



NHS Lothian

## Learning Disability Services

Local report easy-read summary – February 2006



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## **About this booklet**

This booklet is written for people with learning disabilities, their supporters and family carers.

It tells you how well NHS Lothian is meeting the health needs of children and adults with learning disabilities.

## **What is NHS Quality Improvement Scotland?**

NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (NHS QIS) was set up in January 2003. It is our job to help improve the health services that people in Scotland get.

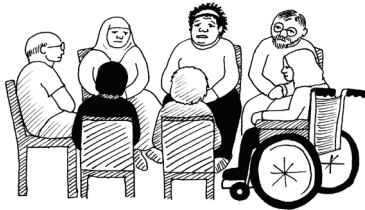


## How do we find out what the NHS Board is doing?

NHS QIS has produced quality checks, which show if a health service is doing its job properly.

The quality checks were used by staff in NHS Lothian to find out how well the service is working. This is called a self-assessment.

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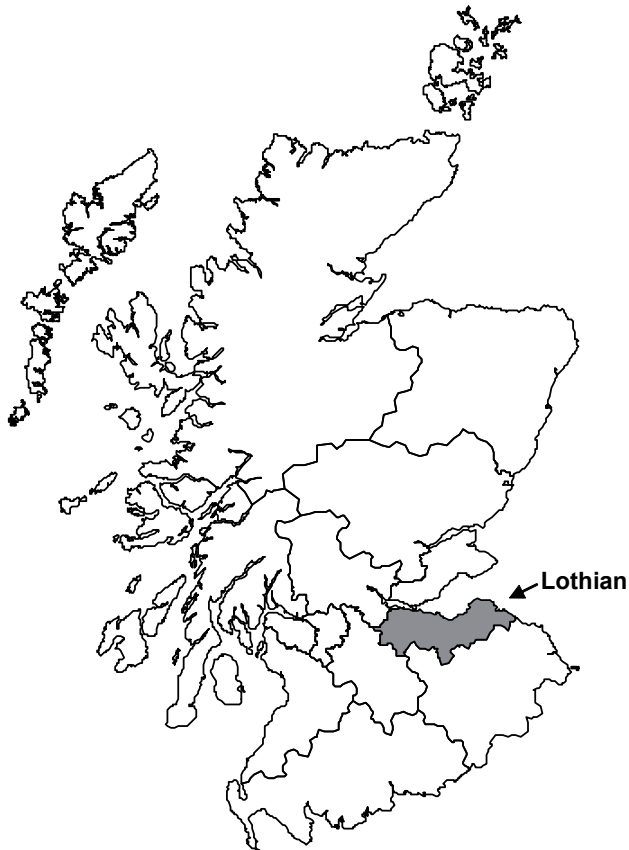


Then a team from NHS QIS visited Lothian and looked at this self-assessment. The NHS QIS team met with staff, people with learning disabilities and carers to find more about the service.

This booklet was written after the NHS QIS visit. It tells you how well NHS Lothian is doing and what it needs to do to improve.

## Some information on Lothian

Lothian is in south-east Scotland and around 787,500 people live there. Most people live in towns. Edinburgh and Livingston are the biggest in the area.



## How is NHS Lothian doing?

### Involving children and adults and their family carers



#### **Good things**

In some areas, children and their family carers can go to meetings to talk about their care plan. They will meet key workers before the meeting to make sure that everyone understands what is going to happen.

There is a good range of independent advocacy in Lothian. Some projects are just for adults with learning disabilities.


An advocacy awareness group has been set up. This group plans to educate staff about independent advocacy and how to help people with learning disabilities to get an advocate.



#### **Things which need to be improved**

There needs to be more easy to read information on service planning.

There is a good range of independent advocacy services but sometimes there are



not enough for everyone who wants to use them. There needs to be more for children and young people with learning disabilities.

## Meeting special healthcare needs



### **Good things**

Learning disability liaison nurses help to make sure that staff in the community and in hospitals talk to each other about providing the best care and support for people.

When children with learning disabilities move from nursery to primary school to high school there is good support for them and their families and they continue to get the right services.

There are good services for children and adults with learning disabilities who have epilepsy.



### **Things which need to be improved**

Sometimes, adults with learning disabilities, who also have mental health problems, and need to go into hospital, are put on general wards. This is because there aren't enough beds just for people with learning disabilities.

Support for young people moving into adults' services is not always good.



Different organisations for example social work and NHS Lothian need to work together more.

## **Making sure people who have to stay in hospital have a good quality of life**



### **Good things**

The inpatient units are a safe place for people to stay.

Staff are trying hard to make sure that equipment is stored properly so that it is safe.

The rooms are well decorated and homely in Murraypark Nursing Home.



### **Things which need to be improved**

Some people are not able to do things like go to college or have a job.

Some people are not able to get out and about very often.

Sometimes it can be hard to find a private place for people to meet with their advocate.

## Planning services and working together



### **Good things**

NHS Lothian is trying hard to make sure that people with learning disabilities can get the same health services as everyone else.

NHS Lothian has closed all of its learning disability hospitals. Most of the people who lived in hospital now have their own home in the community.

Lots of good work has been carried out to help protect vulnerable adults and children. Staff are well trained.



### **Things which need to be improved**

NHS Lothian needs to find out what the needs of everyone with a learning disability are to make sure that the right services are being provided.

NHS Lothian needs to plan how services for people with learning disabilities will develop and be paid for.

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We can also provide this information:

- by email
- in large print
- on audio tape or CD
- in Braille, and
- in community languages.

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