

Inverclyde HSCP Learning Disability Newsletter



September 2020



Hello everyone,

We wrote to you in July to tell you about the plans for reopening some of our Day Opportunities and Residential Respite Services, beginning with those who were most critical need. I am pleased to hear that since August we have been able to provide support for these people in a safe way both in the building at Fitzgerald and in the community.

Although the numbers of people are limited and session times are limited, staff have offered essential support to people and their family carers.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your patience in this process and for your understanding that we need to do things slowly and in the safest way possible for everyone's wellbeing whilst following all the COVID19 guidance provided.

We continue to review the local position with regards to any growing concerns about potential outbreaks of the virus within our local community and consider any changes we may need to make as per Scottish Government guidance.

Everyone's cooperation and support has been appreciated as we work together in what has been, and continues to be, an incredibly challenging time.

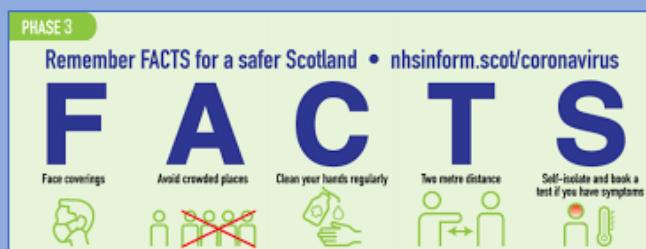
In the July newsletter I highlighted that work to develop our new Learning Disability Community Hub remains ongoing and my number one priority and that of the HSCP. I would like to reiterate how important it is for the HSCP to involve you and for you to have a voice in its design and development.

We now have a programme of consultation and engagement with you, service users, carers, staff and the wider community beginning in September 2020

Further in the newsletter we will highlight the process that was used to reach the decision to use the old Hector McNeil Swimming Baths site in Brachelston Street, Greenock and to explain the steps that need to be taken in order to design and build the new Hub. It's an exciting time ahead.

Michael and The Advisory Group (TAG), alongside Lorna and her Team from Inverclyde Carers Centre and other members of the Communication and Engagement Team are committed to ensuring your views and ideas will help shape the development of the Hub and that it meets the needs of people in Inverclyde with Learning disability and those with Autism and their families.

Allen Stevenson
Head of Health and Community Care



The Process so far...

The redesign of services and supports for people with Learning Disability and/or Autism in Inverclyde has meant people have had to adapt to some changes, some being difficult others exciting and welcomed.

Through the changes we have secured £7.4 Million to develop the new LD community HUB to be built on the old Hector McNeil Swimming Baths on Brachelston Street in Greenock.

We want to explain the process for choosing this site.



We asked service users, staff and carers their thoughts on possible sites which were all considered when an appraisal exercise was carried out.

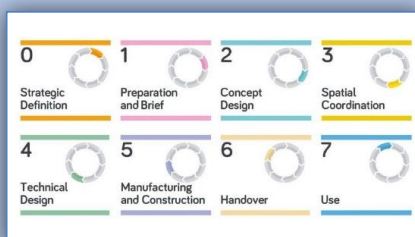
The short-listing exercise was carried out by various stakeholders across different departments in the council, from our own staff teams, finance, property services, TAG and Your Voice. Those taking part were asked to score the sites based on what service users, staff and carers had told us was important factors to consider along with what we knew was needed to support people safely in a building, alongside other building and environmental factors. This stage was called the option appraisal and was confidential as it was important to follow Council rules and regulations due to its sensitivity.

The site on Brachelston Street scored high and became the preferred option due amongst other factors, to being close to the town, local transport links, sports complex's and other local amenities and its size and condition and being owned already by the Council.

This site is more suited to a HUB for people with LD unlike the current Fitzgerald Centre which is positioned at the top of a hill, not good for people in wheelchairs or with mobility issues, away from the community and amenities in an industrial environment. The Brachelston St site location will mean people being and feeling more included and integrated in their local community.

It has taken a lot of hard work and time over the past few years supported by you all, to allow us to get to this point. The next phase of building and design comes now. We are excited to have your expert input and experience to help us to enable Inverclyde to have a facility that will improve people with Learning disability and /or Autism's health and wellbeing and one that we can all be proud of.

Next Steps ...



There are 8 stages that must be completed in order to get to the finished building of the hub.

We are currently at Stage 1 of this programme.. We will keep you updated through our newsletters and ongoing engagement sessions throughout this process.

