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Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland

Providing Supports to People with a Learning Disability Transitioning into Older Age

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Content

- Background
- Policy
- What we set out to do
- What we did
- What the research found
- Recommendations
- Strategic Direction



Background

- Living longer
- Ageing younger
- More people living with families
- Most Carers are Female



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Background

- Living longer
- Ageing younger
- More people living with families
- Most Carers are Female



Despite 30 years of research into identifying the needs of ageing family carers, the needs of these family carers continue to remain unmet



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Background

The diagram features a central photograph of an elderly woman and a man. Four blue boxes on the left have arrows pointing to the photo, labeled: 'Living longer', 'Ageing younger', 'More people living with families', and 'Most Carers are Female'. A yellow oval on the right has an arrow pointing to the photo, labeled 'Lack of planning in Communities'.

Living longer

Ageing younger

More people living with families

Most Carers are Female

Lack of planning in Communities

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Background

This diagram is identical to the one above, but includes a second yellow oval on the right. An arrow points from the photo to this oval, which contains the text: 'Current models no longer fit for purpose, nor are they a viable or sustainable option'.

Living longer

Ageing younger

More people living with families

Most Carers are Female

Lack of planning in Communities

Current models no longer fit for purpose, nor are they a viable or sustainable option

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Background



Living longer

Ageing younger

More people living with families

Most Carers are Female

Lack of planning in Communities


Current models no longer fit for purpose, nor are they a viable or sustainable option

Traditional service models are unable to meet the current and future demands

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Lack of planning in Communities

Current models no longer fit for purpose, nor are they a viable or sustainable option

Traditional service models are unable to meet the current and future demands

Commissioners, policymakers and service providers must rethink current family support and traditional service models

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Policy:

- The *'Equal Lives Report'* (2005) & the Bamford Action Plan (09-11) identified ageing as an area that required specific planning within LD services
- The *'UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities'* (2006) states that all persons with a disability have the right to 'live independently and be included in the community'
- Five years on from *'Transforming Your Care'* (2011), little change is evident
- The *NI LD Service Framework* (2011a) recommended that all people with a LD aged 50 years and over should have:
 - The impact of ageing taken into consideration when assessing & managing their needs;
 - The option to remain in their own home with their family carer for as long as possible with appropriate care and support to do so



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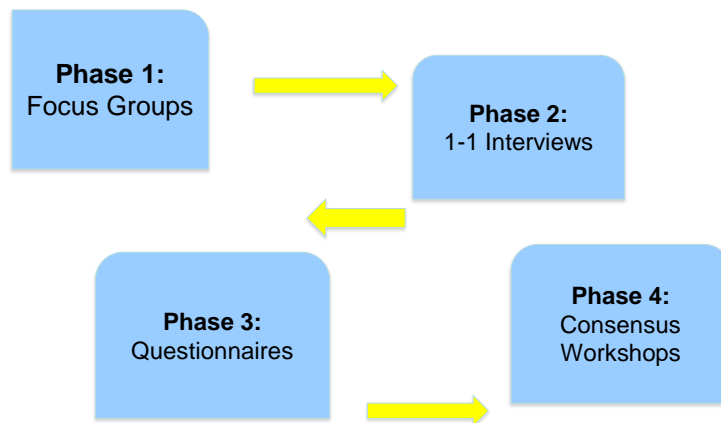
What we set out to do:

- To identify appropriate services for people with a learning disability as they transition into old age
- To identify appropriate supports for older family carers to continue to care for adults with a learning disability into the future
- To identify policy and practice implications from local and international research



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What we did:



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What the research found:



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Theme 3 – Family Support

Needs of this population not recognised or resourced

No point of contact for families

Lack of assistive technologies



Few had a carers assessment and direct payments

Little support from other family members



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Theme 4 – Inclusive Communities

Attending a day centre was more than a day placement

People with a LD welcomed the opportunity to engage in their wider community

Community services rarely make the necessary 'reasonable adjustments'



Communities are largely unaware and unprepared to engage with this population



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Planning for the Older Person with a Learning Disability

Annual Health Checks / Action Plans

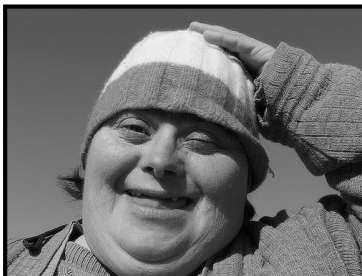
Regional Electronic Register/Database

People with LD as Carers for Ageing parents

Future Planning

Dementia Need

Assistive Technologies



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Family Support

Single point of contact

Education and Training

Enhanced Carers Assessment

Assistive Technology

Self-directed support / Direct payments

Carer Support Groups and Sibling Support Groups



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Inclusive Communities

'Reasonable Adjustments' to community health programmes

Local Councils

Public Health Agency



Co-ordinate Statutory and Voluntary/Community sectors

Mentoring and Support



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Strategic Direction



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Strategic Recommendations

- Establish a **Family Manifesto / Charter** to protect the rights of both older people
- To develop a **Carers Bill for Northern Ireland** aimed at promoting the rights and requirements of family carers
- All family carers and people with a learning disability should be supported to access the **Equality Commission** and the **Law Centre**
- A **cross-departmental working group** should be put in place to oversee the establishment and operational management of an **'Expert Committee'**



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Strategic Recommendations

- All service providers need to evidence **leadership** and **share responsibility** to build the **relationships** required to ensure that existing service models are reshaped
- New solutions must be proactive and require a **change of mind-set**
- Everyone has a **responsibility** to ensure that our communities are welcoming and inclusive
- The recommendations put forward here today should be the outcomes under which leadership are held **accountable**



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Thanks for listening

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