

Learning Disability in Central Bedfordshire

**Social Care Health and Housing
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**



What is a learning disability?

There are **1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK**. Like all of us, they are individuals who want different things in life and need different levels of support.

A learning disability is caused by the way the brain develops.

There are many different types and most develop before a baby is born, during birth or because of a serious illness in early childhood.

A learning disability is lifelong and usually has a significant impact on a person's life.



Learning disability is not mental illness or dyslexia.

People with a learning disability find it harder than others to learn, understand and communicate. People with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) need full-time help with every aspect of their lives - including eating, drinking, washing, dressing and toileting.

People with a learning disability may have other physical and emotional conditions associated with their learning disability.

(Mencap)

Learning Disability in Central Bedfordshire



It is estimated that, In Central Bedfordshire,
about 700 people have a learning disability.

(Joint Strategic Needs Assessment)

Approximately 550 people are known to our
services which could mean that a substantial
number of people with a learning disability
have an unmet need.



Direct Service Provision

Day Opportunities including community based activities

- Dunstable
- Biggleswade

Supported Employment Service

- Shared service with Bedford Borough Council

Registered Care Home and 3 Respite Units

4 Supported Living Projects

- Leighton Buzzard
- Dunstable
- Shefford
- Biggleswade

Assessment & Resettlement Team

- Undertake Living Skills Assessments.



Valuing People

Valuing People was the first national strategy written in 2001. Its aim was to help people with learning disabilities live good and fulfilling lives.

Since then, a lot has happened to improve the lives of people with a learning disability but some people's lives are still the same as before, so the Government decided to take a new look at Valuing People.

This resulted in the publication of: -

“Valuing People Now – A Three Year Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities” was published on 19th January 2009. This followed a national consultation which received a record response.

National Key Priorities for 2009-10



To raise awareness of Valuing People Now across national and local government, private and voluntary sectors and within wider society

To have an effective Learning Disability Partnership Board operating in every Local Authority area

To secure access to, and improvements in, healthcare, with Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) responsible for, and leading, this work

To increase the range of housing options for people with learning disabilities and their families, including closure of NHS campuses

To ensure that the Personalisation agenda is embedded within all local authority services and developments for people with learning disabilities and their family carers, and is underpinned by person centred planning

To increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities



Making it Happen

The **National Learning Disability Programme Board** has been set up.

The people on this group are from:

The Government

The National Forum for people with learning disabilities

The National Valuing Families Forum

Voluntary Organisations

In each region there is a **Regional Learning Disability Programme Board**

People on these groups are:

People with learning disabilities

Family carers

Local authority representatives

NHS representatives

In each local authority area there is a Learning Disability Partnership Board.



In Central Bedfordshire, this is called the **Learning Disability Delivery Partnership** and it should:

Help decide what services are needed in this area

Help decide how these services work

Check on how well services are working

Each year the Delivery Partnership will have to write a report about how Valuing People Now is working in their area and this will be sent to the Regional Programme Board which will then report to the National Programme Board



VALUING PEOPLE NOW

**Making it happen for people in
Central Bedfordshire**



The key priorities are:

Including Everyone

Ensuring that services are designed to include:

People with more complex needs

People from black and minority ethnic groups and newly arrived communities

People with autistic spectrum conditions

Family carers and families

Ensure that training is provided to staff to enable them to offer skilled, individualised support, and to include initiatives such as Telecare and Total Communication.

To access specialised training to support people with more complex needs and their families and to include people whose behaviour presents a challenge.



Personalisation

To be embedded in all local authority services and developments

Person centred approach to planning services around the needs of the individual

Self assessment questionnaires will give the opportunity for more choice and control

Commissioners to develop a market which provides a wider range of options for people to choose from



Housing

People to be offered more independence and choice about the type of housing they would like to live in

The Campus Closure programme in Central Bedfordshire is currently reviewing and redesigning housing options that will enable people to access the local community as a valued citizen

Commissioners to work closely with Registered Social Landlords to develop more person-centred housing

The needs of people with learning disabilities to be reflected in the Local Area Plan and the Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy

Links to be developed to enable people with learning disabilities to access Choice Based Lettings

Health



NHS Bedfordshire action plan following health self assessment 2009

Review of specialist services available to people with learning disabilities

Training to GPs and their staff on learning disability awareness – to also include other health settings such as pharmacies, dentists.

People with a learning disability to get an annual health check

People to be supported to develop a Health Action Plan or profile, if they would like one, to help them access the full range of healthcare services

Develop a support tool to help people with learning disabilities and their families/carers on admission to hospital

Work, education and getting a life



Young people from the age of 14 to be helped to identify areas of work or training that they aspire to, for their future when they leave school

Develop links with local employers and Jobcentre Plus to help people with job coaching and support for people who have been unsuccessful in previous employment opportunities

Link with local colleges and schools to support meaningful Post 16 learning and training which could progress to employment

Make contact with local college special needs co-ordinators to find ways to encourage college attendance with courses which lead to real qualifications

Young people with learning disabilities to have a transition review before they reach the age of 18 to help plan their future which will include being able to live independently and in paid employment.

Develop local employment strategy to link with newly launched national strategy. Evaluate current opportunities and resources and consider development of social enterprises and Project Search.

Day and evening activities to be explored within mainstream facilities, with the appropriate support where needed.



People as citizens

Transport

Link with local transport plans to ensure effective inclusion of people with learning disabilities

Accessible information should be provided to make it easier for people with learning disabilities to use public transport

Leisure Services & Social Activities

Link to housing group where new housing opportunities are arising to help people to settle into their new surroundings and form solid partnerships with the local community

Advocacy groups to develop and promote evening and weekend social activities and ask service providers to expand day opportunities beyond the traditional “timetables” and shift patterns

Look at accessibility of facilities and information in leisure centres and other public establishments



The Way Forward

Central Bedfordshire's aspiration to ensure the local community are fully engaged in the transformation of services reflects the priorities and outcomes detailed in Valuing People Now.

The involvement of people with learning disabilities and their family carers is key to making this happen.