

Agenda Item	<b>6</b>
Report No	<b>JMC/13/24</b>

## THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL / NHS HIGHLAND

**Committee:** Joint Monitoring Committee

**Date:** 25 September 2024

**Report Title:** Learning Disability Services,  
Highland Health and Social Care Partnership

**Report By:** Chief Officer, HHSCP

### 1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides detail of the Highland Health and Social Care Partnership delivery of health and social care and support to people living with a Learning Disability.
- 1.2 This paper will focus on:
- the delivery of Health Checks
  - commissioning activity with independent sector support providers to enable and ensure support for individuals
  - actions to enable ordinary living and opportunities in communities
  - the ongoing risks relating to the work to achieve the recommendations of the Coming Home Report.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. To note the progress achieved in delivering Annual Health Checks to people with a Learning Disability.
  - ii. Support the actions to enable individuals with a learning disability to lead full and active lives in their own homes in community settings.
  - iii. Note the risks associated with the provision of support to individuals with complex needs and the recruitment and retention difficulties being experienced by the support sector.

### 3. Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The intention is to continue to deliver most of the support to people with a Learning Disability within existing resource. To further progress plans for individuals with complex needs, further resource implications may be identified.

- 3.2 **Legal** - The content of this report is to demonstrate assurance and the Partnership's compliance with The Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014.
- 3.3 **Risk** – Risks are currently recorded in the HHSCP Risk Register.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - There is no impact.

#### **4. Impacts**

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 This is a monitoring report and therefore an impact assessment is not required.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1 The definition of a Learning Disability is described on the Scottish Consortium of Learning Disabilities website as: *A learning disability is different for everyone. No two people are the same. Challenges faced by people with learning disabilities can vary widely. In all cases a learning disability is lifelong. A learning disability affects the way a person learns new things throughout their life. Many people who have a learning disability can get qualifications, work, have loving relationships, and live independently. Some people with a learning disability might need more support throughout their life. Someone with a learning disability can experience barriers to accessing to their human rights, including education, employment, relationships, and family life.*
- 5.2 Population data relating to prevalence is different depending on the source and methods of gathering this data nationally are currently under Scottish Government review. The national census states that there are approx. 1200 people with a learning disability in Highland (0.5% of the population). Our health and social care services have identified 1034 people, with a learning disability, known or receiving services.
- 5.3 The delivery of health and social care support to people with a Learning Disability in Highland is within the policy context of the Scottish Governments relaunch of the Independent Living Fund, ongoing national work to progress the actions of the Coming Home report and a consultation in relation to a proposal of a new Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill which aims to protect the rights of individuals. Locally, the NHS Highland Joint Strategic Plan and the Highland Mental Health & Learning Disability Services Strategy guide the work of the Learning Disability service.

#### **6. Health Checks**

- 6.1 Directions have been received from the Scottish Government, under sections 2(5) and 105(7) of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 requiring Health Boards to commence Annual Health Checks for People with Learning Disabilities.

The service model for Health Checks is now agreed and the Learning Disability Nursing Service will lead on the delivery. An Advanced Nurse Practitioner has been employed since early 2024 to lead on and complete Annual Health Checks. It is recognised that the resource available will not meet the demand and the service are therefore prioritising individuals who are known to the Learning Disability Nursing service.

## **7. Support Provision**

- 7.1 NHS Highland currently commission support for individuals with a Learning Disability, in their own homes and from specialist independent sector providers with the purpose of meeting the needs of individuals and creating opportunities to enable people to lead ordinary lives.
- 7.2 Support is provided in-house to individuals in a cluster housing model on Skye and a shared house in Inverness.
- 7.3 The Assessment and Treatment Unit in New Craigs (Willows) provides care and treatment for six individuals with a learning disability and complex needs who require hospital care. Three of these people are awaiting a suitable adult social care setting to meet their needs.
- 7.4 The supported living sector in North Highland is experiencing staff recruitment and retention challenges. Whilst there have been some improvements in recruitment this is not consistent across all providers and areas. For example, there is a continued and ongoing challenge to recruit staff in Mid Ross, East Ross and particularly Lochaber where established services continue to find it difficult to attract and retain staff. These challenges impact the ability of providers to increase the number of individuals supported. Service for individuals who require extensive support are also impacted by the this and the lead time for new service provision is adversely impacted.
- 7.5 Communications and relationships with supported living providers remain good and work is on-going to meet with providers on a regular basis and to provide a forum for improvements through the Support Provider Business Meeting which is jointly chaired by NHS Highland and a provider representative. This forum is exploring options for innovative solutions to shared challenges including overnight care costs and use of technology.
- 7.6 The total projected expenditure for 2024/2025 is £33,947,948 and distributed amongst 12 main providers (Table 1).

