

Case Study: The Living Well project in Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Barnsley



November 2020

Inclusion North and Cloverleaf Advocacy received funding from NHS England (via the Transforming Care Partnership) to deliver the Living Well project covering Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Barnsley. The project was funded for two years.

The project was co-produced with local people with lived experience, family carers, and representatives from health and social care. There was a design group. They did some initial mapping of what was working well and what wasn't, and started to identify some resources that could be shared across the area.

They decided that the project should focus on Annual Health Checks and access to Screening. They wanted to:

- Promote annual health checks and screening across Calderdale, Kirklees, Wakefield and Barnsley
- Give people with a learning disability and their supporters the right information to make sure that everyone has a good annual health check
- Tell people where they can find more information to support their health needs
- Support people to know what they should expect at their annual health check and what questions to ask
- Look at what works well and what doesn't work well for people with a learning disability

They held four Living Well roadshows in each of the four areas, and wrote a report about what they found. They have shared the report, and are attending local partnership boards to talk about how people can improve access to health checks and screening locally. They are also developing a Health Ambassador role to promote health checks.

Some key issues were:

- People's experiences were very different. For example, some people don't get the right support or information they need
- There is no central place for people to get the information they need. It is all out there but scattered around and people do not know about it
- Information for young people 14+ about health checks is not visible, and may not be there at all
- Service providers say they need more training. People with learning disabilities are still attending health checks with a supporter who does not know them and is not prepared
- There is a lack of understanding about the Mental Capacity Act with regard to informed choice. For example, it can be used to argue that it is a person's choice not to attend a health check, when work has not been done to help people understand what it is all about.

The report can be downloaded from: https://inclusionnorth.org/our_work/the-living-well-project-in-calderdale-kirklees-wakefield-and-barnsley/

For more information about Cloverleaf Advocacy see: www.cloverleafadvocacy.co.uk

For more information about Inclusion North see: <https://inclusionnorth.org/>

