

Adult Learning Disabilities in Kent

Review 2013





We provide an integrated service to people with a learning disability in Kent. Over four thousand people use our services everyday.

The Learning Disability Partnership Strategy vision is to provide quality services in a personalised way so that each individual is getting the support they need, delivered in a way that enhances their independence. We work with partners to make learning disability a part of everyone’s planning so that services are truly inclusive.



Our key priorities are:

- People with learning disabilities having a fulfilling life, including opportunities to work, study, enjoy leisure and social activities and to have relationships and friendships
- Giving people real choice over where they live and with whom
- Providing good and accessible health care to people with learning disabilities
- Partnership working to induce innovation and improve efficiency
- To manage within our resources.

By delivering our key priorities we hope this will mean that more people with learning disabilities who live in Kent experience living their life the way they choose.

Penny Southern
Director of Learning Disability and Mental Health

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"We have developed a shared vision that people with a learning disability are at the centre of any decisions made, both individually and strategically. This has given people the opportunity to be actively involved in their local communities maintaining a fulfilled life."

Mark Walker, Assistant Director, Learning Disability West Kent, KCC Families and Social Care



"We're proud of our excellent partnership working, which ensures that people with a learning disability get the right support, in the right place and at the right time."

Matthew Dodwell, Head of Service Learning Disabilities, Kent Community Health NHS Trust



"I am passionate about providing high quality, person centred services so that the adults that we support can lead active, healthy and productive lives in their local communities."

Christine Beaney, Assistant Director, Learning Disability East Kent, KCC Families and Social Care



"We act as a voice to ensure services are well adjusted, have the right people with the expertise, pathways are simple and clear and service users are part of our decisions to shape the direction of the services we provide."

Dr Mo Eyeoyibo, Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability and Lead Clinician in the Mental Health of Learning Disability MHL in Kent and Medway

Our Business

The learning disability service is an integrated health and social care service that provides support to people with a learning disability and has an annual budget of £173 million*.

The aim for the learning disability integrated service is to provide quality services in a personalised way so that individuals (and carers) can receive the support they need in a way that enhances their independence. We have a number of key themes that we are currently focusing on:

- Empowering residents through greater personalisation
- Further integration of health and social care
- Provision of job opportunities
- Development of greater choice in housing
- Supporting voluntary and community groups to deliver services
- Continuing to ensure that safeguarding procedures are robust and effective
- To be efficient and work within our resources.

*Figures from 2013/2014 - social care investment only.

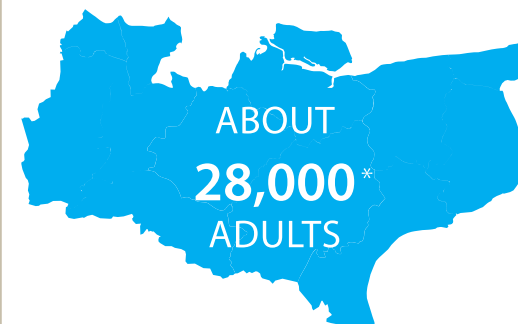
Making it happen - Transformation

A priority for 2013/14 is to maintain the delivery of quality services at a time of austerity and financial constraint.

This will be achieved through a programme of transformation which will include an appraisal of options and where appropriate changes to services and new ways of working.

Through the delivery of the Transformation Programme, Families and Social Care will ensure that people are at the heart of all adult social care activities, receive integrated services that are easy to access, of good quality and that maximise their ability to live independently and safely in their community.

How many adults have a learning disability in Kent?



4,233 of these are supported by KCC.

This represents **0.3%** of the total adult population in Kent.



* plus additional people supported by health.



“The Partnership Board has given me confidence and self-esteem to speak up.”