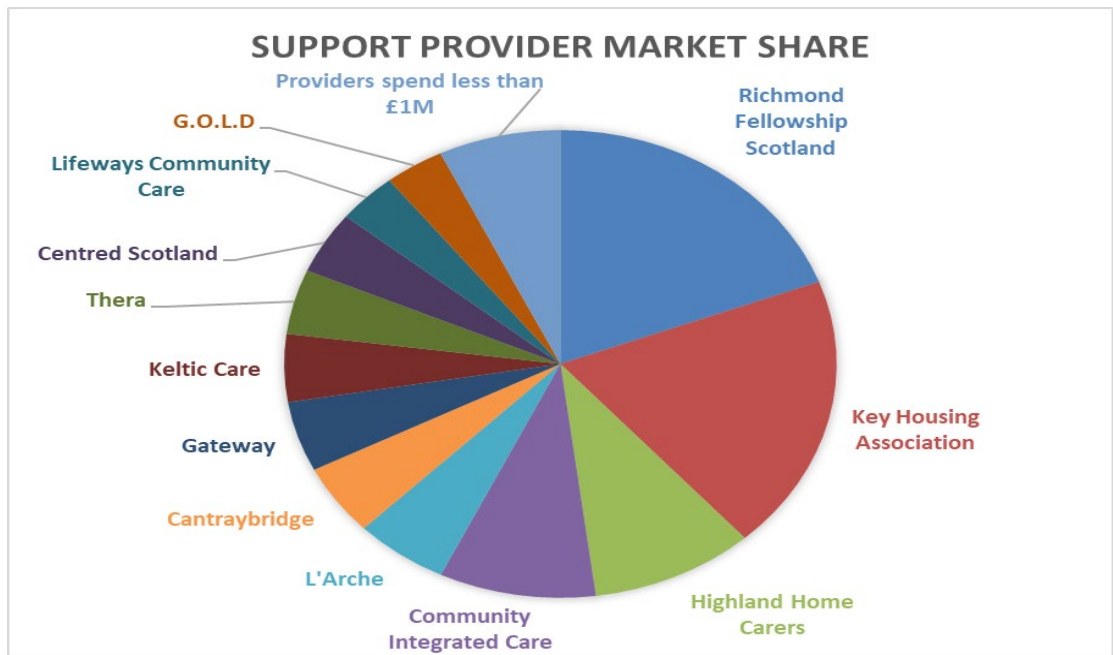


TABLE 1: Support Provider Market Share

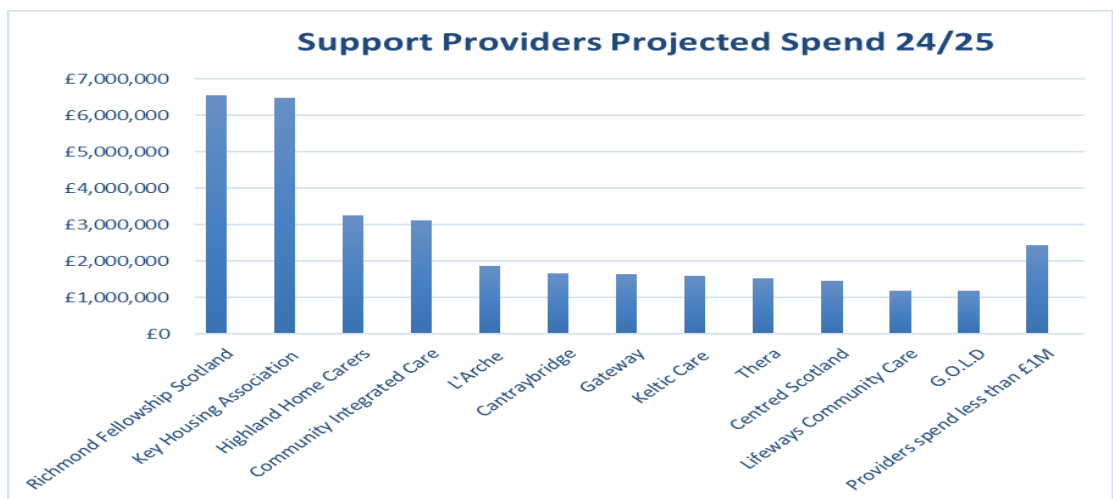


TABLE 2: Support Providers Projected Spend 24/25

## 8. Enabling Ordinary Lives

- 8.1 NHH provide day opportunities to people in buildings-based day services across Highland: Isobel Rhind Centre, Corbett Centre, Angus Centre, Thor House. These services are recognised as an asset within Highland and therefore services are offered to individuals with profound and multiple physical and learning disabilities or complex behavioural challenges that are unable to access community resources.
- 8.2 Day Services continue to evolve and as well as offering a base for individuals who experience barriers in accessing community facilities they are also now focusing on offering employment-based opportunities and enabling people to gain employability skills.

