



National Audit Office

Local support for people with a learning disability and/or autism

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local government

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Previous NAO work on learning disabilities



February 2015: Care services for people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour



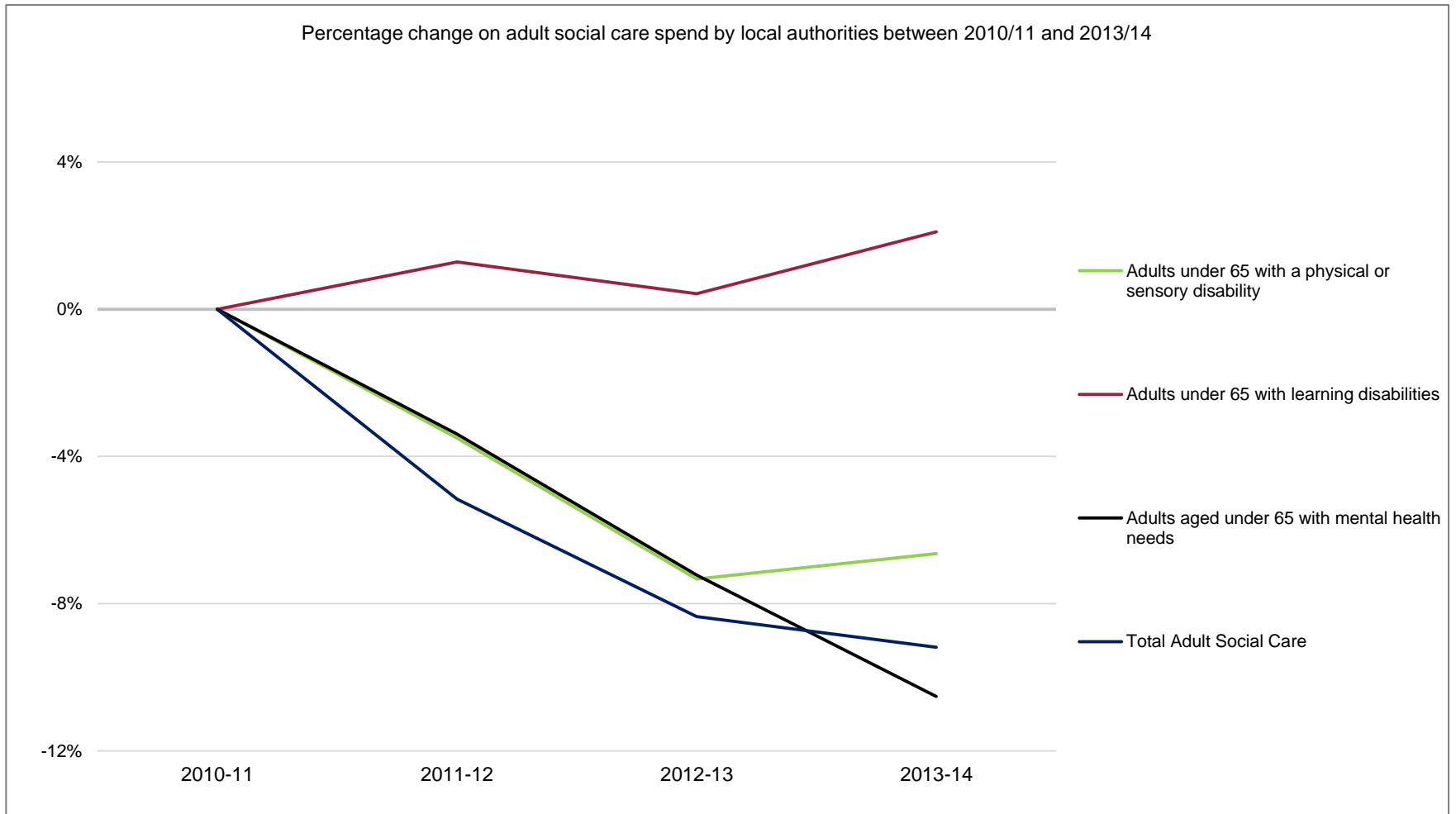
March 2015: Public Accounts Committee hearing on the NAO report on learning disabilities. Simon Stevens announced the bed closure programme.