Tina Walker, Co-Chair Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board and Cabinet

Partnership Boards

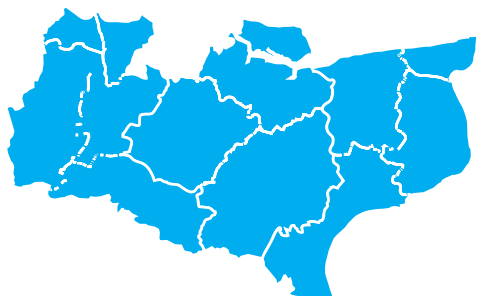
The Board is responsible for making sure that the changes and improvements recommended in the Government White Paper 'Valuing People' (March 2001) and 'Valuing People Now' (January 2009) are happening in Kent.

The Board has no legal powers but is recognised as an authority on all matters relating to 'Valuing People Now'. There is a Joint Health and Social Services Forum, the Learning Disability Divisional Meeting, with which the Board works closely and shares mutual accountability.

The Board meet every two months. The core members are the Joint Chairs of the 11 District Partnership Groups of Kent, one with a learning disability and one without.

Other members include carers and influential people from the public, independent and voluntary sectors.

For more information go to: www.kentldpb.org.uk



All of our District Partnership Groups feedback to the Board, making sure people with a learning disability are involved in the decisions that affect them.

Making it happen

To ensure that all aspects of 'Valuing People Now' are acted upon the following groups were set up and meet regularly - reporting back to the Partnership Board informing decisions and making sure 'Valuing People Now' has been enacted fully in Kent.

The groups listed below are all working on behalf of the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board to make a real difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities.

The groups are:

- Good Health Group
- What I do
- Where I live
- Citizenship Group
- Keeping Safe Group
- Advocacy Group
- Becoming an Adult.



Tina Walker, Co-Chair, Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board and Cabinet

Tina has been involved in 'speaking up' groups for people with learning disabilities for over ten years.

Tina has co-chaired the Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board for two years. During this time Tina has built up a firm network of people to ask opinions and gain views on issues for people with a learning disability.

Tina is also involved in her local District Partnership Group and takes a keen interest in other groups such as health.



“It’s important to ensure services are well adjusted, expert and simple.”

Dr Mo Eyeoyibo, Consultant Psychiatrist in Intellectual Disability and Lead Clinician in Mental Health of LD

Integrated Teams

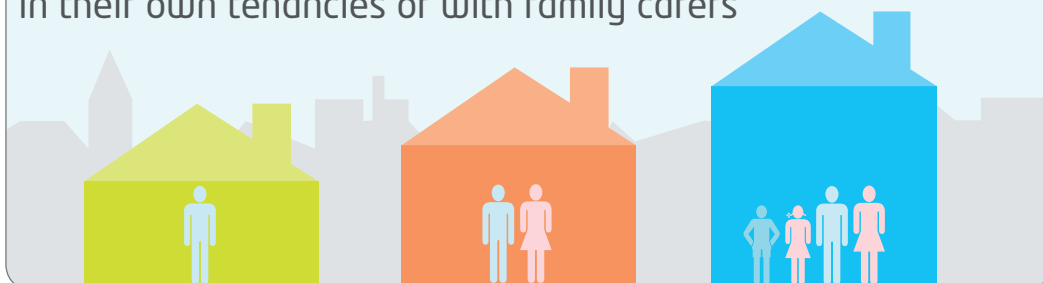
Each of our six integrated teams, located across Kent, is made up of a range of health and social care professionals who work together to provide a seamless service to adults with learning disabilities.

Teams are made up of:

- Nurses
- Care Managers
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Sensory Specialists
- Psychologists
- Psychiatrists.

Teams support people with learning disabilities to live full and active lives within their local communities. They do this by helping people to have the right place to live, have the most appropriate type and level of support, to take care of their health and well-being and to be active and productive in their daily lives.

Two thirds of the people we support live in the community, in their own tenancies or with family carers



Making it happen

- Everyone who is referred for support receives an initial assessment within 28 days
- Everyone who needs it will have a person centred support plan and help to find the best support to meet their individual needs
- Everyone who has social care needs will have a personal budget and will be offered a Direct Payment
- Everyone will be offered a Baseline Health Profile and Health Action Plan
- Each GP surgery will have a link LD Nurse who will support them to understand the needs of people with a learning disability and support a annual health check.



