



Improving Lives for People  
with Learning Disabilities  
who Challenge Services

# Developing a “How to” Guide for the Commissioning of Services for People with Learning Disabilities Who Challenge Services

**NHS and Local Authorities  
partnerships are invited to put  
themselves forward as localities to  
take part in a Project to help develop  
a significant resource to supports  
Commissioners.**

**The selected sites will work with the  
NDTi to draw up case studies on how  
they have effectively commissioned  
services for people who challenge  
and from this develop learning  
materials and a framework for action  
for publication.**

In Partnership with the Department of  
Health

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## BACKGROUND

This short project has been identified by the Department of Health and others including the Challenging Behaviour National Steering Group and the NDTi as a result of the difficulties localities are experiencing in improving services for people with learning disabilities who are described as challenging services. The aim of the Project is therefore to use existing good practice and draw out learning into a useful resource for Commissioners.

## PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The Mansell report sets out a clear direction and evidence based statement of what services should be achieving for people labelled as challenging services. However, there is a consistent message from commissioners that they have difficulty in knowing how to translate this into commissioning action and activity. Commissioners state they understand the broad principles, the aspirations and the evidence base, but their question is "What does this practically mean I/we should be doing" and "What has worked in other places that I/we should be doing"? In other words, "How do we turn the Mansell Report into commissioning activity"?

This piece of work will develop materials to help with this – clear and focused advice based upon evidence from locations that have made progress, written in a way which (whilst not being directive) is nonetheless unambiguous in terms of the messages and clarity about what should be done in which situations.

## APPROACH TO THE WORK

We will identify four local services systems to develop the case studies of good work in relation to the Mansell Report's recommendations on delivery.

In order to be considered an appropriate location, sites will need to be able to demonstrate **all** of the following:

- A whole system approach in the sense of engaging the NHS, LA and third sector in what they have done and achieved. This is not to say it must

encompass services for everyone in the defined local area, but rather that to the extent it has made progress, this full range of stakeholders has been fully involved.

- An evidence base in that they can demonstrate one or both of having stopped people who challenge being sent out of district and/or bringing people back home. Additionally, the approach taken must be demonstrably that of a 'developer' as defined in the Mansell Report rather than a 'container'
- The ability to provide us with the information to do a financial analysis to show the costs of what they have been doing i.e. localities must (with our support if needed) be able to answer the question about the financial impact of what they have been doing.

## WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

The NDTi would like to hear from localities who believe they have learning to share – by mid January. The selected sites will be contacted by late January 2010.

The NDTi will then visit each site in order to understand and analyse what has happened in these places - using the core components of the 'Realistic Evaluation' framework that NDTi uses for its research and evaluation work. Rather than just describe what has happened, this approach seeks to understand what it was that people did that meant things changed or did not change – thus meaning we can obtain transferable learning from any situation.

The NDTi will write this up into what could be termed case studies, but will actually be much more than that. The project will specifically draw out the learning to provide a framework for action, describing what local commissioners and managers need to do, in a whole system context, in order to replicate the apparent progress and success of these four case study sites. Localities participating in this work will be fully consulted on the analysis and the description of their work that will be published. Others such as the Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group will also be invited to comment upon the final draft of the materials.

The NDTi aims to have the materials available for web based publication and distribution by July 2010.

## WANT TO TAKE PART ?

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO

If you are interested, please complete the application below. Please expand your answers as much as you need, but keep the final paperwork to a maximum of four sides at this stage.

‘We believe that we have made significant progress in commissioning services for people with learning disabilities who also challenge, in a way that delivers on the vision set down in the Mansell Report. We would like to offer our learning towards the production of National advice to help improve commissioning practice’ . .

Please describe how your local work demonstrates the following:-

Criteria	Evidence
1. The involvement of a range of partners, including the NHS, local authority and third sector	
2. The evidence you have to demonstrate that people who challenge have:- i) Not been sent out of area ; <b>and/or</b> ii) Been brought back from out or area	
3. An outline of what you have done in commissioning and planning terms to evidence how you have acted as a “Developer” rather than a “Container” (Mansell Report)	
4. Information you have on the financial impact of your work.	

**CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR SITE:**

<b>Name of Project Lead:</b>	Tel No:
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Return forms to: [Linda.offord@ndti.org.uk](mailto:Linda.offord@ndti.org.uk) not later than **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

*(As the NDTi will be moving offices in Mid January, it would help if you could return your details by email rather than post to reduce the risk of them going astray).*

For further information please call :-

Rob Greig - 01225 787 982 or Linda Offord - 079 171 080 97