The new national Learning into Action group has been set up with colleagues from the NHS England Sustainable Improvement Practice. If you are keen to share your work, please email me at john.trevains@nhs.net. The group is working to develop a package of best practice measures and urgent health interventions across health and social care for people with a learning disability.

In 2017, a LeDeR good practice sharing event in March was held in Leicestershire. Downloads of the draft guidance are available here. The project team is currently in the process of revising the guidance to reflect the latest evidence and best practice. The aim is to provide all staff with information about common themes. One of their main areas of concern was Aspiration pneumonia. This condition is a significant cause of death in people with learning disabilities, with an estimated 1-2% of deaths occurring due to aspiration pneumonia. As a result, Northamptonshire is now prioritising those reviews so a plan can be completed at the end of 2017.

As a result, Northamptonshire is now prioritising those reviews so a plan can be completed at the end of 2017. The impact of all this work throughout the area will be assessed in April 2019. Meanwhile, the area’s acute care teams at East and North Herts NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals are reviewing training so people with learning disabilities can access mainstream health services, so there’s a better awareness for carers and families.

The Liverpool CCG and Royal Liverpool have now set up the project which will be shared across the North West. The region held a LeDeR good practice sharing event in March and collated information about common themes. One of their main areas of concern was Aspiration pneumonia. The impact of all this work throughout the area will be assessed in April 2019. Meanwhile, the area’s acute care teams at East and North Herts NHS Trust and West Suffolk Hospitals are reviewing training so people with learning disabilities can access mainstream health services, so there’s a better awareness for carers and families.

Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust are reviewing training so people with learning disabilities can access mainstream health services, so there’s a better awareness for carers and families. The Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust is considering developing a risk register for the area, including Aspiration pneumonia due to acute bowel obstruction. Different stakeholders are working together, focusing on different tasks with a view to preventing further premature deaths from aspiration pneumonia. If so, an action plan will be devised to ensure that prevention is given priority.

The plans also aim to improve access to mainstream health services, so there’s a better awareness for carers and families. The impact of all this work throughout the area will be assessed in April 2019.

In September’s bulletin, we will be focusing on infection (sepsis). Please let us know if you have any examples from around the country of best practice actions to reduce the risk of sepsis. We will be sharing these in the next bulletin.

Jennifer Oakes, Learning Into Action Coordinator
Tel: 0117 3310686
www.lia.nhs.uk

Aspiration Pneumonia

Here are some examples from around the country of best practice actions to reduce the risk of Aspiration pneumonia.

**Infection prevention and control**

- Training for adult social care providers and volunteers in preventing and managing aspiration pneumonia.
- Training for hospital liaison nursing networks.
- Periodic service reviews to monitor eating and swallowing difficulties.
- Provision of accessible information on the symptoms of aspiration pneumonia.