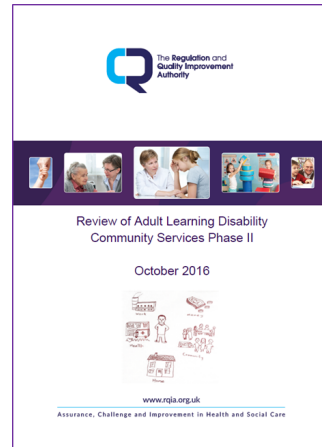


Find Out More

You can read the full report of our findings and recommendations for improvement on our website, or by clicking on the image of the report.



Review of Adult Learning Disability Community Services (Phase II), October 2016

As part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme, we examined the governance arrangements in the five health and social care trusts in relation to services for adults with a learning disability.

Estimates suggest that there are around 13,000 adults with a learning disability in Northern Ireland, and it is anticipated that this figure will increase over the coming years, particularly those with more complex needs.

We assessed the performance of services against the Department of Health's Service Framework for Learning Disability.

This followed on from RQIA's baseline review of services conducted in 2013, and found that while improvements have been made, further work is required in a number of areas to meet the standards detailed in the service framework.

This review makes 25 recommendations to support improvements in the provision of services for every adult with a learning disability across Northern Ireland



Our reviews are undertaken as part of RQIA's Three Year Review Programme 2015-2018. Read more about the areas we are reviewing by visiting our website or by clicking on this image.

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Methodology

RQIA's reviews aim to identify best practice, to highlight gaps or shortfalls in services requiring improvement and to protect the public interest. This reviews was conducted by a review team which included RQIA review staff and an independent assessor with a background in learning disability service.

- RQIA reviewed the implementation by health and social care trusts of their action plans to address the findings of RQIA's 2013 baseline review of learning disability services.
- A questionnaire was sent to each trust seeking information on progress against the Department of Health's Service Framework for Learning Disability.
- Validation meetings were held with HSC trust staff.
- Stakeholder engagement meetings took place with adults with a learning disability, carer groups and a number of voluntary organisations.
- A full report of the findings and recommendations was published in October 2016 on RQIA's website, www.rqia.org.uk

Recommendations

This review makes 25 recommendations, which aim to drive improvements for all those who avail of adult learning disability community services across Northern Ireland.

Key recommendations include:

- All trusts should evaluate the benefits and effectiveness of outcomes for adults with a learning disability of the various models of day care and day support. This should be reviewed by the HSC Board regionally in terms of their future commissioning plan for day care and day support services.
- An assessment of the activity and effectiveness of challenging behaviour teams should be undertaken by the commissioner. The outcome model used by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust should also be reviewed to see if it could be applied regionally.
- The commissioner should review the regional disparity in the uptake of direct payments and continue to monitor the consequences of trusts paying below the directed standard rate.
- The regional informatics group should consider and agree how best to capture information in a single unified regional IT solution, to ensure meaningful planning and consistency of reporting on learning disability.