

Presentation by  
Professor Roy McConkey to  
Muckamore Abbey Hospital  
Inquiry

**The Bamford Review of Mental Health  
and Learning Disability**

# Bamford Review



“a far-reaching vision for radical reform and modernisation of mental health and learning disability law, policy and services. The NI Executive accepted the thrust of the recommendations made by the Review”.

# Further Reading

**An overview of the Bamford Review is given here:**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/articles/bamford-review-mental-health-and-learning-disability>

**The Equal Lives Report from the Bamford Review is available here:**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/Equal%20Lives%20Report.pdf>

**Implementation Action Plan 2009 to 2011 (with a section devoted Learning Disability).**

<http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/globalassets/documents/employment-and-learning/inquiries/post-sen/government--academic-papers/delivering-the-bamford-vision---action-plan-2009---2011.pdf>

**RQIA review into community services for adults**

<https://www.rqia.org.uk/RQIA/files/4a/4a883fbc-92a7-4fda-97b0-ac2e664e5d8d.pdf>

**Resettlement Review (September 2022) .**

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-ind-review-ld-resttlement-july-2022.PDF>

# 27 year - Time line

- **Pre-Bamford – Activities from 1996 (Pages 2-3)**
- **The Bamford Review 2002 – 2007 (Page 3)**  
**Equal Lives 2002 to 2005 (Pages 4-6)**
- **2008 – 2016 NI Executive - Action Plans (Pages 6-7)**
- **2017 – 2023 Further reviews of progress (Page 7)**

# Pre-Bamford – Activities from 1996

- Eastern Health and Social Services – Model of Community-based services.
- Research and Evaluation programme with Ulster University.
- Admissions and discharges from MAH – two year study.
- Underfunding of services
- Over-reliance on family carers.
- Congregated models of residential care.

# The Bamford Review 2002 – 2007

- A Strategic Framework for Adult Mental Health Services (June 2005)
- Equal Lives Learning Disability Report (September 2005).
- Alcohol and Substance Misuse Report (December 2005)
- Mental Health Promotion Report (May 2006)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Report (May 2006)
- A Vision of a Comprehensive Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (July 2006)
- Forensic Services Report (October 2006)
- Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity Report (October 2006)
- Living fuller lives: Dementia and Mental Health Issues in Older Age (June 2007)
- A Comprehensive Legal Framework for Mental Health and Learning Disability (August 2007)
- Promoting Social Inclusion (August 2007)

# Equal Lives 2002 to 2005

- Support for Children and Young People and Their Families
- Accommodation and Support
- Day Opportunities
- Ageing
- Mental Health
- Physical Health

*5 key values to underpin service provision*

*12 objectives for re-modelling supports and services*

*74 recommendations for actions needed to remodel and extend learning disability services across the life span from early childhood to old age.*

# Equal Lives 2002 to 2005

- Support for Children and Young People and Their Families

*...” progress needs to be accelerated on establishing a new service model, which draws a line under outdated notions of grouping people with a learning disability together and their segregation in services where they are required to lead separate lives from their neighbours.*

*74 recommendations for actions needed to remodel and extend learning disability services across the life span from early childhood to old age.*



# Equal Lives 2002 to 2005

- Support for Children and Young People and Their Families

*The model of the future needs to be based on integration, where people participate fully in the lives of their communities and are supported to individually access the full range of opportunities that are open to everyone else. (page ii).*

*74 recommendations for action needed to remodel and extend learning disability services across the life span from early childhood to old age.*

# Equal Lives Recommendations

27: By June 2011, all people living in a hospital should be relocated to the community.

28: Emergency support and accommodation in the community.

29: New housing with support provision should be for no more than 5 individuals within the same household.

30: By 1 January 2013 all accommodation for people under 60 years of age should be for no more than 5 people”.

*The model of service to replace hospital based assessment and treatment services*

46: Access mainstream mental health services.

47: Community based assessment and treatment services

# 2008 – 2016 NI Executive - Action Plans

- Action plan - 2009-2012
- Action plan – 2012-15
- Consultation 2016

## **Service Frameworks 2013-2018**

Standard 1: All HSC staff should ensure that people of all ages are safeguarded from harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect.

Standard 26: All people with a learning disability whose behaviour challenges should be able to get support locally from specialist learning disability services and other mainstream services, as appropriate, based on assessed need.

Standard 28: HSC professionals should work in partnership with a variety of agencies in order to ensure that the accommodation needs of people with a learning disability are addressed.

# Further review of progress – 2016-2022

- 2016 RQIA review of adult community services
- 2021 Independent review of resettlement
- 2021 Regional learning disability model – submitted to Department in 2022.
- 2022 Muckamore Abbey Hospital Inquiry.
- 2022 Consultation on closure of MAH.

# Conclusions on Equal Lives Review

- Visionary – Person and Human Rights Centred.
- Model of ‘Public, Patient Involvement’
- New community-based services have been established especially by non-statutory sector.
- Lack of commitment to implementation by statutory systems.
- ‘Value for money’ rarely considered.
- Lessons for future Reviews and Inquiries in Northern Ireland.