**Report & Recommendation Response Form**

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| Report sent to  | **Debra Simons** |
| Date sent | 1/7/24 |
| Report title | Empowering Voices: Examining Healthcare Access for Adults with Learning Disabilities and Autistic Adults in Southwark.  |
|  | Response(If there is a nil response please provide an explanation for this within the statutory 20 days) |
| Date of response provided | 13/7/24 |
| Please outline your general response to the report including **what you are currently doing to address** some of the issues identified.  | Representing both the London Special Care Dentistry MCN and the Community Paediatric and Special Care Dental Service of Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich (CDS), we prioritise improving oral health outcomes for patients with Learning Disabilities and Autistic Adults. The MCN and the CDS focus on strong links and working relationships with local hospitals, GDP’s, other CDS services to provide level 1, 2 and 3 Dental Care for adults with Learning Disabilities and Autistic Adults. This makes the transition from primary to secondary care more seamless for these patients and access to care is expedited. Currently within the CDS we: 1. We triage all referrals and allow extra time for patients with learning disabilities and Autistic adults at their first appointment. As a CDS we provide flexibility around the times, clinic locations, and structure of appointments.
2. All our staff including receptionists, admin staff, dental nurses, dental therapists and dentists have extensive experience with assessing and treating patients with Learning Disabilities and Autistic Adults. As a team we train and educate trainees, nurses, therapists and other dental practitioners on treating patients with learning disabilities and those who are Autistic. As a trust it is now mandatory that we carry out Oliver McGowan training.
3. The CDS provides, treatment using IV sedation, inhalation sedation or GA for adults who require it.
4. The CDS provides dental care on a domiciliary basis for adults who are housebound and cannot access dental clinics.
5. We have large accessible surgeries and wheelchair recliners available.
6. We have a well-established transition pathway for paediatric to adult dental care. Our patients are never discharged without a robust plan for follow up care if appropriate from their GDP or hospital.
7. We have a strong working relationship with our Learning Disability teams and safeguarding teams. We have a dedicated patient outcome lead and safeguarding lead that sit within Dental. We work closely with families, carers and care teams, Learning Disability nurses, social workers, advocates and wider medical teams to ensure our treatment is safe, optimal and in the patient’s best interests. We have a policy for following up missed appointments in which all staff are trained.
8. We have robust assessment of capacity and routinely provide best interest meetings that involve all those care staff, family, friends, advocates, medical teams who are concerned with the patient who lacks capacity to consent, however long this may take.
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|  | Please outline what **actions** and/or improvements you will undertake **as a result of the report’s findings and recommendations**.If not applicable, please state this and provide a brief explanation of the reasons. |
| Recommendation 1  | All our staff including receptionists, admin staff, dental nurses, dental therapists and dentists have both training and extensive experience with assessing and treating patients with Learning Disabilities, Autistic Adults and children, and patients with physical, medical and mental disabilities. The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is a baseline for all staff. And additional staff have training in Makatron. |
| Recommendation 2 | We receive and share information with families, carers and care teams, Learning Disability nurses, social workers, advocates and wider medical teams. We receive referrals from all these groups as well as self-referrals. If a patient requires s home visits, their GP directly refers to the CDS. We provide emergency appointments for all patients. |
| Recommendation 3 | We have an oral health promotion team that provides outreach and training for carers, day centres, residential homes, special schools and any group/organisation that request this. They provide hands on certified training. They offer multiple methods of communication and information in different formats. |
| Recommendation 4  | The CDS recognises the overlap between learning disabilities and autism, as well as learning disabilities and physical Disabilities and provides care for people who cannot receive care from their local GDP. Staff read clinical notes ahead of appointments to ensure that adjustments are made, and the treatment appointment is well prepared. Home visits and visits to day centres are conducted when required. |
| Add recommendations if there are more than 4.  | Feedback from service users and their carers/families is collected. |
| Signed | DSimons |
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| Position | Deputy Chair for London Special Care Dentistry MCN (South East London)Specialist in Special care Dentistry/Specialist in ProsthodonticsCommunity Paediatric and Special Care Dental Service of Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich (CDS), |