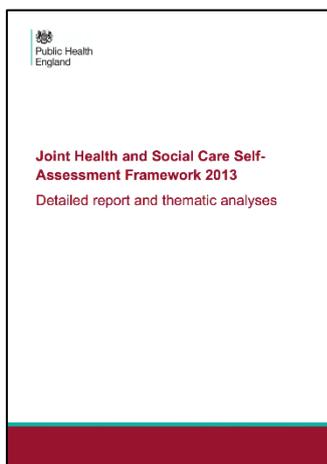


The Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)

Report about what people with learning disabilities and families think about the SAF and its future



What is the SAF?

The SAF was a way for local areas to check on how they were doing for people with learning disabilities and families.

When it started it was about health services. Social care and support were added later.



People with learning disabilities and families were a very important part of the assessment.



What happened to the SAF?

There was work to update the joint health and social care SAF.

This happened when there were lots of changes to health and social care.

Health and social care could not agree who was responsible for making sure the SAF happened.



What we did

We did a survey to find out what people with learning disabilities, their families and friends thought about the SAF.

We wanted to hear from people who had been part of the SAF.

We also wanted to hear from other people.

We sent the survey to lots of people.



We used social media and networks like Learning Disability England.

There was an easy read version of the survey.



Who took part?

185 people took part in total.

They were:

21 people with learning disabilities

92 family members (nearly half)

28 friends or supporters

4 other carers

40 other people



The other people said they were:

Providers (11)

Managers (7)

People who worked for the local authority (5)

People who worked for health (5)

Commissioners (4)

Advocates (3)

Social workers (2)

An autistic person who does not have learning disabilities (1)



Not all questions were answered.

This was because of the way the questions were asked – not because people stopped answering them.

What people knew about the SAF



53 people said they had been part of the SAF

48 people said they had heard of it but not been part of it

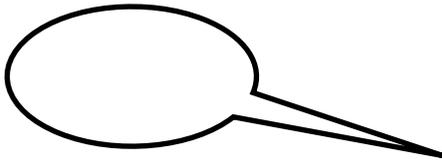
83 people said they had not heard of it

Did the SAF help areas know how local services were doing?

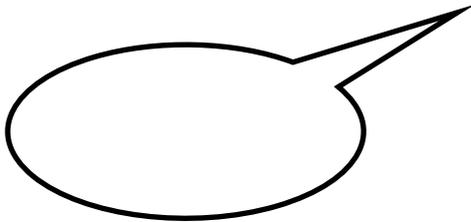


Most people who answered (42 people) said yes. 7 people said no.

These are some of the things people said –



“It gave a voice to people with a learning disability and their carers – also ensured accountability of providers of mainstream services on how they met the needs of people with a learning disability...”.



“It brought services together to discuss the positives and the things we needed to improve...it tried to hold professionals to account when asking for evidence for the SAF”.



“As it is a self-assessment, the challenge locally was important”.



Did the SAF give people and families a say?

38 people said yes

11 people said no

33 people gave a reason for their answer.

These are some of the things they said.

It gave people a say when:



- Enough people and families knew about it and were involved
 - There was a strong partnership board that included people and families
 - People were given the right time and support to be involved
-



But:

- It was sometimes... bureaucratic (lots of paper work), just ticking boxes or “NHS speak”
- Sometimes national timings got in the way of a full process
- Sometimes people and families did not know where the money was going but professionals did



Did the SAF make changes happen?

39 people said yes

10 people said no

36 people gave a reason for their answer

People said it made changes happen as:

- It brought all voices together
- It provided scrutiny (a way of checking)
- It needed an action group to follow up and implement (do things)
- It resulted in more people having health checks, self-advocacy and quality checkers

People said it did not make changes happen as:

- Information provided to us did not give the complete picture
- The RAG (red, amber, green) rating did not work well
- Those who did not meet eligibility criteria (for services) did not benefit from the changes





Are there ways for people to have a say about how services are doing now?

84 people said yes

47 people said no

Examples given were:

- Learning Disability Partnership Boards
- Comments and complaints systems
- Reviews and meetings
- Self-advocacy
- Annual surveys



Most of the examples were not about working together to make change happen.



Does what you say now make things change?

7 people said always

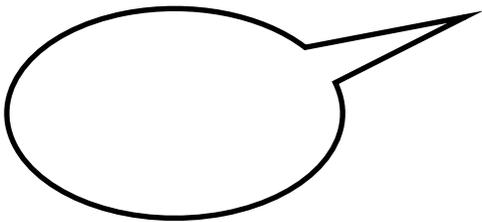
95 people said sometimes

28 people said never

People were asked for examples of changes



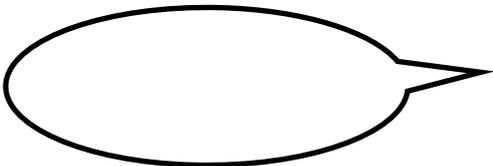
These are some of the things people said:



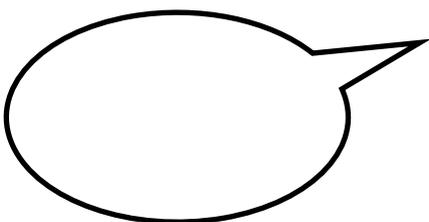
“If I call a meeting with the social worker and everyone involved with the placement, everything gets nicely agreed but never carried through. After 20 years I have given up”.



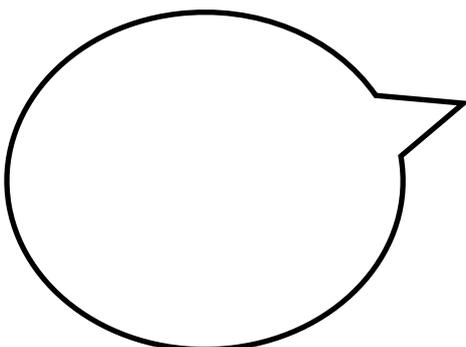
“What we say makes a change if we put a lot of energy in saying the same thing many times, in many places...not always possible”.



“If the services you (use) believe you can advocate well for your loved one and (speak) well, then yes, otherwise no”.



The local authority “at leadership level are fully signed up to the principles of co-production and expect it to happen, unfortunately it rarely does”.



“It has in the past but not recently with cuts. Our views seem to be second to reducing costs in some cases. However we have managed to alter some ways the cuts have been implemented to make it less (bad) for people with learning disabilities”.



Do we need new ways for people and families to influence local plans?

9 people said no we already have these

83 people said yes we have some ways but not enough

38 people said yes, we have none



So what does all this mean?

When done well the SAF used to work.



People and families have fewer ways to be heard and influence change now

There are only a small number of people who know about ways get heard and change big things.

A lot of people did not know about the SAF either.



People want to improve things.

Whatever happens needs to be simple and flexible.

People must be included.

What happens next?



A meeting was held to talk about the survey results



- People from NHS England, PHE, ADASS, LGA and DHSC took part.
- We heard from people with learning disabilities, families and carers that there is a need for their voices to be heard in local planning and reviewing how well services are meeting their needs.

The SAF had been a way of doing that.



- We agreed that if the SAF, or something like it, was to happen again then there needs to be a clear, strong message to local areas that says they must do it.



- NHSE agreed to speak with senior people at DHSC and ask them to think again about how we can move this forward.