Dr Mo Egeoyibo
Consultant Psychiatrist
in Intellectual
Disability and Lead
Clinician in the Mental
Health of Learning
Disability MHL in
Kent and Medway

Dr Mo joined the NHS Trust in 2008, working in both community and inpatient services.

Dr Mo provides specialist clinical care for those with significant learning disabilities and mental health problems, in the form of assessment and follow up treatment in the community.

**“I feel privileged to work with and meet
such interesting people.”**

Beth Yuill,
Speech & Language Therapist



Health and Well-being

Our integrated teams provide many health and well-being services. These include:

- **Community Learning Disability Nurses**

Enable people with learning disabilities to stay healthy by providing assessments and advice on a variety of healthcare issues, ranging from physical and mental health to end of life and dementia care. They can advise on mental capacity and safeguarding and support other parts of the NHS to make reasonable adjustments.

- **Occupational Therapists**

Work with people with learning disabilities of all ability levels to support their participation in everyday life. They have a key role in the assessment and treatment of people with complex needs, sensory processing, those in transition and people who need to develop a range of life skills.

- **Physiotherapists**

Can help people improve their range of movement, support people with their mobility helping them to keep on the move. They also support people to access healthy activities such as working out at the gym, swimming and cycling.

Making it happen

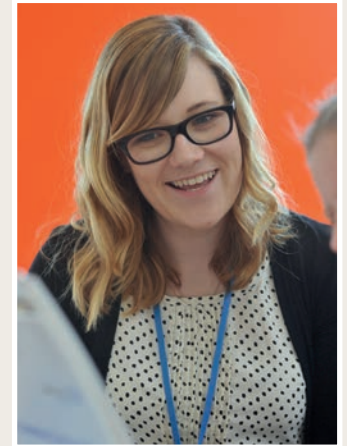
Speech and Language Therapists

Many people with a learning disability have difficulties with communication.

Speech and Language Therapists are there to support them and their carers. This happens by the Speech and Language Therapist and the individual working together to identify the strengths and needs of their communication.

The Speech and Language Therapist will work with carers to teach them different methods of communication and to help with advice about software and communication aids if they are needed.

Speech and Language Therapists also support individuals who have swallowing problems and help their carers to make eating a more enjoyable and a safer experience.



Beth Yuill
Speech and Language
Therapist

Beth qualified in Speech and Language Therapy in 2010. In her role she assesses people's communication strengths and helps people with swallowing problems.

Beth's role is varied, as she deals with people in many different circumstances and with differing abilities.

“I enjoy working with other professionals to provide a co-ordinated seamless service.”

Ismet Mamode-Ally, Senior Nurse Practitioner



Keeping Healthy

People with learning disabilities experience significant health inequalities.

They can also have conditions that can contribute to poorer health for example:

- Physical disabilities
- Mental ill health
- Epilepsy
- Behavioural conditions
- Specific syndromes such as Down Syndrome and Prader-Willi Syndrome.

There are now national outcome frameworks across public health, social care and the NHS, all of which have equalities at their heart.

Performance



All people with Down Syndrome will receive a baseline assessment at the age of 30 to be screened for dementia.

Making it happen

Kent County Council is currently writing a public health strategy for people with learning disabilities.

The outcomes will be focused around achieving positive health outcomes for people with a learning disability and reducing inequalities in health.

Kent County Council, Kent Community Health Trust and Clinical Commissioning Groups have committed plans and outcomes to decrease health inequalities across the population of Kent and in particular across vulnerable groups.



Ismet Mamode-Ally,
Senior Nurse
Practitioner

Ismet has worked as a Community Learning Disability Nurse since May 1994. Prior to this he managed an acute medical ward in South London and at Worthing District Hospital. He has also managed residential services for people with challenging behaviour.

