



The plan for buying services for people with learning difficulties 2008 - 2012

Learning Difficulties Joint Commissioning Strategy 2008 - 2012

The Vision - How we want services to be in the future



We want people with learning difficulties to have the same rights, choices and control in their lives as everyone in the community.

We want family carers to choose whether they support their family members or use other services.



We want all people with learning difficulties to:

Live where they want



Choose who they live with

Choose who supports them



Choose what they do and when they want to do it

To make this happen, everyone needs to:



Change the way we think about services so that they help people to be as independent as possible. This means things like:

Making sure that all people with learning difficulties have the choice to live in supported living including people with learning difficulties with high support.



Making sure that there is enough staff that have the skills to support people with learning difficulties with high support needs.

Making sure that staff are properly trained in things like person centred planning and approaches so that they can provide the support people need to have choice and control.



Making sure we buy community based support rather than building based. We know some people with learning difficulties with high support needs may need special support and equipment. We still need to make sure that they choose to go to a building based service and that is not the only thing they can do.

Purpose - Why we have got the new plan

The purpose of this plan is to:



Set out the vision for how people with learning difficulties will be in control of their support so they can live full lives in their community.

Understand the hopes and dreams of people with learning difficulties and their families.



Give information about services that are available and plan for what people with learning difficulties will need in the future.

These are the most important things we must think about in our plans



Valuing People Now says these things are the most important things:

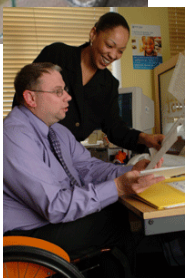
Personalisation - People with learning difficulties have real choice and control in their services through individual budgets, direct payments and person centred

planning. This is backed up by strong self advocacy and family support.



What people do in the day - This is about evenings and weekends too.

People with learning difficulties should have more opportunity to get paid jobs and get out and about in their community. This could mean big changes in the day services we have now.



Better health - People with learning difficulties should have good quality health care from NHS services. We need to make specialist services more modern.

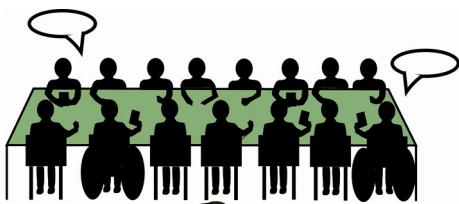




Choices where you live -

People with learning difficulties should be able to choose where they live and who they live with.

We must look at owning your own home and real tenancies (where you pay rent).



Make sure change happens -

This means we must make this plan work. We must make sure

the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board works well. It must check that good changes happen for people with learning difficulties.





Most people with learning difficulties want the same things as everyone else;- the chance to learn new things, work, live where they want, friends and relationships.



A lot of the services people in the community use like banks, transport and health are not very accessible. Many people with learning difficulties will need different kinds of support to access services in the community.



People with learning difficulties who have very high support needs need hands on support in all parts of their lives even day to day personal care.

This plan looks at everyone's needs and this starts with what the person wants and hopes for.



Commissioning is;



- buying services
- checking the services are good
- making sure services give value for money

Adult Community Care say these things are most important:

- To make sure people with learning difficulties and their family carers have independence, safety and well being. This means making sure people with learning difficulties can live at home with the support they need.
- To use less residential and nursing care. Make sure if these services are used, it gives people with learning difficulties choice and control
- To develop personalized services that are fair, accessible, there when people need them and joined up with Health and other Council services.





When they checked services for people with learning difficulties in Bristol CSCI said these things must improve;



There must be more support for people with learning difficulties who want to live in their own home.



There must be more short breaks for family carers.

Some people with very high support needs get a good service, but we must buy more services that can meet everyone's needs.



There are still too many people with learning difficulties living in residential care.

Not enough people with learning difficulties use Direct Payments.



We must spend more money on advocacy for people with learning difficulties.

The Bristol Primary Care Trust say these are the most important things they must do:



Make sure people with learning difficulties have access to all services they need to stay healthy

Develop more special services so that people with learning difficulties do not have to leave

Bristol if they need special healthcare.

Make an action plan so that things said in Death by Indifference and things that happened in Cornwall and Sutton and Merton do not happen in Bristol.



