The LeDeR (Learning Disability Review of Mortality) programme is a national programme aimed at making improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities. Reviews are being carried out with a view to improve the standard and quality of care for people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities, their families and carers have been central to developing and delivering the programme. Recommendations and good practice are identified within the review and used to ensure change is embedded, improving services for the future. In Hertfordshire we want to make sure people with a learning disability stay healthy and well. We are working on a range of activities as a result of the reviews which will help to improve people’s health and wellbeing.

LeDeR Reviewers - So far from the reviews we have learnt that there are areas where health and social care provision can change how they deliver their services. This includes improving how the Mental Capacity Act is applied, advance care planning and better communication across services, but more specifically with the person with a learning disability and their families/carers. In addition there are key themes and causes of death that we are seeing in Hertfordshire. Over 50% of people have died as a result of pneumonia, aspiration pneumonia or sepsis which are conditions that can be treated.

Making Change Happen: There is lots more work taking place across the county

The Hertfordshire County Council website now has a webpage dedicated to providing information about health conditions. The page is aimed at offering guidance to people with a learning disability (in an accessible format); families, carers and health and care professionals. The information on here can be used for group sessions for service users and for staff inductions to help those that support people to be aware of the role they play in bridging health inequality gaps: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/LDmyhealth

The second link is for health professionals. This has the tools they can use and also the pathways to improving their health care delivery for people with learning disabilities: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ldprofessionals

Advance Care Planning
As part of a winter pilot HCC has been running a pilot with the Health Liaison team to identify people who are at risk of hospital admission. Staff are monitoring the impact of this and will feedback the outcomes in due course.

Pneumonia – Flu campaign
This year GP practices have been offering the nasal spray to their patients with a learning disability who are unable to tolerate the flu vaccine by injection. There has been a significant increase on improving both flu vaccine and annual health check uptake to avoid admissions into hospitals.
Making Change Happen: There is lots more work taking place across the county:

The Sepsis Song
The Sepsis Song developed by Kate Harding, creative practitioner and the Purple All Stars with the Sepsis nurses from the Lister. The song educates people to know the signs of sepsis and advises when to seek medical attention and say 'Just check me for Sepsis, that's all I ask'.

Purple Wrist Bands
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust are trialling the use of purple wrist bands for people with learning disabilities in the admissions areas at the Lister to remind people to make reasonable adjustments both on the wards and when they leave the ward for tests.

NHSE 10 Year Plan
The LeDeR programme features in the new NHSE 10 Year Plan. There will be a range of national guidance around a number of conditions aimed at families, carers and professionals that will assist and support the person with a learning disability better.

Wheelchair Accessible Scales
One of the issues that Community Nurses are identifying with care providers is a lack of weights recorded for service users, particularly when they are wheelchair users. This may be because providers are not aware of the number of wheelchair accessible weighing scales that are available. Monthly weight records are recommended to ensure any weight gains or losses are identified and a Care Plan can be put in to address this.

Call for reviewers
The LeDeR programme is always looking for reviewers. You will need to have clinical experience or a qualification in health/social care. Please contact: Kathryn.dempsey@hertfordshire.gov.uk for more information.

LeDeR Reports
The annual LeDeR report will be available in a few weeks. The Hertfordshire report in response to the national report will be available by July 2019.

EasyRead Newsletter
An Easy Read version of this newsletter is being prepared and will be available soon.

For any queries around the LeDeR Mortality Review Programme please contact: Kathryn.dempsey@hertfordshire.gov.uk
To be added to the distribution list please contact: Elaine.scott@hertfordshire.gov.uk