

Director's Pack Outline – Disability Services

1. Function and Scope

The Disability programme both provides and commissions services for

- i. Adults with a Learning Disability
- ii. Adults with Physical Disabilities, chronic or terminal illness
- iii. Adults with a Sensory Impairment
- iv. Adults with an Acquired Brain Injury

Services include residential units, day care facilities, social work services, respite care, domiciliary care, supported living and specialist services for people with challenging behaviour, children who are in transition and clients with an acquired brain injury.

These services are provided throughout Homefirst Trust in each of the local council areas. In the case of the Brain Injury Service this is also provided to United Hospitals and Causeway Trust. We are also responsible for Homefirst patients in Muckamore Abbey Hospital (North and West Belfast Trust) both long stay and those receiving assessment and treatment.

2. Services Provided

Location – See Appendix I

The Trust has in-house provision for people with disabilities. These include 64 permanent placements and 560 day care places for adults with a learning disability.

Day centres provide 144 places for clients with physical disabilities and sensory impairments.

Social work services are provided by 4 learning disability and 4 physical disability teams. These teams assess the needs of adult clients and their carers, they are responsible for care planning, commissioning and co-ordinating appropriate services to meet identified need. A high proportion of these cases have very complex needs and require significant care packages which are managed by the social worker carrying out the care management function. In addition social workers provide assessment and protection under the Joint Protocol with the PSNI in investigations of alleged abuse of vulnerable adults. Social workers also carry out approved social work functions under the Mental Health Order (NI) 1996.

In addition we commission and purchase a range of services from the independent sector. These include 254 nursing placements, 59 residential placement and 57 supported living placements at an annual expenditure of £7.9 m. Specialist services under service level agreements are purchased from The Blind Centre, The Cedar Foundation, the Bridge Association, United Response, Extra Care and Crossroads.

3. **Structure**

There are 324 wte staff within Disability Services with an annual salaries and goods budget of £8.4 m.

Disability Structure - See Appendix II

4. **Issues/Risk**

Services are virtually fully committed in all areas, particularly day care, domiciliary care and permanent care. This leads to constant service monitoring and inability to meet needs fully and appropriately.

Increase in annual level of new referrals year on year with higher % of complex cases. Very little turnover in caseloads as disability/needs are lifelong.

Transition cases from Children's Services. There is a significant differential between resource levels in services offered to children/young people and level of need does not alter.

There are currently no emergency beds to respond to crisis.

There are approximately 25 patients in Muckamore Abbey Hospital who are awaiting placement in the community. There is a lack of appropriate facilities and resources for these individuals who require specialist care.

All adult centres are at maximum capacity and are unable to take any more placements. This will have an affect on those young people with learning disabilities who will be leaving school in 2006.



KEY

- Learning Disability
- @ Adult Centres

- + Physical Disability Teams
- # Supported Living