

Response ID ANON-Y5NQ-W1CJ-2

Submitted to Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: consultation
Submitted on 2024-04-21 16:57:43

About you

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

What is your name?

Name:
Eloise Wilson

What is your organisation?

Organisation:
CVS Falkirk & District - Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Forum

What is your phone number?

please provide your phone number:

What is your postcode?

postcode:
FK1 1XR

What is your email address? (if you do not have an email address please enter na for not applicable in this box)

email address:
eloise.wilson@cvsfalkirk.org.uk

If you are responding as an organisation, please tell us which of the following categories best describes you?(select all that are appropriate)

Third sector organisation

Other (please say):

If you are responding as an individual please tell us which of the following categories best describes you?(select all that apply)

Not applicable - responding as an organisation (see previous answer)

Which ethnic group best describes you?

Not Answered

What was your age last birthday?

Not Answered

Which local authority area you live in (or operate in if an organisation - tick all that apply)? Individuals should select only one.

Falkirk

Which of these options best describes how you think of yourself?

Not Answered

Which gender identity best describes you?

Not Answered

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

Publish response with name

Do you consent to Scottish Government contacting you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

I confirm that I have read the privacy policy and consent to the data I provide being used as set out in the policy.

I consent

Health and Wellbeing

Which of these proposals do you agree with (if any), please tell us why?

Please give us your views:

Which of these proposals do you not agree with (if any), please tell us why?

Please give us your views:

Is there anything else that we should consider in relation to health and wellbeing?

Please give us your views:

This feedback is delivered by members from CVS Falkirk & District's Third Sector Health and Wellbeing Forum in March 2024. 30 staff members from different third sector organisations across the Falkirk area gathered at the Forum to discuss the LDAN Bill consultation and provided feedback from a third sector perspective on the following themes: Accessibility, Provision of Services, Training, Signposting and Social Capital, and Health. We hope this feedback will be of value to your consultation and provide information from the third sector about what we hope will be included in the delivery of the Bill.

Accessibility:

- Forum members highlighted that routine and consistency of accessing services generally brings stability and comfort to LDAN groups and support lowering levels of anxiety and stress. Locally in Falkirk, there are challenges in the number of places people can meet because of community building closures and a subsequent decrease in the availability of subsidised venues. The possible closure or redeployment of these services in a different area may cause disruption to the routine of LDAN groups and impact negatively on their wellbeing and ability to access services. Greater attentiveness and care should be taken to ensure that LDAN groups are prepared and supported when services change/close.
- Further changes in or a general lack of availability of transport links means there are local challenges in getting young people and adults to venues for support, particularly those living in the rural areas of Falkirk. LDAN groups may benefit from specialised transport support and although this kind of transport is available for primary and secondary education, this is not so readily available for young people who have left education and adults with LDAN.
- Forum members highlighted challenges some LDAN groups have in accessing digital resources to help with health and wellbeing such as Sleepio. It is unknown if these apps have been piloted by LDAN groups for their suitability and accessibility.
- More funding opportunities needed for grassroot services to build up and develop their support for LDAN groups.

Provision of Services:

- Most of the community support provision for LDAN groups is delivered by charitable organisations, which are vulnerable to funding challenges and maintaining a steady stream of volunteers.
- Groups are still experiencing challenges in recruiting/retaining volunteers because of the covid-19 pandemic and this impacts on how many people can be supported, including LDAN groups.
- There is a need to coordinate advocacy services with wider third sector services in Falkirk for LDAN groups. People naturally build a rapport and trust with staff/volunteers from third sector services who in turn find they are taking on advocacy roles when this is not their remit/service responsibility. Staff/volunteers may benefit from guidance from advocacy services on delivering this support and/or have an established referral process to refer groups onto advocacy services if they do not have the capacity to provide that support.
- A need for a package of support for children and young people – involving relevant services and trusted people in their lives - following them through their life transition. This will help pick up on people in earlier life to provide more consistent, wrap around support.
- Packages of support for LDAN groups should be developed quickly and responsively and no one should be on waiting lists for support. Community supports are available but need additional, long-term funding to take on more service users/expand services to accommodate more people accessing their services.

Training:

- Training is required for providers, with a focus on unconscious bias, as this population are often treated differently and not seen as individuals.
- Training for carers, who often do not recognise themselves as carers – rather they see themselves as parents, relatives, partners.
- The ability to adapt to specific practical needs is important, but this needs to be coupled with equal consideration for individual wellbeing. Experience suggests that this is considered neither urgent nor critical.
- The power of lived experience should also be utilised in any training programme.

Signposting and Social Capital:

- Much work is underway across the third sector and the public sector around supporting LDAN groups, but there is little knowledge about how to signpost individuals and/or groups to these services. In addition, little is known about how to pull them together so that this population feel part of their community – whether that is their local area or meeting those with similar experiences and needs – the groups recognised the positive impact of social capital on mental health.
- There is a need for inclusive communications or a central data base to find out information about signposting to other services and referral pathways. There is a lot of information out there about support for LDAN groups, but it is difficult to filter through it all. A central point of contact for finding information to signpost/refer people onto would prove helpful.

Health:

- It was felt that too little was understood about the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on this population, together with the impact of trauma. Any services should be offered in a trauma informed way.
- The groups felt the need for a roadmap of service delivery, that was adhered to. Not just words and good intention.
- For children and young people who may or may not have been diagnosed with LDAN, there needs to be better access to alternative activities – outside of exams and academia that allow them to develop important life skills to benefit development and wellbeing, e.g doing something physical that provides them with something tangible as an end result such as growing produce, learning woodcraft, and earning money.