

The Profound Impact of Learning Disability Nurses on the lives of people with multiple disabilities

Award Winning Nurse Led Health & Wellbeing Team

Winning the first ever 'Nursing in Social Care' Nursing Times Award in 2021 for the support of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, the Achieve together nursing team oversee the sharing and implementation of research/evidence based practice to ensure people with profound and multiple learning

disabilities are supported to live healthy, happy and fulfilled lives.

Our Director of Wellbeing, Michael Fullerton and Head of Health & Clinical Governance, Erren Wheatland are both recipients of the Chief Nurse Adult Social Care Gold Award.



Achieve together PMLD Community

Strong Practice Leadership is vital. The PMLD Community, facilitated by the nursing team provides regular opportunities for managers across England and Wales, other team members and families to share best practice and challenges, learn about new research and discuss the Core & Essential Service Standards. The PMLD Community plan the annual Supportive Therapy Day.



Annual Supportive Therapy Day



This longstanding event is for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, their families and support teams. Designed to offer a range of creative opportunities, bring the Core & Essential Service Standards to life and inspire, the Supportive Therapy is a fun-filled day with a wide range of therapeutic and sensory options to try out.

The day ends with the now infamous 'Pimp My Chair', a competition to find the 'best dressed' wheelchair – highly competitive with support teams working for weeks (in secret) with the person supported to create a masterpiece!

Day to Day Nursing Support

The Achieve together Nursing Team, geographically based across differing areas in England and Wales. Working on a referral basis the team provide support, guidance, bespoke training, review strategies and practice, liaise with external health professionals, assess need and advocate on behalf of people supported.

The team guide on implementation of the Core & Essential Service Standards, advise on Health Planning, Prevention and Promotion, outbreaks of infections, eating & drinking risks, postural management, use of assistive technology, hospital admissions and discharges, palliative and end of life care. This support includes signposting to local

services, equipment suppliers and accessible communication resources.

The team review the appropriate use of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, family and multi-disciplinary engagement and DNACPR.



PMLD LINK

PMLD LINK are the leading resource in the UK for sharing best practice via PMLD LINK Journal, social media platforms and regular webinars.

The Journal, and webinars include international contributors which enhances learning. Michael Fullerton (Director of Wellbeing) is on the Editorial and Trustee Board of PMLD LINK Charity.

The Nursing Team oversee our PMLD LINK Subscription and share the Journals across our support teams.

PMLD LINK have a strong relationship with Campaign 4 Change, a self-advocacy group supported by Achieve together, and have presented at events jointly to 'remove the cloak of invisibility' that surrounds people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.



PMLD Core & Essential Service Standards



Nurses in Achieve together supported the development of the National Service Standards, and the implementation of the Standards across the organisation to ensure consistency of approach and clarity of expectations when supporting people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Clinical Governance

The Head of Health and Clinical Governance, Erren Wheatland (RN, Adult) leads on overseeing clinical policies and protocols; risk assessment and management of clinical issues: determining the induction, training, competency assessment and support to team members; clarifying the vision in relation to clinical support, determined by legislation, regulatory standards, research and evidence based practice nationally and internationally.

Erren oversees mortality reviews in the organisation, takes learning from the LeDeR Programme, regularly liaises with regional LeDeR Review Teams and other organisations to review practice, training and policy within Achieve together.

Erren oversees the Risk Enablement Panel Meetings for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities. These are internal multi-professional meetings to determine whether we can meet the person's needs, assess risks and ensure the supporting team have the knowledge and skill to support the person well.

Alongside Michael Fullerton (Director of Wellbeing, RNLD), the Head of Health & Clinical Governance guide on forward thinking best practice in supporting adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities. With the wider nursing team, collaboration with the Coproduction Team, external professionals and bodies, a robust clinical governance structure is in place to learn and grow as an organisation.



Collaboration with external professionals and organisations

The nursing team supported the development of, and advocate strongly for the PMLD Core & Essential Service Standards, sharing the work of PMLD LINK and subscribing to the PMLD LINK Journal.

The Head of Health & Clinical Governance liaises with health leads in other provider organisations to share practices, challenges and new initiatives.

Critically the team liaise with external health professionals to ensure strong partnership working with local health teams in relation to Delegated Healthcare Activities – ensuring that with clinical

tasks, the supporting team have excellent support, training and competency assessment and the person supported has clear protocols and risk plans in place. Such activities include:

- Gastrostomy Care and Enteral Nutrition
- Non Invasive Ventilation
- Oxygen Administration
- Oral Suctioning
- Insulin Administration
- Vagus Nerve Stimulation and administration of epilepsy seizure emergency medications
- Administration of suppositories

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