This Strategy adopts the Social Model of Disability, which recognises two concepts, ‘impairment’ and ‘disability’. Impairments are medical issues belonging to an individual, such as sensory, physical, learning and mental health issues. ‘Disability’ relates to barriers imposed upon people with impairments, including physical barriers, discriminatory attitudes and disabling structures.

‘A person has a disability for the purposes of this Act if s/he has a physical or mental impairment, which has a substantial and long term (at least 12 months or is likely to last 12 months) effect and that impacts on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities’, (Disability Discrimination Act, 1996.)

NATIONAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

There is no single national policy framework that provides the context for the planning and provision of services to people with physical and sensory impairments. However, there is a range of national legislation, initiatives and guidance that guide the delivery of services for adults with a physical and/or sensory impairment.

Physical and Sensory Impairment:

- The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) places a duty on all public bodies to promote equality of opportunity for people with physical or sensory impairments (2005)
- Further Advice to the NHS and Local Authorities on Continuing NHS Health Care WHC (2006)
- Designed to Improve Health and the Management of Chronic Conditions in Wales: an integrated model and framework for action (WAG 2007)

Specific Sensory Impairment Drivers:

- The delivery of the 26 Week Patient Pathway is being planned through the 2009 Access Project.
- Best Practice Standards considered for this Strategy include ‘Progress in Sight, 2002’ and ‘Social Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, 1999’
- WAG National Programme for Training Low Vision Optometrists
- The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for sensory services include cochlear implants, auditory brain stem implants and the treatment of Age Related Macular Degeneration (ARMD)
- Delivery In British Sign Language: Advice for Public Services (Welsh Assembly Government, 2006.)

REGIONAL & LOCAL STRATEGIC CONTEXT

In the absence of national and regional strategic direction, planning for adults with a physical or sensory impairment is focused on the following:

Physical Impairment Plans:

- Cardiff Joint-Commissioning Strategy for Physical Disability 2005-2008 (Cardiff Council & LHB)
- Cardiff Physical Disability Commissioning Action Plan 2005-2008 (Cardiff Council & LHB)
Sensory Impairment Plans:

- Draft Cardiff Joint Commissioning Strategy for Sensory Impairment 2007-2010 (Cardiff Council & Cardiff LHB)
- Draft Cardiff Sensory Impairment Commissioning Plan (Cardiff Council & Cardiff LHB, 2007)
- Implementation of local work from the All Wales Visual Impairment Exercise
- Hearing Impaired Benchmarking has been initiated.

The material for guidance for some issues is broader than just physical and sensory impairment, such as:

- Carers’ Plan (Cardiff Council 2005), New Carers’ Strategy due for publication April 2008
- Health Challenge Wales (WAG, 2004)
- The Programme for Health Service Improvement.

Cardiff Council and Cardiff LHB work in partnership with adults with physical and sensory impairments and carers to access appropriate health and social care services based on assessed eligible needs. Cardiff Council and LHB recognise that there are currently very few age appropriate and local services for people with a physical impairment. The Cardiff Physical Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy provides a commissioning framework for the development of more appropriate and flexible services. The services aim to support independence and develop life skills, promoting social inclusion by enabling access to community facilities, mainstream education and employment opportunities.

The development of dedicated Physical Disability and Sensory Teams at Cardiff Council has led to a more specialist and focused service. Within the Council, children with physical and sensory impairments under the age of 18 years are looked after in the Child Health and Disability Team. In Adult Services there are two Physical Disability Teams working with adults aged 18-64 years and one Sensory Impairment Team. The work of these teams also includes people with long term health conditions. NHS Paediatric Services look after children with physical and sensory impairments and transfer their care at 18 years to adult health services. The importance of efficient transitional care arrangements is acknowledged.

Services for physical and sensory impairment in Cardiff are as follows:

**Cardiff Council Adult Services**
The Contact and Assessment Team is a single point of access for physical and sensory impairment and older people services. After the initial assessment, the case is transferred to one of the physical or sensory teams for a full Unified Assessment and Carers Assessment. A range of services are offered to people with physical and sensory impairments and their carers:

- **Unified and specialist assessments** are designed to describe the risks to an individual’s independence. This includes consideration of the existence and management of risk, impact on a person’s autonomy and the management of personal care and daily routines.

- **Care Packages** cover a range of service provision in a variety of settings e.g. personal care, domestic and or social support in people’s own homes, or residential or nursing home settings. This care may be on a long term or respite-care basis. These care packages can be provided by Direct Payments or commissioned from providers.
Communications Support recognises people’s different communication needs, especially deaf people. Some home carers and residential care staff have received BSL training to enable them to provide communication support alongside personal care. Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and Cardiff Council also provide specific deaf awareness training.