Make sure people with learning difficulties can have health checks if they want one.

Do 200 health checks for people with learning difficulties.

Check specialist health services to make sure they do a good job.



How many people with learning difficulties are there in Bristol.

There are more people with learning difficulties who live in Bristol than in some other cities.



This might be because there were a lot of long stay hospitals here in the past.

Different areas in Bristol have more people with learning difficulties than other areas.

Another report says there are more people with learning difficulties because;

There are more young people with learning difficulties from South Asian ethnic communities.



More young people with very high support needs live longer.

People with learning difficulties in general are living longer so there are more older people with learning difficulties.



What this means for how we buy services.



We must plan to buy more services for older people with learning difficulties. We know that more people who have Downs Syndrome are more likely to develop dementia at an earlier age than other people.

Young people with learning difficulties who have very high support needs will need more money for their support.



More money will be needed to support people with autism, autistic spectrum disorders and Aspergers. These numbers are going up.

We want to make sure that people with learning difficulties who need specialist services can stay in Bristol. We need to buy services that make sure this can happen.



This is the money.

Whose Money	What for	How much £m
Adult Community Care	All services	£ 21.3
Supporting People	Housing related support	£ 4.7
PCT	Section 28a	£ 12.8
PCT	Community teams	£ 1.9
PCT	Other	£ 5.2
PCT sub total		£ 19.9
Total		£ 45.9

Where are the gaps in services we give.

We asked people with learning difficulties, family carers and service providers to tell us what services we need to support people with learning difficulties locally. They said:



Transitions - moving from children's to adult services.

We need to find out who will need a service so that we can plan better especially for young people with very high support needs.



Housing with support

We need to have more supported living choices. People with learning difficulties want to have good support where they want to live and choose who they live with. We need to help people with learning difficulties move out of residential homes.



Support for older carers

We must support them in their caring role and plan with them for the time when they can't provide support themselves any longer.

Older people with learning difficulties

We must get specialist services for older people with learning difficulties with dementia. We must get more

Very Sheltered Housing



Support for carers

We must give family carers good short breaks. We must make sure we give people with learning difficulties short breaks they enjoy.



Supporting people with learning difficulties from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic groups

We must make sure we provide services that meet people's needs. There is a real need to provide short breaks especially for young women

who need to be supported by women only.



Challenging behaviour/Autism

We must find services that are person centred and give good value.





Jobs/Learning/ Having fun



We must make mainstream services accessible for everyone. We must think about whether we need special services and what they would be like.



People with learning difficulties with very high support needs

We must make sure that we have staff who have the right training to support people.



Health

We need to make sure people with learning difficulties have the same good health services as everyone else. We need to work with GPs, hospitals and mental health services to make sure this happens.



People with learning difficulties with mental health needs

We need services that can support people with learning difficulties who come out of hospital and back to their community.



**Plans for contracts with providers.
How we will make sure we work with service providers that can give us the services we want.**

We will only work with providers who:



Encourage people with learning difficulties to be independent and have choice and help them get choice and control in their lives.

Have a person centred approach. Support people with learning difficulties how they want and when they want support.

Keep people with learning difficulties safe



Are up to local and national standards for good service

Support people with learning difficulties to be part of their community



Make sure they support people with learning difficulties to stay healthy.

Have good equalities policies and work well with all equality groups



Can support people with learning difficulties with very high support needs well

Work in partnership with family carers

Give good value for money

Support people with learning difficulties to access mainstream services



Will work in partnership to make sure we get the right results for people with learning difficulties.