He works in an integrated team making sure people with learning disabilities have regular health checks.

“Safeguarding supports adults with learning disabilities to live freely and safely.”

Phil Willmott,
Safeguarding Co-ordinator



Safeguarding

People with a learning disability should be treated with dignity and respect at all times and any safeguarding concerns or issues raised will be dealt with in confidence. We set out to remove abuse and discrimination in social services. We have the lead role in co-ordinating an appropriate response with partner agencies into allegations of adult abuse. Our first priority is always the safety of the vulnerable adult.

Abuse is a breach of a person's rights. It may be a single act or happen repeatedly over a period of time. Abuse may be deliberate, but may also happen as a result of poor care practices or ignorance. To make sure that everyone is treated with care and respect, the vulnerable adult is at the heart of the safeguarding process.

Safeguarding Co-ordinators work across the county, in a range of activities to safeguard vulnerable adults, for example; co-ordinating safeguarding investigations and supporting practitioners.

We also co-ordinate the development of policies, procedures and practices in partnership with other agencies to safeguard vulnerable adults in Kent. Training programmes are in place and regular audits are completed to ensure quality of practice.

Performance

Safeguarding referrals and outcomes (last 12 months)

Total number of referrals in 2012/13 : 4953*

Outcomes



* Source: AVA return 2012/13

My view...

"My role is about working to reduce the risk of abuse and step in when it might be happening."

Phil Willmott,
Safeguarding Co-ordinator





**“Seeing people increase their skills,
independence and confidence is great.”**

Andrew Cowens,
Care Manager Assistant, Transition

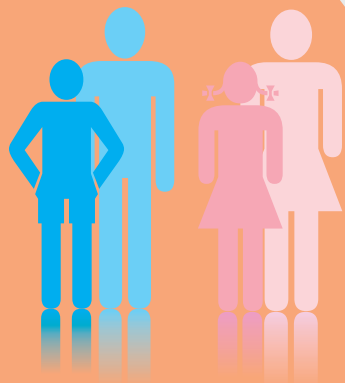
Transition

Transition is a planned process that happens when young people move into adulthood. It is a time of great change both in terms of physical and psychological development, and in the relationships with the people important to them.

All people, whether disabled or not, legally become adults at the age of 18 and it is important that we recognise and support a young person with a learning disability's adult status. We do this by providing good, consistent and timely information, support and guidance to them and their families/carers.

In order to achieve this we have dedicated transition care managers who support young people with learning disabilities to work out what help they will need to achieve their goals as they move into adulthood.

Performance



Last year we supported 60 18 year olds with a learning disability through transition.

Making it happen

We have transition protocols in place with partner agencies to make sure that young people with learning disabilities and their families/carers get the right advice and support from the most appropriate professional in a timely way.

Young people who have support from specialist children's services including intervention from specialist health professionals can expect to have a smooth transition across teams so that essential support is not interrupted.

We are working with colleagues in Education Learning and Skills to make sure the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) changes coming in 2015 mean that young people with learning disabilities who have on-going education needs will continue to receive joined up education, health and care plans if appropriate up to the age of 25.



Andrew Cowens,
Care Manager
Assistant, Transition

Andrew has had a career in social care for over 15 years. He began as a residential care worker, before becoming a senior team leader.

He has worked with young people with learning disabilities in schools and the opportunities service before becoming a Transition Worker.



