

Better Days

for people with learning disabilities in Kent

The Good Day Programme



www.kent.gov.uk/gooddayprogramme

**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



Produced by

The Good Day Programme

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Introduction



We asked people with learning disabilities, their families, carers and others who support them what they thought of our plan; ‘What makes a good day?’

From this and other information, including ‘Valuing People Now’ we have created this ‘Better Days’ guide.

Better Days says:



- What people want to happen in Kent – **the vision**
- The ideas that will make it happen – **five key principles**
- What will be available for people in the day, evenings and at weekends – **nine standards of a good day.**

‘Better Days’ was written by the Good Day Programme with support from Voice4Kent and other people with learning disabilities in Kent.

The vision for Kent

(What people want to happen in Kent)

Better Days sets out Kent County Council's (KCC) strategy for improving days for people with learning disabilities. It has been approved by elected members of KCC and Kent Partnership Board for people with learning disabilities.

The Good Day Programme will make sure all people with learning disabilities:

- **can choose what they do during the day, evenings and weekends**
- **will have the support they choose when and where they need it**
- **are equal citizens in their local community**
- **have opportunities to lead a full and meaningful life.**

We will know we have completed the programme when the vision above is true across Kent.



Five key principles

(The ideas that will make it happen)

1. Person centred planning

Everyone has ideas and things they would like to do, people with learning disabilities are no different. Person centred planning is a way to support a person to think, plan and make decisions about what should happen to make their lives better.

All services will support the plan to help make it happen.

Some people will choose to have greater control of the support they receive and the money that pays for it. This is called Self Directed Support, a person centred plan will help people to do this.



2. Making sure it happens

People with learning disabilities in Kent have said they want jobs, good leisure time, friendships and to be able to travel as independently as possible.

All services will show how they support people to achieve actions from their person centred plan. These actions are called outcomes. Kent Adult Social Services will check that these outcomes are happening.

Training and development for staff will continue. This will support work with people and their families to make sure that the outcomes from person centred plans happen.



3. Local community services

Services will become more flexible and be available during the day, evenings and weekends. All services will be as close to where people live as possible and part of the local community.

People with learning disabilities want to be part of local communities and have the same opportunities as others. Together we will work with communities, organisations, individuals and families to make this happen.

Kent County Council will not create any new segregated services.



4. Working together

District Partnership Groups and the Kent Partnership Board are where people with learning disabilities and people without learning disabilities meet to talk, listen and work together. The groups and board are important in making sure change happens. They will be supported in doing this.

The Good Day Programme will work with the Partnership Board and District Partnership Groups to make sure everyone is involved.

There will be stronger links between people with learning disabilities, their families and those who provide support, guidance and information.

We will also work with transport, education, leisure, employment, social services and health to improve the way these services support people with learning disabilities.



5. Using what we have well

We will make best use of the money and resources for all people with learning disabilities in Kent. This includes money spent on staff, transport, etc (called revenue) and money spent on buildings and land (called capital). Most buildings we use are no longer suitable or in the right place.

Together we will make clear decisions about how we use resources both now and in the future.

Kent has introduced Self Directed Support. This will mean that everyone will know how much money they can use for their support and be able to use their money more flexibly and creatively. People will have the authority, support or representation to make their own decisions.



Nine standards of a good day

(What should be available to people during the day, evenings and weekends)

People will be supported to have a person centred plan together with a support plan so that they have greater control over their lives and the decisions they make.

We have listed below nine of the most important things that people have told us will help them improve their lives.

1. Information, advice and guidance



People will be able to access good information, advice and guidance about what is available for people with learning disabilities and their families. This will be available close to where people live and on the internet.

The information should be easy to read and accessible.

2. Choice



Real choices will be available to each individual. Everyone who chooses will have their own money (or control of their money) to support their person centred plan. This is called self directed support.

3. Flexible support



People or groups of people will be supported flexibly.

Support will be available seven days a week at the time needed to support the individual or opportunity. So people can get to and take part in the opportunities they choose.

4. Transport



People will be able to travel and get to their destination as independently as possible. People will be supported to use both public and private transport.

5. Health, leisure and sport



People will be able to take part in health and leisure opportunities they choose, making and meeting friends, as other people do. This might include; exercise, sports, cinema, pubs, clubs, theatre, arts and crafts.

6. Community



People will be able to make use of community space and organisations as others do. This includes libraries, adult education, community groups, leisure centres, etc.

7. Services run by people with learning disabilities



People will be supported to set up and run their own services in their local community. For example a shared interest or 'Speaking Up Group'.

8. Work



People will get and keep real paid or voluntary work with local employers through supported employment and social enterprise.

9. Education and training



People will have opportunities to learn new skills, improve on old ones and get qualifications, especially towards getting a job.

**Visit our website for more information and links to the Partnership Board website to share information.
www.kent.gov.uk/goodeyprogramme**

Notes

This publication has been made with



Background street scene image page 12 from
Valuing People Now clip art.

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