

V LEARNING DISABILITIES, AUTISM AND NEURODIVERGENCE BILL CONSULTATION (DIJB12-2024)

The Scottish Government estimates that people with a learning disability or who are neurodivergent comprise 10-15% of the population of Scotland. They also recognise a range of evidence regarding the significant inequalities and challenges experienced by people with these characteristics, including lower life expectancy amongst people with learning disabilities and autism and higher prevalence of suicide amongst people diagnosed with autism or ADHD. People from these groups also report experiencing stigma, social isolation and loneliness and inequalities in terms of employment, education, community justice and safety and wellbeing outcomes. During 2022, as part of the Programme for Government, scoping work was carried out for a Bill, including through the establishment of a Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP), a Stakeholder Panel and a Practitioner Panel. The key messages from this scoping work have now been consolidated into the Scottish Government's Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill Consultation.

The consultation aims to provide an opportunity for public discussion about how the rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and who are neurodivergent can be better protected, respected and championed. The consultation invites views in relation to:-

- Overarching themes – including reach and definitions, statutory strategic plans for neurodivergence and learning disabilities, mandatory training in the public sector, inclusive communication, data and independent advocacy.
- Specific themes – including health and wellbeing, mental health and capacity law, social care, housing and independent living, complex care, relationships, access to technology, employment, social security, justice, restraint and seclusion, transport, education, and transitions to adulthood for children and young people.

The consultation period is to 21st April 2024; the document and supporting information can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/learning-disabilities-autism-neurodivergence-billconsultation/documents/>

The consultation includes proposals that have a direct and indirect impact on Integration Joint Boards. This includes proposing new statutory responsibilities to produce a local strategy covering learning disabilities and neurodivergence, to provide training for public facing staff in some public services (including the health and social care workforce), to gather data, and to comply with an enforceable Accessible Information Standard for Scotland. Proposals also cover aspects such as enhancing access to and understanding of independent advocacy, implementation of annual health checks, and the creation of a Patient Passport that will follow people across care pathways and include information about their needs and preferences.

The consultation document is lengthy and diverse, meaning that there are a number of local partners who may have contributions to make to a response from the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership. A Senior Officer from the Strategic Planning and Business Support Team, supported by the Learning Disabilities and Autism Strategic Planning Group, is working to gather views and collate a composite response in advance of the submission deadline. This will include linking to Wellgate Day Centre who are planning an event to gather service user views. However, it should be noted that individual partners may decide to submit separate responses on specific matters directly impacting their functions.

The IJB noted the consultation and intended approach to developing a response.

Following questions and answers the Integration Joint Board further agreed:-

- (i) to note that Kathryn offered to have a discussion with anyone with an interest or who wished to comment on the response.