**“It’s great to help people
achieve their goals and make
their own choices in life.”**

Dawn Maxwell,
Care Manager, Maidstone

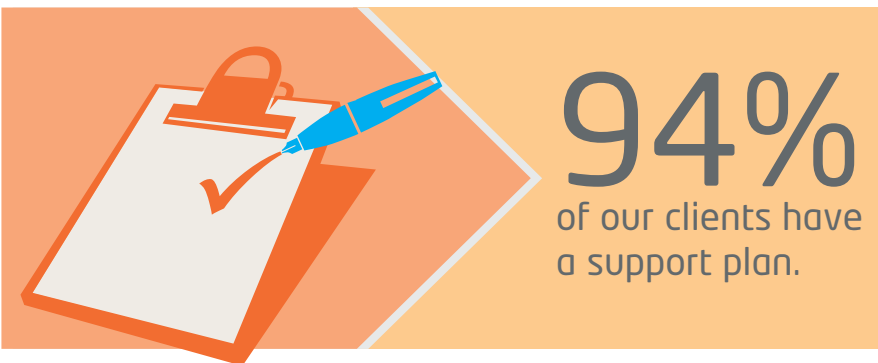
Support Planning

We work with individuals, their families and others who are important to them to develop a person-centred support plan.

This process explores what is important to the person, their interests and the possibilities for their life now and their hopes for the future. The plan should say what the person wants to change about their life. This might be where they live, how they are supported, or how they spend their time. The plan sets out how the support is organised and how much money is available for the support.

People can use the support plan template we provide or they can put together their support plan another way. For example, they can design a poster with pictures and/or words, prepare some slides on a computer or record it on tape, CD or a DVD.

Performance



Making it happen

Our support plans are used to say what is important to the individual and what they want to change or achieve in their life.

This is done by seeing how they will be supported and how they will use their personal budget to do this.

The plan also considers support that is available from carers, family, friends and other people including voluntary and community organisations.

Individuals are helped to organise the right mix of services to achieve their support plan.

This could include:

- personal care
- community meals
- residential care
- supported employment
- community equipment
- and help for carers.



Dawn Maxwell,
Care Manager

Dawn qualified as a Social Worker in 2008 and worked in Children's Services for a year before becoming a Care Manager in the Learning Disability Team.

Dawn helps people with learning disabilities to create their own support plans enabling them to work towards their goals and make their own choices and decisions in life.



“My role enables people to have better choices and be part of the local community.”

Della Fasham,
Support Worker, Ashford

Enabling Independence

Enablement is about promoting people's independence, choice and quality of life by providing short-term support, for up to a maximum of 12 weeks.

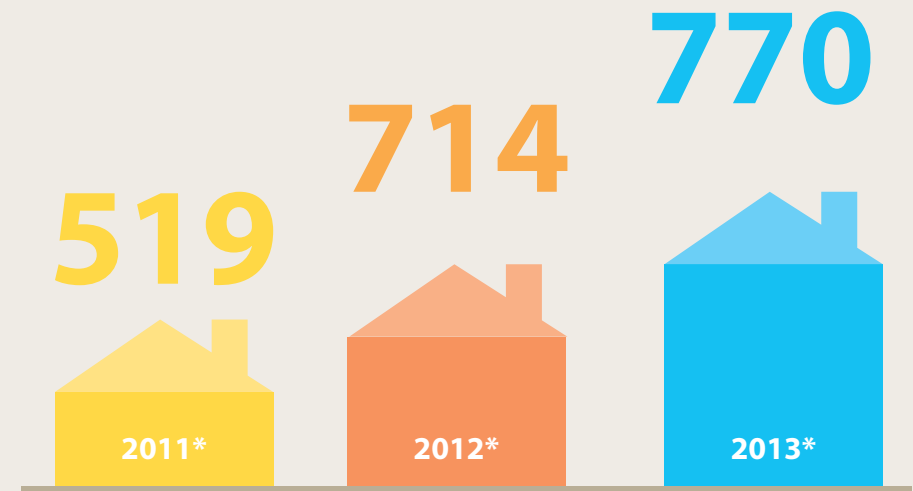
Having this support helps people gain, maintain and develop skills and confidence to help them do as much as they can for themselves. The service supports adults with a learning disability who are living at home with family, supported living or independently in their own homes.

This support may be for:

- Learning and developing new skills at home and in the community
- Budgeting and finance
- Housing (finding somewhere to live)
- Travel training and road safety
- Seeking employment, voluntary or paid
- Attending social activities (meeting new people)
- Finding day time activities
- Health and well-being
- Sign posting
- Communication (reading letters and help with phone calls).