Scope of the report

- Update on progress on the Transforming Care Programme
- Health and social care support for the wider learning disability community
- Understanding of the costs of health and social care for people with a learning disability, and the outcomes of this expenditure

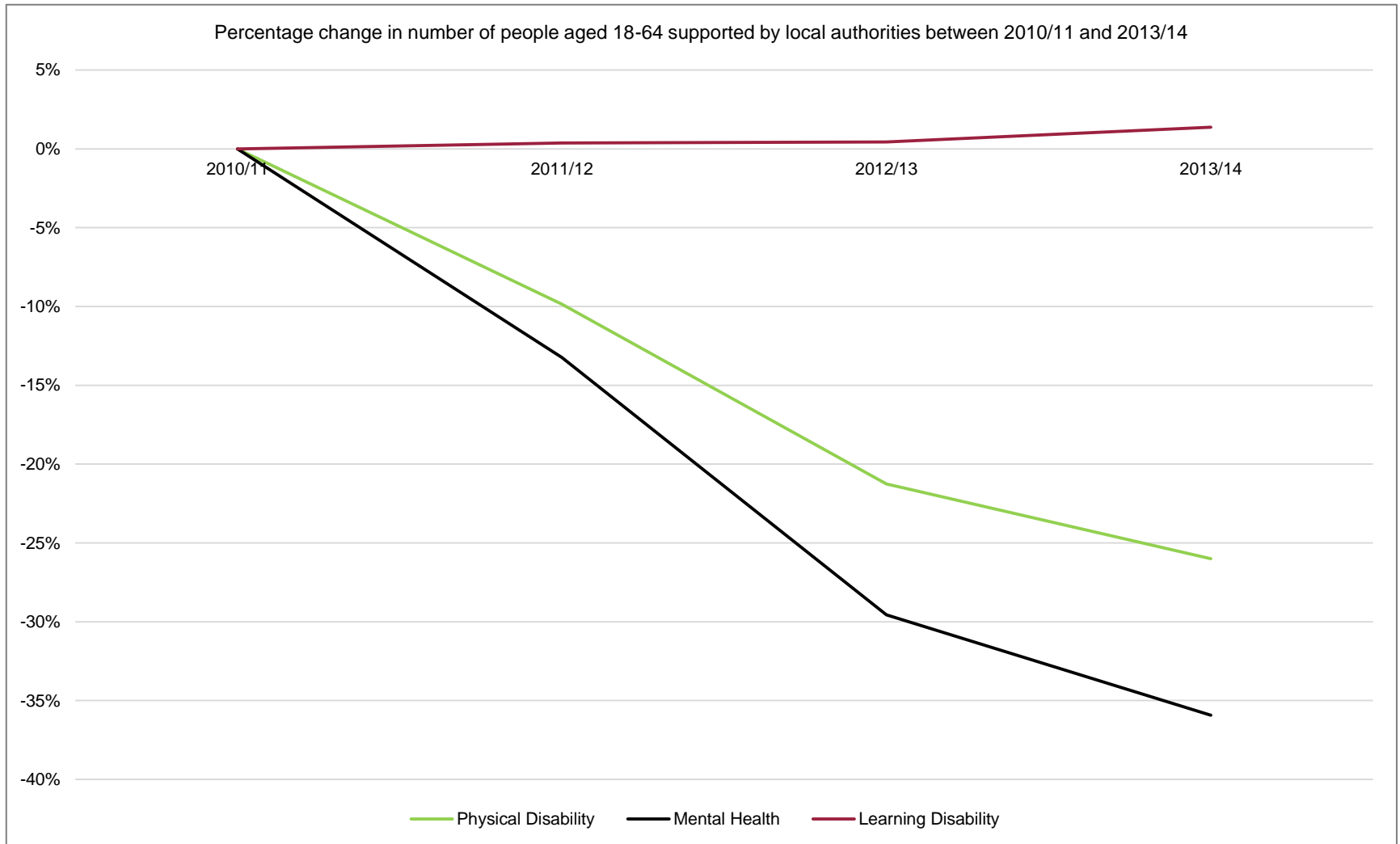
Context (1)

Local authority spend on learning disability services has increased as spending on other adult social care services for those aged under 65 has reduced.



