How to check up on your Transforming Care Partnership (TCP)

These questions will help you find out what your local area is doing to transform care for people with a learning disability and/or autism[1] who display challenging behaviour. They will also help you check your TCP is making the right decisions and involving the right people.

If you haven't had any information yet from your TCP

> Ask for a report at your next meeting so they can tell you about their plans and seek your views.

> Offer to share your ideas on what services your local area needs. If they already have a consultation or involvement group, you could ask to join – but you don't have to. Your views should be considered either way.

> Ask who the Senior Responsible Officer is for Transforming Care in your area.

> Ask how many people from your area are currently in inpatient units and how many have moved back into their local community recently. Ask how many of these people are under 18.

If your TCP is coming to your meeting

You could start with these questions:

> What difference will your plans make to the lives of people with a learning disability and/or autism in our area?

> Have you considered the local authority's learning disability and/or autism strategies? If so, how?

> How are you making sure the plans cover everyone's varying needs?

Next, use these questions to ask them about their plans in more depth, and what they mean for people with a learning disability and/or autism.

> Are they involving people with experience of inpatient units and their families in making decisions? If so, how?

> Has everyone in, or at risk of going into, an inpatient unit had a Care and Treatment Review (CTR) in the last six months? Also:

  • are their families and carers involved?

  • how do they make sure that CTR recommendations are followed?

> How are they making sure the plans meet the needs of children, young people and adults?

> What gaps have they found in support and services for people in this group who display behaviour that challenges?

> What are their top priorities for developing the right community-based support and services, and when will they be available? Do they include making sure:

  • staff are trained to support people with complex needs, training is kept up to date and is specific to supporting people with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviour that challenges?

  • services have enough capacity for all the people in our area who need it?

  • people have access to ongoing support for mental health and behaviour needs in the community when they need it?

  • people get early support from social care and for mental health and behaviour needs, to prevent crises which lead to going to inpatient units?

> What are they doing to make sure extra support is there for people who are leaving inpatient units?

> What housing support options will they have, and will they include a range to suit peoples' needs, including supported living and residential care?

> How do they involve people who may lack capacity to make a decision about where they live in the decision-making process as much as possible?

> How do they make sure people in inpatient units:

  • are getting good quality care?

  • aren't staying there for longer than needed?

  • aren't being restrained or given inappropriate medication?

  • always have access to the right support for their needs including mental health, behaviour, physical health and communication?

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[1] Throughout this guide, unless otherwise specified, autism is taken to mean all conditions on the autism spectrum, including Asperger syndrome, high-functioning autism and classic autism.

About Transforming Care Partnerships

Why were TCPs set up?

The Government saw that too many people with a learning disability and/or autism who show behaviour that challenges are living in inpatient units in hospitals.

It says that 'hospitals are not homes' and people should be able to get the right support in their local communities.

So, NHS England published a plan for closing inpatient beds and developing the right support for those people in the community, called *Building the right support*. They want to halve the number of inpatient beds being used.

In their plan, NHS England set up Transforming Care Partnerships (TCPs), which bring together decision makers from neighbouring local authorities and Clinical Commissioning Groups.

You can find a list of the TCPs here: **www.england.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/tcp**.

What do TCPs do?

TCPs plan to change local services to better support the needs of people with a learning disability and/or autism who show behaviour that challenges. This might be improving community services, or making sure the right staff are in place.

The partnerships need to make the right decisions and involve the right people. But we know this isn't happening everywhere at the moment.

How can I help to address this?

Autism Partnership Boards and Learning Disability Partnership Boards have an important part to play in checking TCPs are serving the people they were set up to help.

As a member of either of these boards, the list of questions overleaf will help you check up on your TCP and hold them to account.

How can I get further help?

We want to know if your request for a report from your TCP, or your request to get involved in their work, is unsuccessful.

- Autism Partnership Boards: please contact The National Autistic Society's Campaigns Team at **campaign@nas.org.uk**.

- Learning Disability Partnership Boards: Please contact the Mencap Campaigns Team at **campaigns@mencap.org.uk**.

For more information about the Transforming Care programme and TCPs, visit **www.england.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities**.

This leaflet can be downloaded at www.autism.org.uk/TCP-what-to-ask

The National Autistic Society

mencap
The voice of learning disability

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation
making a difference to the lives of people with severe learning disabilities