Direct payments are made to people with a physical or sensory impairment, to purchase their own care, enabling them to have more flexibility and choice in provision of services. A contract with a voluntary sector service provider is in place to provide advice and support to service users, promote direct payments and facilitate training to social workers.

Community Day Services are provided by Cardiff & Vale NHS Trust and the Council, in conjunction with other organisations e.g. Headway and Vision 21.

Occupational Therapy Services are provided by the Council to prevent hospital admissions and to maintain or increase daily living independence through the provision of equipment or adaptations. This includes risk assessments to prevent and manage accidents, such as falls in the home.

Blue Badges are available for people subject to eligibility, providing free and accessible parking for driver or passenger.

Community Alarm and Telecare Service is a 24 hour / 365 day service to support and reassure vulnerable people. Telecare can help users remain in their own home and stay independent by ensuring their safety. Telecare incorporates flood detection, smoke detection, falls detection, gas cut-off valve and movement sensors.

Cardiff & Vale Joint Equipment Service is a support service to the Occupational Therapy Team. It provides equipment on loan to service users following an assessment. The equipment is intended to support people to live as independently as possible in their own homes.

The Disabled Facilities Service (DFS) manages the provision of financial assistance for service users with physical or sensory impairments in both the public and private sector. The service supports the Social Model of Disability by considering that the environment in which disabled people live is disabling. By providing an accessible environment, the barriers are reduced to enable a full inclusion in the life of the City. Additionally, the service can provide immediate solutions to prevent entry to, and enable discharge from, hospitals and institutional care.

In-patient and Community Services
Rehabilitation Services provide acute intensive rehabilitation and low technological/‘slow stream’ rehabilitation.

Cardiff Accessible Homes Project has developed systems and processes in partnership with Registered Social Landlords, enabling them to identify accessible and adapted properties, appropriate to the needs and choices of people with impairments. This service is closely linked with the Disabled Facilities Service.

Artificial Limb and Appliance Service (ALAS) is an all-Wales centre providing wheelchairs, artificial limbs and eyes, environmental controls, orthotics and a communication aids assessment service.

Driving Assessment Centre (ALAS) offers assessment and development of driving skills to individuals with physical impairments.

Psychology Service (ALAS) provides access to a psychology support and specialist psychologist for the M.S. service.

Stroke Outreach Service provides post-discharge support to patients in their own homes, including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech and language therapy.

Community Brain Injury Service (STAR Project) supports people with acquired brain injury to access a variety of vocational opportunities, including voluntary work, education, training and paid employment.
Professionals Allied to Health provide a range of services including Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Speech and Language Therapy, Nutrition and Dietetics. In addition there are specialist nurses for Diabetes, Parkinsons, and M.S.

Specialist In-patient Service provides access to the regional unit for neurological, spinal cord injury rehabilitation at Rookwood Hospital and an acute Stroke Unit provided at West Wing.

Voluntary Sector Organisations in Cardiff reflect the range of impairments. Organisations such as Cardiff Institute for the Blind, Stroke Association etc, provide specific services. The Cardiff and Vale Coalition of Disabled People is an equality campaigning and support organisation which is founded, run and managed by people with impairments.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Cardiff Physical Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy and the draft Cardiff Sensory Impairment Joint Commissioning Strategy provide the framework for the commissioning of quality appropriate services for people with a physical or sensory impairment. Many of the key achievements listed below relate to the Cardiff Physical Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy Action Plan:

2005 - 2008

- Development of Joint Commissioning Strategies for Physical Disability and Sensory Impairment
- Development of day services from a day centre based model to a community day services model
- Establishment of an Accommodation Sub-group of the Physical and Sensory Impairment Advisory Planning Group
- Service User Sub-group established to link with Physical and Sensory Impairment Advisory Planning Group
- Telecare Funding – process established and installations achieved
- Review of telephone rentals completed
- Joint Equipment Service established
- Completion of regional review of Neuro-Rehabilitation Services
- Completion of Management of Stroke Integrated Care Pathway
- Achievement of 28 week waiting times targets across all areas of service provision
- Establishment of Critical Friends Network – Disability Equality Scheme
- Development of Intermediate Care Teams linking health and social care

Specific to Sensory Impairment:

- Training of a group of home care staff in BSL signing and sensory awareness training
- Completion of All Wales Visual Impairment Benchmarking Exercise
- Awareness training for contact officers in relation to the total spectrum of sensory impairment.