Over the next 4 years we will;



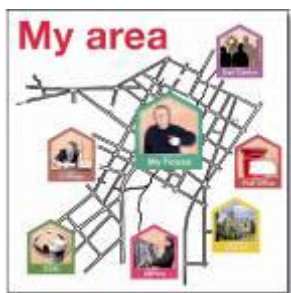
Support 100 people with learning difficulties into paid jobs. 10 people with learning difficulties will work for the City Council



Support 200 people with learning difficulties to move out of residential homes

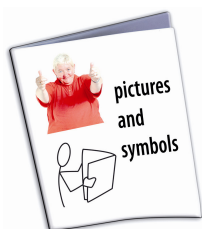
At least double the amount of people with learning difficulties living as tenants in their own homes

Double the amount of short breaks either by buying services or by giving people with learning difficulties Direct Payments



Support more people with learning difficulties to be active in their community

Make sure less people with learning difficulties have to leave Bristol to get a service they need



Spend twice as much on advocacy and other services like that

Set aside money for accessible information



Set aside money for good quality person centred planning training

Buy community support packages so that people with learning difficulties will have services that make their plans happen

Spend some money to make sure that the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board can do its job properly



We will make sure we are doing this work in the right way

We will ask people with learning difficulties if they like the work we are doing in lots of different ways.



Valuing People Now

If we look at the things Valuing People Now says are important there are things we must do.

Personalisation

We need to



Spend money on advocacy/intermediary agencies

Make information accessible



Spend money on brokerage - helping people with learning difficulties to find and organize the services they need

Support people with learning difficulties so that they can set up Trusts - people to look after your money



Train support workers in how to support people with learning difficulties to take risks

Person centred planning

What people with learning difficulties do in the day including evenings and weekends

We need to

Work with local community groups to find out how we can include people with learning difficulties

Work with local businesses to help people with learning difficulties get paid jobs

Work with colleges so people with learning difficulties can learn new things

Plan how we can reduce the number of people with learning difficulties who go to Day Centres

Work with leisure services so people with learning difficulties can use places like leisure centres.



Better Health

We need to

Spend money on learning difficulties research in Public Health

Put Learning Difficulties specialists in hospitals to help people who work there better at understanding how to support people with learning difficulties



Support people with learning difficulties to take control of their health through information days, individual advocacy.

Work with primary care (Gps, midwives, community nurses) to make sure their services are accessible for people with learning difficulties.



Support people with learning difficulties to make their own Health Action Plans.



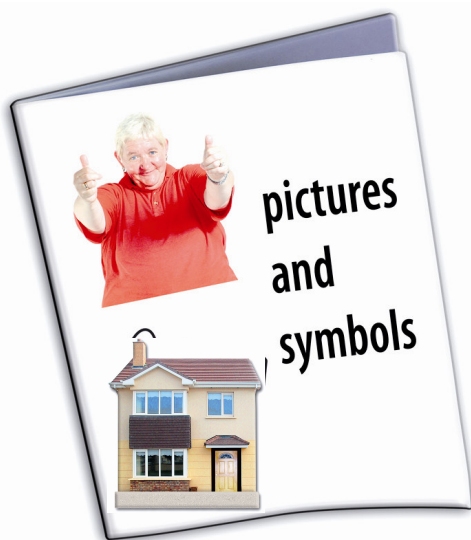
Choosing where to live

Make partnerships with organizations that provide housing like the Council so that all people with learning difficulties

can use the accommodation they provide

Work with Supporting People to look at housing policies taking in people with learning difficulties different support needs.

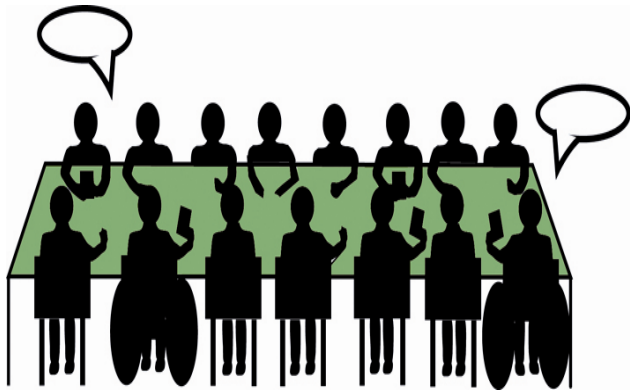
Plan for the future better taking into account housing timescales.



Make information accessible for people with learning difficulties and their families who want to find out about buying their own homes

Making sure that change happens

We must



Look at the way the Learning Difficulty Partnership Board works. Make sure it drives change. Make sure it finds out if changes are working well.

Make clear which way we can get to talk to people who decide what services we use.



Develop good ways to check that people with learning difficulties are getting the services they need and the lives they want.