Context (2)

The number of people with a learning disability aged 18-64 receiving support from adult social care has remained steady since 2010/11



Key question: is expenditure on people with a learning disability providing effective support?

Questions

How is money being spent on people with a learning disability?

Is the support provided to people improving outcomes?

Has the government made progress with Transforming Care

Hypothesis

IF

spending is value for money,

AND

Support improves outcomes for services users,

AND

Recommendations from previous reports are implemented,

THEN .. the outcomes for people with a learning disability will be improved

How is money being spent on people with a learning disability

We are looking for:

- Robust data on the types of support provided, how many people receive it and how much it costs. Geographical variations are understood.
 - Current and future demand for learning disability services are known, as is the impact on costs.
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Is the support provided to people improving outcomes?

We are looking for:

- A clear national policy for providing support for the wider learning disability community
 - Research on which types of support generate the best outcomes.
 - People have equitable access to support.
 - Measures reflect national priorities and are outcome focused, relevant, well defined and attributable.
 - More people with a learning disability are supported to live independently, to have choice and control over where they live and with whom.
 - More people are supported to be in paid employment.
 - Users of learning disability services are happy with those services
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Has the government made progress with Transforming Care

We are looking for:

- Strong governance and accountability arrangements. The Department monitors progress.
- Challenging but achievable timescales and trajectories based on bottom up analysis. The cost of implementing the programme has been identified.
- The Department has quality assured all TCP plans and has identified and is helping TCPs that are struggling to deliver.
- The Department has a clear view of the workforce needed and is working with providers and local authorities to improve capacity.
- Consistent and timely data.
- Funding is pooled or aligned, and health and social care teams work together.
- Community based services to help avoid admission or re-admission and support discharge from mental health hospitals.
- The programme is delivering to targets and trajectories and within budget.

Main methods

Data analysis of:

- National statutory datasets (Adult social care outcomes framework, user and carers surveys, health data, care home admissions,/numbers supported and activity data returns to identify change over time, trends and associated factors)
- CQC care home data for quality, geography and size of care homes and other providers for people with a learning disability.
- Survey data, e.g. POET, ADASS budget survey to explore users experience of personal budget.
- Assuring Transformation dataset to monitor trends and compliance with the bed closure programme.

Financial analysis

- Of statutory financial returns from local authorities and CCGs to identify changes over time, trends and associated factors in spend on adult social care and learning disabilities services specifically.
- DWP data on welfare payments to people with a learning disability.

Interviews

Organisations responsible for supporting people with a learning disability, (DoH, NHS England)
Other stakeholders (ADASS, LGA, charities, care providers)

Case study visits

in-depth case reviews of 6 local authorities to interview learning disability teams, CCGs, commissioners, providers and people with a learning disability and their informal carers. Our sample will be selected to give a broad mix of:

- Types of local authority (e.g. metropolitan, unitary)
- High and low performance on indicators of outcomes (i.e. employment and stable accommodation.
- Trends in expenditure, i.e. increasing or decreasing.
- Geographical spread.

Survey of CCGs:

To determine numbers of pooled or aligned budgets and numbers of joint teams for Transforming Care Partnerships or CCGs, as well as costs of health care support.

Advisory panel

We have convened a panel of private and charitable providers to get their views

Document review

- Key central government policy documents
- Minutes and papers of Transforming Care Delivery Board, and Learning Disability Programme Board

Timetable

March 2016	Scoping work
Summer 2016	Fieldwork and research
Autumn 2016	Evaluation and drafting
Winter 2016	Clearance of facts and figures
March 2017	Publication

Your insights