CB-NSG November 2022

Delivery UK-wide Session Write-Up

Making connections across the four nations

One of the main points raised by attendees was the need to ensure that contacts and connections between the four constituent nations are shared, so that people are able to work together and share expertise. Attendees highlighted that people working in the area of learning disability can find themselves needing to work across internal borders where different laws and rules apply – an example given was lawyers that need to work across both England and Scotland for particular cases, where the mental health laws are different. Attendees shared examples that they were familiar with, for example that the Law Society of Scotland have a list of solicitors working in mental health law in Scotland, which can be used to signpost families and colleagues who are looking for people working in this area.

Different laws and services

It was suggested that compiling a resource of the different laws and services available in each of the four nations, as well as those that apply to all four nations, would be useful in clarifying what is available and applicable in each place. It was suggested that this would both enable families to see what laws applied and what help was available (e.g., the different grants available for making adaptations to your home) in each place and would also support professionals who need to work across the different nations.

Regulation

It was shared that there are different regulators working in each of the four nations, and that, to be successful in implementing the changes to regulation that were discussed during the morning's sessions, it would be key for the CB-NSG to work with these different regulators to ensure that all are aware of these proposed changes and that there is a unified approach to putting these regulatory changes into practice. Attendees from across the four nations shared that there are issues with regulation and with making complaints/raising concerns, and that working with only (e.g.,) CQC would not be sufficient in ensuring that regulation would be improved in the other nations. Attendees raised the need to make contacts with these different regulatory bodies.

Political leadership

Attendees raised the importance of political leadership and will in implementing positive reforms. Scotland and Wales were highlighted as two nations where there has been particularly strong political leadership in areas relating to learning disability, and it was suggested that it would be important to explore how this can be built upon to influence further change in these areas. It was suggested that working directly with the devolved nations and their governments could be a positive way to influence change and that CB-NSG members should explore what options there are to do this.

Sharing good practice and positive examples

Attendees shared that it would be important to share good practice and positive examples from across the UK. Attendees shared examples of local and regional work that they were aware of, for example Norfolk's work to bring back people who had been placed out of area to ensure that they were able to be cared for in the local community. Sharing these examples would enable other areas to see what is possible and hopefully encourage them to work more creatively/lower risk-averse behaviour when it comes to e.g., commissioning. It was also raised that the different factors that enable these examples to happen/prevent other areas from doing similar should be considered, e.g., local/regional/national policies (whether formal or informal) that either encourage or discourage this kind of working, as doing this would help when trying to get other areas to implement change.

Local commissioning

Attendees highlighted the importance of encouraging commissioners to commission locally and building capacity in the local area, rather than commissioning out of area services. Attendees pointed out that commissioning out of area services limits accountability and the likelihood of a person being able to move back into their local community, as it increases the number of areas that could be considered responsible for a person and their care, and reduces accountability on both sides as to who is responsible for doing what. The lack of oversight from the placing authority when a person is placed in an out of area placement, compared to when they are supported in their local community, was also raised.

Attendees also highlighted the importance of knowing a local area's needs and preparing for these, as well as the benefits of commissioning local services and providers who are aware of the local context and can use that knowledge.

Key Actions

Action: What is needed	How it will be done	Who will do it	When it will be done
1. Increase awareness/knowledge of different laws and services	Compile resource of different laws/services in each of the four constituent nations	CBF/CB-NSG members	
2. Share contacts/make connections across the UK		CB-NSG members (facilitated by CBF if needed)	
3. Make contact with regulatory bodies	Identify key people in the different regulatory bodies and contact/link in with this work		
4. Explore potential of working with devolved governments to share plan/principles/actions			
5. Increase knowledge of how different areas/nations are working innovatively	Share information and good practice examples a) Between CB-NSG members b) By contacting different regions and making links if these do not exist	CB-NSG CBF	
6. Identify common factors/issues that lead to success/failure of particular actions	Analyse actions and speak to different areas to see whether there are common issues/factors that either increase likelihood of an action succeeding or make it more difficult to achieve particular goals	CBF/CB-NSG	
7. Encourage commissioners to commission locally and build capacity in local area	Share examples of good practice and innovative working with commissioners, demonstrate benefits (e.g. financial, wellbeing) of building local capacity rather than commissioning out of area placements		