

## BRIEFING NOTE, March 2014

### Learning Disability (LD) and offender health

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 To support the Halton Learning Disability (LD) Self Assessment Framework (SAF) submission in December 2013, a request was sent to senior managers at Cheshire Probation Trust (CPT) and the Criminal Justice Liaison Team (CJLT) asking:
- What's your view of the assessment process to identify people with LD in offender health services? (e.g. LD screening questionnaire)
  - Are you aware of Offender Health teams receiving LD awareness training to know how best to support individuals to meet their health needs? If so, can you provide detail please.
  - What easy to read accessible information, provided by the criminal justice system, are you aware of?
- 1.2 This Briefing Note documents the information received back from the respondents, which is relevant to pan-Cheshire stakeholders – particularly those tasked with submitting SAF returns or progress reports.

#### 2. CPT and CJLT responses – LD in offender health services

	CPT response (3/12/13) From: Diversity Manager	CJLT Pilot response (4/12/13) From: CJLT Pilot lead on LD
<b>Q1.</b> What's your view of the assessment process to identify people with LD in offender health services? (e.g. LD screening questionnaire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cheshire Probation Trust staff have had information in the form of <b>a practice guidance</b> for providing support to offenders on the Autism Spectrum and with Aspergers, this identifies approaches and possible reasonable adjustments. And staff are aware that there is <b>an E card</b> in place across Cheshire, Halton and Warrington to identify where someone is on the Autism Spectrum/Asperger's and to be alert to the need for a reasonable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ People with Learning Disabilities are <b>brought to our attention informally (verbal or by email)</b>. However within the Police System the referrals are usually presented to the Criminal Justice Liaison Practitioners who are based at the custody suites. With regards to court, prison and probation referrals are usually made verbally or through the e-mail.</li> <li>➤ We are <b>currently using the Learning</b></li> </ul>

	<p>adjustments. They also know who to contact in relation to the E card (this is on the card).</p> <p>➤ Post April 2014 Cheshire and Manchester Probation Trusts will be part of the same Community Rehabilitation Company and currently Manchester are <b>piloting a learning disability screening tool</b> that will eventually if effective be used across the Cheshire and Manchester footprint.</p>	<p><b>Disabilities Screening Questioner (LDSQ)</b> to screen for Learning Disabilities. This tool screens for learning disabilities and some needs necessary for one to live independently. It consists of 7 questions: 3 where the person completes a simple task, and 4 where the practitioner asks about contact with previous services and school experience.</p>
<p><b>Q2.</b> Are you aware of Offender Health teams receiving LD awareness training to know how best to support individuals to meet their health needs? If so, can you provide detail please.</p>	<p>➤ In addition the Trust has been monitoring in relation to disability for about six years and our monitoring shows us that there are 17.5% of those with a disability who have a learning disability. <b>There has been no systematic training</b> with staff on different types of learning disabilities however there are pockets of knowledge.</p>	<p>➤ Since March 2013 the Warrington and Halton Criminal Justice Liaison Team Learning Disabilities has invested time in <b>informally and formally giving the Police, Courts, Prison and Probation awareness about its role within the criminal justice system.</b> As a Criminal Justice Liaison Team we have also successfully carried out <b>teaching sessions</b> focused at giving the Probation Services in Warrington and Halton knowledge about Learning Disabilities and the Screening Tool we use. Our aim in the near future is to do the same to the Police, Courts and Prison.</p>
<p><b>Q3.</b> What easy to read accessible information, provided by the criminal justice system, are you aware of?</p>	<p>➤ There is some <b>easy read</b> accessible information provided by the criminal justice system, it's not complete but there is some and staff have been made aware of it and know how to access it. In addition, I am now aware that the <b>interpreting and translating providers we use can provide information into easy read</b> and I will be <b>alerting staff to this this/next week.</b></p>	<p>➤ We have currently developed an <b>easy read booklet for Service Users detained in Custody.</b> It offers a simple explanation in words and in pictures about what happens when one is detained in police custody. We <b>hope to do the same for Probation, Court and Prison, should we get resources</b> to extend our Pilot Project into the next year,</p>