

Years at the June Community of
Practice event

Community of Practice
June 2025
Manchester and Salford





Older family carers – planning ahead

- Link **Learning Disability** nurses attached to GP surgeries (Salford)
- Get to people before they reach crisis (NCA)
- Carers contact point
- THRIVE (Manchester)
- Families resilience and using own networks when able
- 3 big **carer organisations** in Manchester City Council
- 1x social worker for carers (NCA) 1x Social Care Assessment for carers (MCC)



Risk of crisis at any age - additional support

- Listening to **families experiences** (Salford)
- Face to face visits and contact (Salford)



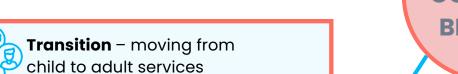
- Recent lessons learnt
- Integrated team
- Increased involvement by the transition team at an **earlier** stage
- Opportunities for **families** to get involved in developing policies around transition
- Access to 'liquid logic' increased information sharing systems
- Multi-Agency Planning (MAP) meeting attendance





- Initial information and support
- Education of staff prevent biases/ assumptions
- Use of evidence above opinion
- Listening to and believing families
- Outreach to and contact with families
- Understanding population of families

WHAT COULD BE BETTER?



- Funding constraints
- Lack of respite/short breaks services
- Improve understanding of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) And Best Interest (BI)
- Improved communication, information sharing and joint working systems between services
- **Earlier intervention** with better understanding of the expectations for transition
- Managing risk
- Improve relationships and trust with family carers





Older family carers – planning ahead

- People don't know what **services** are available and **how to access** them
- Not enough supported tenancies/ mobility/ environment
- Provider skill set/ staff retention
- Older carers may be **reliant on income** of adult with learning disabilities
- Carers can be worried and are not often asked to share their fears or worries
- Prevention needs not being met (MCC)
- Sharing and learning from good practice examples
- Transport issues to enable carer breaks



Risk of crisis at any age - additional support

- Out of area placements far away from families and lack of support for individuals and their families
- Tenuous nature of placements
- Housing issues loss of placement when sectioned
- Lack of person-centred and creative approaches to care in some providers – provider accountability
- Offer of bespoke placements should be increased to ensure decisions are made in the best interest of the individuals
- Involving families in decisions from the start- families living in fear of speaking up, often labelled as being 'difficult' and professionals not understanding their journey
- Individuals without family advocacy
- Funding cuts affecting workforce
- Improve ways of communicating what isn't working





We did not have representation for Early Years at the first Community of Practice event

 Link more early years families and colleagues into the network



Transition – moving from child to adult services

- Information more available, more accessible and shared in sessions with input from all services
- Key working / specific transition workers in all area
- **Networking** between children and adult services
- Improved joint working with streamlined processes
- 'Fact sheets' with key information at key ages
- Increased advocacy support
- **Creative ways** to gather the views of all individuals and families
- Co-produced videos on the local offer for transition

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WHAT ACTIONS CAN WE TAKE?

Key themes

- Information and resources sharing
- Networking and peer support opportunities
- Creative ways of sharing information
- Clarity of responsibilities and accountability of professionals
- Utilising existing co-production programs





Older family carers – planning ahead

- Provide alternative ways to reach more older family carers not only online and think about how we identify carers
- Adapting behaviour management to make it managable for older family carers
- Increase awareness of what is available such as directory of support
- Increase understanding of the **impact of caring** and **understanding behaviour**
- Share CBF resources and phone line number in places such as GP surgeries and libraries
- **Information and signposting** to formal and informal groups



Risk of crisis at any age – additional support

- Family carers groups with representatives from professional teams to feedback
- Working with integrated teams in a proactive way
- Improve working between families and professionals through clearer communication pathways and sharing advice and information
- Working backwards with family case studies to identify what needs to change
- Clarity needed for families whose relative's care is spread across multiple areas/providers/funders - encourage responsibility and accountability of services
- Engaging families with Salford City Council programme focusing on co-production and lived experience

Forward Together - Manchester and Salford

Progress so far....

Shared CBF resources and reports:

1.'Planning for the Future' Resource

Family carers:

- Connected into the CBF's family carer email network
- Provided with information for carers catch up sessions, listening ear calls and family support details
- Shared details of local parent carer forums
- Facilitated discussions with professionals working in the area to express their experiences and views

Invited professionals from the regional networks to join the CBF's Professional Email Network to connect with other professionals working with people with severe learning disabilities and behaviours that may challenge, providing peer learning opportunities.

Shared information gathered at the CoP event with leads at Northern Care Alliance (Salford) and Manchester City Council.

Considered plans for next community of practice event including locality, how we can support more family carers to engage and to get the right information and to be more connected into services.

Maxine, Family Carer Project Worker for the CBF meeting the programme lead for Salford City Council's co-production and lived-experience work to support getting more family carers involved.

