

# LeDeR Newsletter

A newsletter brought to you by CWICB – July 2024

**Welcome** to the ninth issue of our Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) LeDeR newsletter.

## What is the LeDeR programme?

**Learning from lives and deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR).**

**LeDeR** is a service improvement programme for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

Established in 2017 and funded by NHS England and NHS Improvement, LeDeR works to:

- improve care for people with a learning disability and autistic people.
- reduce health inequalities for people with a learning disability and autistic people.
- prevent people with a learning disability and autistic people from early deaths.

## LeDeR Reviews:

A LeDeR review looks at key episodes of health and social care the person received that may have been relevant to their overall health outcomes. We look for areas that need improvement and areas of good practice. This helps reduce inequalities in care for people with a learning disability and autistic people. It reduces the number of people dying sooner than they should.

Anybody can make a referral to LeDeR if they believe that a person that has died had a learning disability (and was aged 18+) or had a diagnosis of autism (and was aged 18+).

This can be done via the following link:  
<https://leder.nhs.uk/report>

## LeDeR Governance:

We have a dedicated LeDeR Governance Group which takes place on a monthly basis. Senior health and social care representatives from across Coventry and Warwickshire attend the meeting, consider findings of reviews, and oversee an action plan linked to the learning.

## LeDeR Subgroup:

It was recognised that a dedicated space was needed to work on the key themes coming from the LeDeR reviews, and so our LeDeR Subgroup was launched in May 2023.

The purpose of the LeDeR Subgroup is to ensure that the broader thematic findings and SMART actions from reviews are recognised by health and social care providers across the system, acted upon, and that meaningful changes are made to improve the quality of health for individuals with a learning disability and autistic people.

Focused work has been carried out via the group on the topic of **constipation** and on the back of this, a [Constipation Information and Resource Pack](#) was produced and shared widely with health and social care teams.

Our current focus in the LeDeR Subgroup is on **pneumonia**.

## Between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024 the Coventry & Warwickshire LeDeR Programme has received:

17 Notifications.

10 reviews have been completed  
(4 Initial and 6 Focused).

Two were marked out of scope due to there being no evidence of a learning disability or autism diagnosis.

There are currently 38 reviews open, with 10 reviews on hold whilst we await the outcome of other investigations.

### **Key themes taken from reviews**

- We have seen some good examples of the use of Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), the Mental Capacity Act and the ReSPECT process, where regular reviews of these have ensured that holistic care was delivered.
- We are still seeing missed opportunities for the pneumococcal vaccine; this will feed into our LeDeR Subgroup work on pneumonia.
- We have identified missed or delayed opportunities in being able to contact people's Next of Kin, due to a lack of information in the LeDeR notifications that we receive. If you are responsible for reporting a death into the LeDeR programme, please include as much information as you can, including the Next of Kin details, in order for our reviews to be as detailed and meaningful as possible.

### **Examples of positive practice taken from reviews**

- ✓ Good care was provided by the GP, along with a good annual health check and the provision of reasonable adjustments.  
The person socialised well and enjoyed life and his hobbies, living an independent life. He passed away peacefully at home, which was the location he had wished for.
- ✓ Evidence of good multi-disciplinary team working, with involvement from the Physiotherapist, Community Learning Disability Team, GP, Speech and Language Therapy Team, Occupational Therapist, Psychiatrist and Social Worker.  
An excellent transition to the person's new property took place.  
Holistic, person-centred care was provided by everyone involved.  
There was good use of the Mental Capacity Act and best interest meetings and decisions, with clear consideration of what her preferences were or would have been.  
The Psychiatrist from the Community Learning Disability Team provided excellent dementia care and involved the person and her family in each of the stages of her dementia.
- ✓ The person received good care and support throughout her life, from carers who knew her well and evidently supported her well.  
The commissioned package of care met her needs and was regularly reviewed.  
There were no gaps in service provision or issues around the quality of care.  
In the emergency events that occurred around the time of the person's death, emergency services responded quickly and appropriate resources were put in place.

### **Learning Disability Awareness – GP Practice Training Sessions**

Anyone who works at a Coventry & Warwickshire GP practice is welcome to attend this Learning Disability Awareness session.

There are four sessions taking place via Microsoft Teams in 2024/25, which will be delivered by Learning Disability Nurses from Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust (CWPT).

The content of each session will include:

- ❖ What is a learning disability?
- ❖ The importance of delivering high quality Annual Health Checks (incl. Health Action Plans)
  - ❖ Making Reasonable Adjustments for someone with a learning disability
    - ❖ Findings from the LeDeR programme
  - ❖ The role of the Community Learning Disability Team.

Details of the session dates and how to book can be found [here](#).

**In each issue of this newsletter, we will share information based upon a key theme of our LeDeR learning.**

**Spotlight on:**

**Providers – Examples of Best Practice**

We have seen some exemplary practice through LeDeR reviews. In this issue of our newsletter we wanted to highlight two providers in particular who delivered services and care that went above and beyond.

