government should work with all the 8 Advisory groups and look at the ideas they said are important.



Department
of Health &
Social Care

We really want the Department for Health and Social Care to do that quickly.

As Co Chairs of the Advisory Group for people with learning disabilities and autistic people we can help them do that.



The Winter Plan asks local organisations to

“put co-production at the heart of decision-making, involving people who receive health and care services, their families, and carers.”

This must happen across the country too



The Top 5 plans from our report were important plans about the whole country for the government and others like NHS England



These actions are important because they are the what people with learning disabilities, family members and supporters said they need to happen now.



1. Make the rules and guidance accessible at the same time as they come out.

People with learning disabilities and autistic people must have the same information at the same time as everyone else.



2. Make sure support services start up again or change how they work.

At the same time stop reviews or changes that are not needed by the people who get support.



These changes will help people and their families feel less worried and afraid – people said they need support they can trust and works for them.

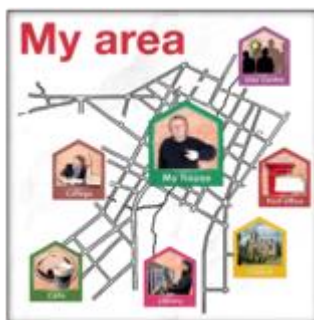


3. Make sure all support organisations have enough money and help to do their job during Coronavirus.

This includes them having enough PPE and tests for staff and people supported.



This must include all kinds of support and especially community support that is person centred.



4. Help stop so many people being alone and feeling lonely by helping people with learning disabilities and autistic people know about the community groups near them.



Also the government should help community groups work out how they can include people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



5. Councils, and Health services should find and support people who do not get social care support usually but who are finding it hard to cope during Coronavirus.



The taskforce and Winter Plan have actions on people's physical health. This is good but we think that there must be action on mental health support and well being.



We think Social Care plans cannot forget how important it is for people with learning disabilities, autistic people and families to be included and have good social support.



The Winter Plan asks local Councils and NHS to make services fairer and to work in partnership with people to make changes and follow this plan.



We think that the government should do the same.

The government should work with people with learning disabilities and autistic people and organisations that support them.



As part of this work they must get more information on what is happening for people so they can make better policies that are fair and based on what matters.



The people with learning disabilities and autistic people we heard from told us these actions must be done quickly.

They can not wait for good community support. They need support to be there for everyone who needs it now.

The Advisory Group's co-chairs:

Alex Fox OBE

Trevor Wright

Rachel Moody

Our thanks to Learning Disability England for help with making this response accessible at very short notice.