

PRESS INFORMATION

EMBARGO: NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE 00.01 HRS 31 MAY 2011

LEARNING DISABILITY CARE UNDER THREAT

Financial pressures on local authority budgets and an alarming shortage of suitable social housing stock are increasingly jeopardising the provision of support for adults with learning disabilities, according to research which will be published next month by healthcare intelligence provider Laing & Buisson.

Exclusive data presented in two wide-ranging reports highlights that both cost and supply challenges currently faced by the adult learning disabilities sector are confusing long term funding issues and constraining the availability of suitable accommodation options.

Ongoing uncertainties surrounding the impact of central government policy changes in relation to housing and other benefits and allowances, as well as the impact of local authority cost-cutting actions on the future viability of supported living and residential care, are undermining much needed investment from providers and support from the banks, the reports argue.

Meanwhile, providers of specialist care face increasing risks as individuals are encouraged to exercise greater choice in where they wish to live and whom they wish to be supported by. As individuals are apt to make changes to their support programmes more frequently than a traditional commissioner, the security of income streams is falling with the result that banks are more reluctant to provide sufficient financing to back supported living developments in the future.

Commenting on the two reports, Laing & Buisson chief executive William Laing said:

“Unless these issues are better recognised and more holistically addressed, for instance through the provision of extra funding by the Commission on Funding of Care and Support, there is an increasing likelihood that many providers will go out of business. This would result in an even greater crisis and shortage in specialist services provision.”

Commissioned by Anne Williams, National Director for Learning Disabilities at the Department of Health, in her role leading the (then) Valuing People Now team, the first report, **Illustrative Cost Models in Learning Disabilities Social Care Provision**, recognises the need to better understand the relative unit costs of different types of services and their accommodation/support components. With a view to informing debate about which approaches are most likely to be cost-effective, the report includes comprehensive illustrations and costings and comments on economies of scale.

The second report, **Cost and Cost-Effectiveness Issues in Learning Disabilities Social Care Provision**, steps away from the DH remit to include provider opinion and Laing & Buisson's own analysis. It offers complementary views and suggestions on improving spending habits as well as tackling the broader cost issues facing the sector. As a springboard for further discussion, the report focuses on ways which to achieve further cost savings; how to address the current housing challenge in terms of financing and funding; improving outcomes and further development of costing and entitlement models.

Available for free download from the Laing & Buisson website, it is hoped that the reports will be useful to local authority commissioners, wishing to better understand costs and to improve the way in which cost models work and personal budgets are set. Report author David Roe will also present his reports to delegates at Laing & Buisson's *2011 Annual Supported Living Conference*, being held in central London on 22 June.

Mr Laing concluded: “A better understanding of the costs and economics of supply, and the impact of changes in variables affecting these costs, is a critical first step to addressing the many issues facing

the sector and our reports seek to provide a range of insights into the key determinants of cost levels, major constraints facing the sector, as well as initial suggestions on the way forward."

- END OF RELEASE -

Illustrative Cost Models in Learning Disabilities Social Care Provision and Cost and Cost-Effectiveness Issues in Learning Disabilities Social Care Provision are both available as free PDF downloads from the Laing & Buisson website at: www.laingbuisson.co.uk

Report author David Roe will make a presentation at the *2011 Annual Supported Living Conference* on 22 June at the Mayfair Conference Centre, London, W2 2EL. For further details visit: www.laingbuisson.co.uk

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

Founded by William Laing in 1986, Laing & Buisson is the UK's leading provider of information and market intelligence on the independent health, community care and childcare sectors.

Laing & Buisson offers a uniquely focused range of expert services to providers, purchasers and investors in the health and community care markets. Information about the range of products and services provided is summarised below.

[Annual Directories & Market Reports](#)

Laing & Buisson publishes a series of special market reports and directories on the health and community care sectors. Annual publications include Laing's Healthcare Market Review, Long Term Care: Directory of Major Providers, and the Care of Elderly People Market Survey. The research and conclusions within the reports are frequently cited in parliamentary questions and answers, official documents and company prospectuses, and are regularly drawn upon by the national media.

[Consultancy & Market Intelligence](#)

Market intelligence and consultancy work, focusing on non-clinical aspects of health and social care markets, is tailor-made for companies with an active interest in the sector. Examples of recent work include a report on the future of the independent healthcare sector for the Healthcare Commission, the seminal work conducted by Laing & Buisson on 'A Fair Price for Care' for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and 'Improving Lives - Improving Life', a report on the key strategic issues facing the long term care sector. Laing & Buisson also frequently assists investors in market due diligence work in the health and care sectors. Laing & Buisson can also offer consultancy on the broader European market through its Healthcare Europa joint venture.

[Healthcare Data in an Electronic Format](#)

CareSearch is Laing & Buisson's flagship data product, a 'one stop shop' with extremely flexible search facilities for those needing detailed, reliable and up-to-date information on care homes, independent hospitals, health and care commissioners and regulators in each neighbourhood in the UK, together with details of group operators, their holdings and financial information from statutory accounts. Alternatively, data can be selected specifically and supplied on disks or labels for mailing purposes.

[Newsletters](#)

Laing & Buisson publishes three authoritative monthly newsletters - *Community Care Market News*, which covers the long-term care sector, *Healthcare Market News*, which covers the acute healthcare sector, and *Healthcare Europa*, which looks at the private care, healthcare and outsourcing sectors across Europe.

[Conferences & Awards](#)

In addition to one-off conferences on subjects selected for their special interest or topicality, Laing & Buisson's annual programme features a series of 'annual' conferences - definitive events covering key developments and leading edge practice in specific areas including Homecare, Telecare and Assistive Technology, Children's Nurseries and Childcare, Extra Care, Long Term Care for Older People, Acute Healthcare, Private Healthcare Insurance and Investing in Healthcare. Furthermore, an annual healthcare convention is held which features sector wide debate on a wide range of related topics (Laing & Buisson's Healthcare Convention) and two awards schemes are also operated which recognise best practice in both the specialist care sector (Independent Specialist Care Awards) and long term care and acute provision (Independent Healthcare Awards).