In both examples the reviewers found and highlighted that these providers exceeded expectations in order to ensure that the people they supported received personalised and holistic care.

We spoke to each of these providers in order to understand the secrets to their success:

- The fundamental belief of Stewart Harrison, manager of **Polesworth Group Homes**, is that the high standards that the organisation holds **should not be the exception, but the rule**. He and his team are dedicated to ensuring that they advocate, support and ensure that their **residents are living their best lives**.

**The quality of their team is key.** The team is committed to the people that they support, there is good morale, minimal staff sickness levels and they establish an excellent rapport with their service users. To ensure that they are well supported, staff receive regular supervision and annual performance reviews, whilst also being aware that there is an **open-door policy for them to receive support** and guidance whenever required. Stewart acknowledges that whilst the job does not command the highest rates of pay, the organisation does **show recognition** through pay rises for long-term service and through loyalty bonuses. The organisation creates a happy and supportive environment in which to work and they find no issues with the recruitment or retention of staff. This also benefits their service users, as the staffing team is **consistent**, with people's needs being known and thus enabling a stable and supportive living environment.

Stewart explained that when making care plans with their service users, they also involve carers and families where possible, in order to enhance the support that they provide. They have also **built excellent relationships** with health professionals such as GPs and district nurses, whilst not shying away from being **persistent advocates** when they feel that their service users' needs are not being met.

- We also met with Abigail Waddell and Vanessa McDonald from **Ward 50 at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire**.

Abigail explained how most of their patients are long term with chronic illnesses. The key is **building a relationship from the time of first contact**. The team engage with their patients to find out the best and preferred way to communicate with them and with the people closest to them. Although it is a medical reason that has brought them to the ward, they **assess holistically**, in the awareness that so many other factors need to be taken into account also.

They work closely with their patients, **planning ahead** to ensure that their needs and wishes are known, even if the patient loses the ability to advocate for themselves. In a LeDeR review that was conducted for a person who was on this ward, it was clear that the staff here understood their patients' needs and put these at the centre of the care that they delivered and advocated for.

The **team is cohesive**, with the caring role being seen as a team effort, regardless of someone's job role or band and all ward staff play a vital part in their patients' journeys. The team also have the added benefit of having a **learning disability champion**. **Good communication** is vital, not only with their patients, but amongst the team, with huddle meetings allowing for excellent **continuity of care**. Vanessa added that their ward manager is brilliant, as she is very visible and hands on in her approach, **leading by example** and **inspiring the delivery of high-quality care**.

**We would like to thank these providers for their participation in this feedback and for the high standards of service and care that they deliver.**

## Other News & Information

### The Learning Disability Friendly Badge



Our first ever panel meeting took place in April 2024, following the launch of this scheme in September 2023. The panel included various members of the Integrated Care System (ICS), along with an expert by experience and project workers from the local charity, Grapevine. We are pleased to confirm that seven practices were awarded the Learning Disability Friendly Badge, on the back of the applications reviewed at the panel.

Panel meetings will take place every three months to review future applications, with the next one set for late July.

[Click here](#) for more information on the Learning Disability Friendly Badge, including practices that have been accredited to date.

### Learning Disability Annual Health Checks

An [Annual Health Check](#) (AHC) should be offered to everyone on the GP learning disability register aged 14 and above. The NHS Long Term Plan ambition is for 75% of people on learning disability registers to routinely access an AHC by 2024/25.

In 2023/24 (April 2023 – March 2024) Coventry & Warwickshire saw a total of **3,716 AHCs delivered**, equating to an uptake of **77.2%** and therefore exceeding the national target of 75%. The number of people who declined an AHC was 437. 2023/24 also saw 154 more people access an AHC than in 2022/23, which is very positive.

Our AHC focus in 2023/24 was on two key workstreams: **1)** To gain a better understanding of the quality of AHCs being delivered and **2)** To explore barriers to accessing AHCs in the under-served communities. These two key workstreams formed the basis for our AHC Quality Project, of which the published report will be available on our ICB webpages later in the summer of 2024 and in a future issue of this newsletter.

## USEFUL ONLINE LINKS

### [LeDeR - Home](#)

(For more information about the national LeDeR programme)

### [Coventry & Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust - Learning Disability Services](#)

(Overview of services, contact details and Learning Disability Annual Health Check resources)

### [What are Reasonable Adjustments and why are they important?](#)

### [Coventry & Warwickshire ICB - Learning Disability & Autism webpages](#)

## KEY CONTACTS

**For further information about our local LeDeR programme, please feel free to contact:**

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**Feedback on this newsletter would be welcomed and appreciated, such as whether you find the content useful, whether you feel that anything in particular is missing, or whether you feel that less or more detail is needed. Please email any feedback to [dougie.philippou@nhs.net](mailto:dougie.philippou@nhs.net)**