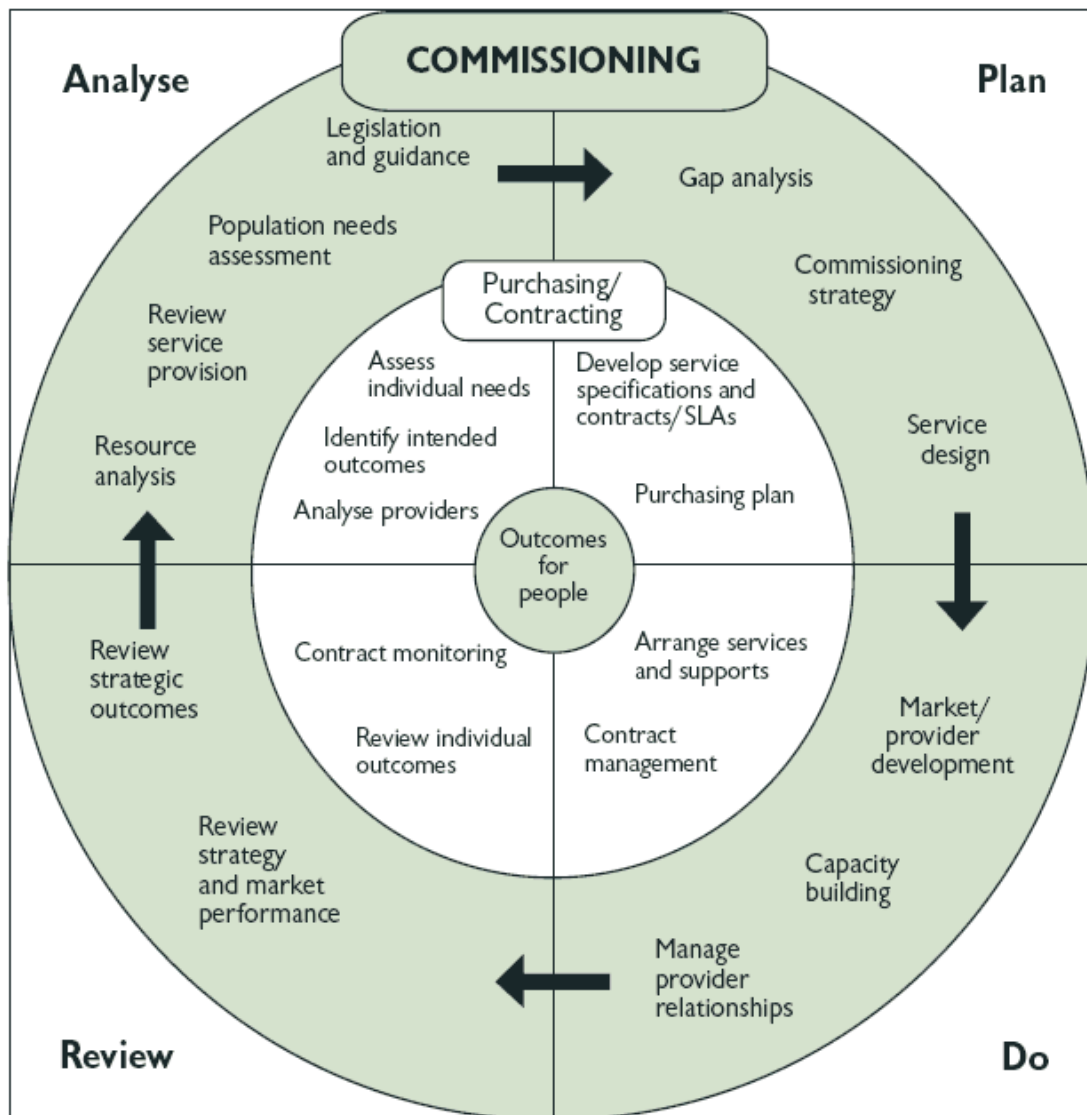


Commissioning Report for the Learning Disabilities and Mental Health EIT Review Project Board

Background:

The CSED report into services for people with a learning disability described the culture of commissioning and providing services for this client group as risk averse and identified a historical over reliance on placements being made into residential care (although the report also highlighted an increase in community based services over the past few years). It was recommended that work should be undertaken to promote the increased use of high quality independent living services in conjunction with more appropriate approaches to carrying out individual assessments and reviews. Work is underway to achieve these goals and has been undertaken as part of a specific independent living project that has now been incorporated into the EIT review for learning disability and mental health services. Drawing on the elements of the commissioning cycle, shown below, this report will highlight progress and identify plans to achieve the goals of the EIT review.



Demographic/Needs Mapping

A number of existing databases have been consolidated and 507 people with a learning disability who receive commissioned services funded by Stockton Borough Council have been identified. The database has been further developed to identify the services people use and what costs are incurred after any third party or client contribution. The database will be updated to reflect changes in packages of care and to include new clients who require a service. The database also includes children and young people with a learning disability who are in transitions services.

A desk top review is currently being carried out by a senior social worker to identify the needs of the clients identified on the database. The purpose of this review is to highlight where people may be able to develop their independent living skills and to identify 'move on' options, as well as creating a baseline to enable commissioners to map needs to support the commissioning of appropriate services.

Policy and Strategy Drivers

The Department of Health Guidance *Valuing People Now* provides a framework for best practice with respect to the care and support of people with learning disabilities. The Council has developed a learning disabilities strategy in line with *Valuing People Now* principles, and the recommendations of the EIT review will be incorporated into the action plan of the strategy.

Service Mapping

A list of all services currently commissioned has been compiled at an individual and service level. Individual care and support are reviewed as part of client reviews and overall service provision is monitored as part of the commissioning cycle.

All commissioned services will be reviewed as part of the EIT review with a view to highlighting services that continue to achieve desired outcomes for service users. In addition, services that are no longer appropriate will be identified for redesign or to be decommissioned and fit for purpose service models identified. This process will be carried out in line with the personalisation agenda, with an emphasis on self directed supported to increase individual choice and control over the care and support received.

Procurement and service monitoring

Already, a number of issues have been identified in relation to how services are commissioned for both groups of service users and individuals. Work has started to clarify the areas of responsibility for care managers and commissioners in securing services for individuals and this is being captured in the care management and commissioning working practices work stream. For example, care managers have attended a number of workshops to review the current care management process and culture and to identify a range of more appropriate services that focus on desired service user outcomes, such as the promotion of independence.

Historically there have been 4 main providers of services for people with learning disabilities in Stockton. In order to increase choice for people a preferred provider list for care services in Stockton and a Tees-wide Autism Framework have been developed.

Stockton's Preferred Provider List provides information relating to service providers that have been accredited by the Council and is in development to become a framework agreement to facilitate the procurement of care and support services for clients. Through the use of the Preferred Provider List and Autism Framework, commissioners will work with care managers to secure services for clients following assessment and identification of needs.

In addition to this current work, commissioners will be involved in individual and group consultations with care managers to identify unmet needs, to assess the quality of current services and to offer advice to care managers in relation to cases that are being presented to the resource panel.

It is essential that close working is maintained with housing colleagues and other partners, such as the Primary Care Trust, so that services are commissioned holistically for clients and that the wider context of service provision is taken into account.

Conclusions

Progress has been made as part of the initial independent living project in modernising the commissioning practices required for people with learning disabilities and will continue as part of the learning disabilities EIT review. The Adult Strategy Team will continue to lead in monitoring the implementation and review of the learning disabilities commissioning strategy and will have responsibility to implement the commissioning recommendations of the EIT review.