

No decision about me, without me

– A new approach to the development of Adult Social Care Support services

Harrow adult social care has always asked residents for their views in both the development of new services, and with regards any proposed changes to existing services. However, this has generally been in the traditional way of sharing plans produced by council officers and inviting comments from people on these proposals; or by carrying out public surveys to gauge the satisfaction of people with the current support services provided.

Social Care now intends to change this approach that has required people to *react* to plans, to one where those individuals who are able to provide first hand experience of what support they have found helpful, are involved *proactively* from the start. The aim is to establish shared decision-making process that firmly place people's needs, aspirations and preferences at the heart of any service development planning for the future.

This is what we mean by the phrase 'co-production'. The aim is not just to create greater involvement, but to facilitate greater choice and control in the type of support available.

How is this going to happen?

The new co-productive approach will be introduced in stages, starting with the establishment of an *Expert-by-Experience Advisory group* to support the development of community mental health services.

This group will be made up of Harrow citizens that have both personal experience of mental ill-health, and are either using or have used support services to assist with their recovery or to maintain their wellbeing.

Adult Social Care in partnership with Mind in Harrow will be recruiting people from their local community during December 2020 to become part of this Advisory group, with interviews and initial training to be delivered by the end of January 2021.

We are seeking people with the enthusiasm and ideas to work together in this new partnership approach that enables us jointly to improve the local offer from mental health support services.