How will we do it?

In preparation for the next phase of planning and designing the new hub, we now have a new Communication and Engagement Strategy. The strategy outlines the importance the role communication and engagement will play in the design of the new community hub, but also in the continued development of learning disability services in Inverclyde.

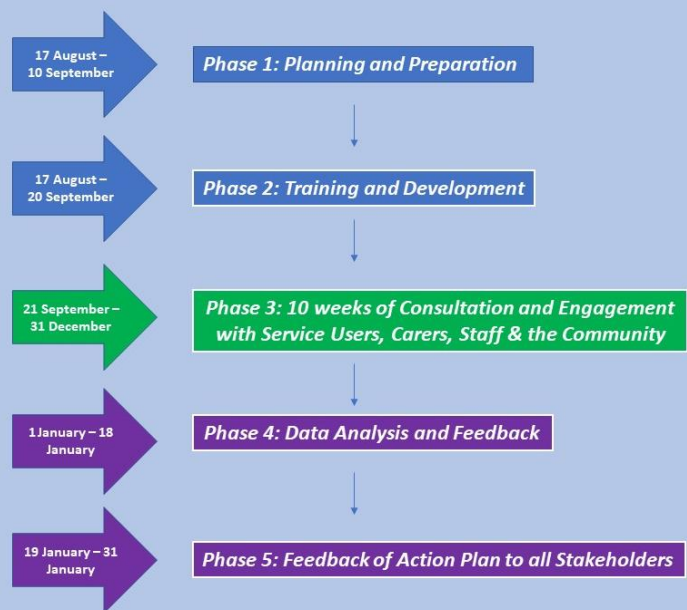
The focus of the strategy will be engagement around:

- The design and development of the new LD community hub
- Implementation of a new learning disability service model
- Implementation of the Inverclyde Autism Strategy
- Development of process for transition into adulthood
- Inverclyde HSCP transport policy and provision (consultation currently suspended due to the impact of Covid-19)

Get involved...

Inverclyde HSCP are committed to ensuring that service users, staff, carers and the wider community have a say in the look and design of our Learning Disability Community Hub.

In partnership with The Advisory Group and Inverclyde Carers Centre, we will be asking for your opinions on what the new Hub should look like. Unsurprisingly, we won't be able to meet everyone the way we normally would because of Covid-19 restrictions.



However, we have set up a series of virtual meetings for people to log in to and take part in some conversations. We really want to hear your thoughts and will have a few ways people will be able to input!

We need people with a learning disability whether you receive support from the HSCP, attend college or local social clubs in Inverclyde, we want you to get involved with our 'Expert Team' so people with learning disabilities are at the forefront of helping to shape this modern new community facility!

Having Your Say...

Engaging with Service Users – EXPERT TEAM

We need people with a learning disability in Inverclyde to come and join our 'Expert Team' to help develop the new hub.

This will involve taking part in some online chats with Michael from TAG to speak about the design, function and what goes on in the hub!

Please either get in touch with Michael or return the attached form if you or someone you support would like to get involved.

Please note that most of the engagement will be carried out virtually and support can be given to source the correct technology in order to participate.

Engaging with Family Carers

TAG and Inverclyde Carer's Centre will be working in partnership with to engage with family carers. All engagement will be carried out virtually via WebEx.

We have our first meetings planned for: **30 September 2020 at 10.30am and 5th October from 6-7pm**

If you would like to join the call please contact: Donna Martin at Inverclyde Carers Centre on 01475 735180 or dmartin@inverclydecarerscentre.org.uk



New Faces in the CLDT...



Claire Dewar
Learning Disability Nurse

"Hi, I'm Claire. I'm a learning disability nurse, new to the Inverclyde Community Learning Disability Team.

I used to work in a hospital ward for people with learning disabilities. I am very pleased to be working with you all."



Veronique Preud Homme
Physiotherapist

"Hi, I am Veronique, a new Physio recruit for the Inverclyde Community Learning Disability Team, working there 2 days per week.

I am also working as a Sp. Community Physiotherapist at ICIL in Greenock, so you might have seen me around...

I will be happy meeting you and working with you."

Our Day Opportunities Service also said goodbye to long serving member of staff Ann McNaught. Ann has now retired after many years of working at Fitzgerald Centre. Everyone at Inverclyde HSCP would like to wish Ann a long and happy retirement.