

Case Study: Gloucestershire

November 2020

In Gloucestershire, partnership working has been key to the implementation of Annual Health Checks. There is an Annual Health Check project group chaired by the commissioner of the Clinical Commissioning Group, an enthusiastic advocate of Annual Health Checks. Membership includes the GP learning disability champion, the consultant nurse, representatives from the Intensive Health Outreach Team (IHOT) and the Learning Disability Intensive Support Service (LDISS), the CCG auditor, Primary Care Leads, family carers and the strategic health facilitator. The project group works with Inclusion Gloucestershire (the local user led organisation) to develop resources and deliver training.

The Strategic Health Facilitator developed an Annual Health Check pack in consultation with group members. The pack was introduced to GPs as part of a county wide micro-training initiative led by the Strategic Health Facilitator alongside experts by experience, family carers, nurses and GP champions.

Having experts by experience involved in the training was very important and made a big impact on GPs. Inclusion Gloucestershire also made a film about Reasonable Adjustments that was used in the training. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao8GmsS67Vk&feature=youtu.be>

In addition, the Annual Health Check project group engaged Inclusion Gloucestershire to co-produce six workshops using interactive theatre. The plays were entitled Annual Health Check “Making Reasonable Adjustments”. 69 participants including GP’s, practice nurses, receptionists, families, carers and paid staff took part in these events with positive feedback on the impact of the workshops on their practice, knowledge and skills. The session was filmed and can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/ao8GmsS67Vk> and <https://youtu.be/K1komdzoLlc>. Crucially, the three hour forums were accredited by the General Medical Council and therefore counted as part of the GPs protected learning time.

Inclusion Gloucestershire said that ‘delivering these projects was a collaborative effort between ourselves, our members, our commissioners and our health colleagues. We found out about people’s experiences and then used this information alongside the overall outcomes of the project to develop the scripts for the Forum plays and the films. We had a lot of positive feedback, particularly regarding our actors and how, hearing their voices had a greater impact on the audience. Since making the films, we have shared them with groups across the country who contacted us to ask if they could use them locally. We also delivered a workshop to a large GP surgery based on our ‘Making Adjustments play’ and are about to embark on a year-long project to deliver ‘Making Adjustments’ across GP practices in Gloucestershire.’

Resources for GP practices including the Annual Health Check pack are available on g-care. All GPs and clinicians have access to the site which has clear information about why a health check is needed along with the AHC pack and other helpful information: https://g-care.glos.nhs.uk/pathway/590/resource/11#chapter_7264

Other initiatives include raising awareness of Annual Health Checks in day, respite, partner organisations and other services, and putting information about the Annual Health Check into the initial assessment pack used by the community teams. There is also the big health and social care day which happens annually with a focus on reducing health inequalities. For further information see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8pptJoyG4E>