- The Isobel Rhind Centre in Invergordon has opened a new shop on the High Street in Invergordon and sells craft items made by the people attending the Isobel Rhind Centre.
- The Montrose Centre in Fort William continues to operate a successful Vintage Café in the High Street in Fort William.

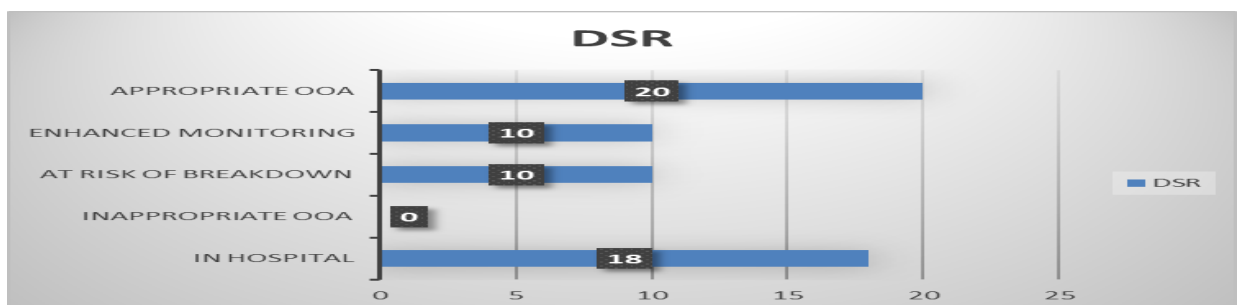
8.3 Collaborative working with community partners is encouraged and enabled at every opportunity: a recent example is the partnership between the Grow Project in the Inverness Botanic Gardens and the Cooking Club to ensure food that is grown can be turned into a meal.

## 9. Complex Support Needs

9.1 The definition of individuals with a learning disability and complex support needs includes individuals who have a learning disability and may also be autistic, have a mental health diagnosis, have a forensic need or who are demonstrating behaviours that are challenging for services to support (eg violent or aggressive behaviours, significant self-harming behaviours and / or extreme anti-social behaviour). These individuals usually require 24/7 support, often from 2 carers (referred to as 2:1) Carers or support workers require additional skills in communication, de-escalation, breakaway and restraint techniques.

“Coming Home Implementation: A report from the working group on complex care and delayed discharge” was published by the Scottish Government on 21st Feb 2022. The full report can be read here: [Coming Home Implementation report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Coming-Home-Implementation-report)

NHS Highland has now fully implemented the Dynamic Support Register (DSR) a mandatory monitoring structure introduced by Scottish Government. The DSR tracks individuals with a learning disability that are in hospital, in inappropriate out of area placements, at risk of support breakdown or require enhanced monitoring to prevent support breakdown. Highland currently has 58 people recorded on the Dynamic Support Register.



\*note that individuals in OOA hospitals are included in the hospital category.

9.2 The Moorings, Muir of Ord (<https://www.sahpi.com/post/muir-of-ord>) core and cluster housing development, is a bespoke design and build to meet the housing and support needs of 6 individuals with a learning disability and complex needs. Two of the flats have been designed to specifically meet the needs of two individuals and are double the size of each of the other 4 flats.

Space standards have been maximised in each of the 1 bedroom flats and additional space has been designed in the building for staff and communal space for visitors or to enable private conversations between staff, families and professionals.

- 9.3 This new build development is a clear statement of our intent to enhance housing and support options for people with a learning disability and or autism. As you can see from the video the building was design in collaboration with NHH and Safe and Houses. The construction phase of the building works concluded in December 2022. Key Housing Association are the registered social landlord and will offer tenancies to each of the 6 individuals who will be moving in. The support provision was commissioned via a tender process in November 2021 and Key identified as the provider. Key have experienced significant recruitment difficulties and to date, only one person has been able to move into their new home. There is ongoing monthly meetings with the Executive team in Key, in attempts to move forward. This remains an area of significant concern.
- 9.4 A review of people living in “isolated tenancies” (individuals receiving 24hr support in their own home but not in a cluster housing model) has identified that there is potential benefit of establishing new cluster housing and enabling people to move home. The service are working with Highland Council housing teams to identify land for potential housing developments.

Designation: Chief Officer, Highland Health & Social Care Partnership

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Appendices: N/A