IDENTIFIED NEEDS FOR THIS SERVICE AREA

Individual service users and carers were involved in the development of the Cardiff Physical Disability Joint Commissioning Strategy. There is a need to develop primary and community based services to effectively meet the needs of service users in particular those with long term conditions. There are plans to base health professionals in primary and community based settings, providing an enhanced range of services for local communities.
Rehabilitation and Intermediate Care Services play a vital role in helping people maintain their independence and also to regain it. Changes in people’s expectations and the opportunities provided through new technology mean that rehabilitation and intermediate care will be delivered differently in future. There are plans to re-provide in-patient rehabilitation services currently located at West Wing and Rookwood Hospitals within community settings, enabling people to remain in their own homes or as close to home as possible.

The local focus for 2008-2011 will include:

- Gap analysis in Cardiff Physical Disability and Cardiff Sensory Impairment Joint Commissioning Strategies to be addressed in the action plans e.g.
  - Local and age appropriate respite, residential and nursing home care
  - Advocacy services
  - Community based day services

**PROMOTING HEALTH IMPROVEMENT**

Health promotion for people with physical and sensory impairment needs to become an area of focus. Current initiatives have concentrated on developing physical activity schemes such as:

**Disability Sport Wales** is a joint initiative between the Sports Council for Wales, the Federation of Disability Sport Wales and local authorities. The national aim is to develop quality community based sporting opportunities for people with impairments throughout Wales.

**Cardiff Council Sports Development Team (SPORT CARDIFF)** provides a sports advisory service. Projects include:

- “Pedal Power” provides specialised cycling facilities for people with a range of impairments.
- “Venture Out” is part of the Mentro Allan scheme, led by Innovate Trust and aims to develop new opportunities for physical activity for people with impairments in local green spaces.

**Rehabilitation Service** is provided by Cardiff Council Adult Services and supports the physical and mental well being of individuals who have a visual impairment.

**ICT Network Programme** Cardiff is a major player in the Wales ICT Network funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. The programme is designed to set quality standards for assessment and training in relation to information, communication and technology for use by organisations and individuals. In Cardiff part of the assessor training is provided by Cardiff Institute for the Blind.

**Sports and Leisure.** The Institute for the Blind and Wales Council for the Blind provide sport and leisure activities aimed at building the confidence, self worth, promoting health and developing sporting skills.

The local focus for 2008-2011 will include:

- Delivery of specific health improvement initiatives for people with a physical and/or sensory impairment
- Improve levels of rehabilitation services to promote independence and well being.
REDUCING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Statutory authorities have a legal duty to achieve equitable access to their services, regardless of race, intellectual, physical or sensory impairment. Cardiff Council Adult Services provides equalities and disability awareness training to staff.

Race
Cardiff and Vale Coalition for Disabled People in partnership with EQUAL & Curiad Calon Cymru are conducting a research project on impairment and race and will make recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government.

Gender
Gender issues must be considered in the provision of physical and sensory impairment services, for instance recognition of increased vulnerability in cases of domestic abuse.

Disability
The adoption of a Social Model of Disability facilitates empowerment, personal choice, independence and equality.

Sexual Orientation
Services must recognise people with physical or sensory impairments as sexual beings and ensure that appropriate services are available irrespective of sexual orientation. Consideration is needed to collecting data on sexual orientation of existing service users.

Language of Choice
Services must ensure that information is available in accessible formats, e.g. Braille, BSL etc.

Religion & Belief
Services must ensure that employees have appropriate cultural awareness in the provision of personal care and that service users are supported to practice their chosen faith.

Age
The increase of impairments in older age can lead to multiple impairments. In comparison to services for adults, services for children with impairments are more extensive and comparatively well resourced. The shift from a traditional day centre model of providing services, to a community based day services model, ensures that services for younger people with physical impairments are more socially inclusive.

PRIORITIES AND KEY STRATEGIC AIMS

2008 - 2011
1. To promote health improvement for people with a physical and/or sensory impairment
2. To reduce inequalities for people with a physical and/or sensory impairment
3. To develop a service specification for an independent advocacy service
4. Expansion of the reablement service specifically for young people with a physical impairment
5. Develop, implement and respond to priority areas identified in phase 2 of developing day services
6. Evaluation of physical and sensory impairment awareness training already provided and development of a rolling programme of awareness training for staff
7. Implementation of priority areas identified in the accommodation strategy
8. Commission appropriate service for respite, residential and Nursing Home provision
9. Development of the Transitions Action Plan for young people moving from Children’s Services to Adult Physical Disability Services
10. Implementing the action plan of the Commissioning Strategy for Sensory Services.