Performance

Number of people in supported accommodation



* Figures as of November each year (social care figures).

My view...

"The best thing about my job is enabling people to make choices in what they want to do in life, be that work, having a social life, going to college and being more independent."



Della Fasham, Support Worker



**“One of the best things in life
is seeing a smile on a person’s
face knowing you put it there.”**

Joan Martin,
Full-time Care Worker

Support for Carers

We value and respect the role of unpaid carers. Carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs, either separately from, or together with the person they care for.

Carers' assessments are often completed by carers' organisations on behalf of Kent County Council, this gives carers the chance to talk about their needs independently from those of the person they are caring for. It includes an assessment of their ability to provide and continue to provide care. It also takes into consideration their work, education, training or any leisure activities they take part in or would like to do.

Having completed the assessment the carer may be eligible for other services, such as a short breaks and carers' support services.

We have respite centres for adults with learning disabilities across Kent. They give carers a break from caring and enable people to learn new skills and become more independent.

As well as respite services we work in partnership with carers' organisations to provide carers with the support they need.

Making it happen

Where there is a carer present we aim to have a carers' assessment undertaken, to make sure that their issues and needs are represented. This can be done through a local case management team or a carer's organisation.

In 2012 there were 502 'something for me' payments used by carers, this figure was up from 2011 where only 300 payments were used.

The payments enable carers to purchase something that could make their life easier.

Improving access, information, advice and guidance has been at the forefront in helping carers to gain access to the support they need.



**Joan Martin,
Full-time Care Worker**

Joan began work as a Hospital Health Care Assistant, before starting her career with people with a learning disability.

She has worked with them for over 12 years.

Joan works at one of our respite centres which provides valuable breaks for carers and enables those who go there to learn new skills and socialise.



“Employment is about more than financial reward, it brings equality and self esteem.”

Mitch Mitchell,
Kent Supported Employment Officer

Employment Opportunities

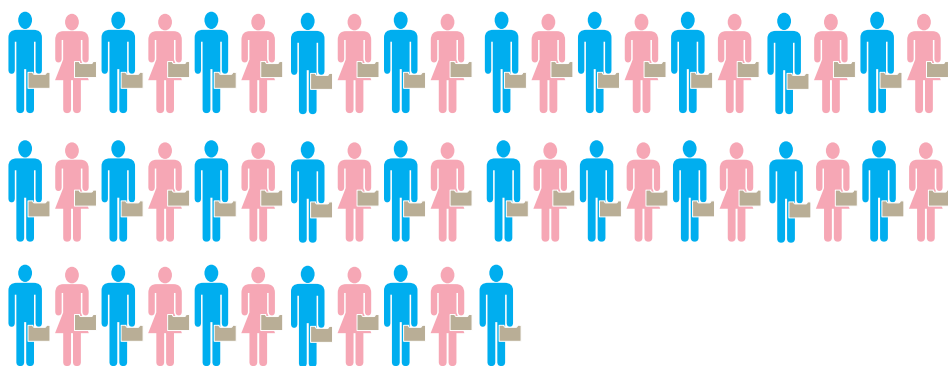
Kent Supported Employment is part of Kent County Council; our aim is to assist people (who are disadvantaged through disability, ill health or other) into work and employment opportunities.

We work with people to assist them to apply for jobs, give advice on benefits, learn interview skills, help them to write CV's and provide support at the interview.

When someone gets a job we can help them to learn the job by providing a Job Coach. The Job Coach works with someone until they can do the job on their own. The Job Coach can also help them to learn to travel to work.

Performance

Number of people assisted into paid employment



From 1st April to 30th September 2013 Kent Supported Employment have assisted 51 people with Learning Disabilities to find and maintain paid employment.

Making it happen

When we start working with people we spend time finding out what they are good at, what sort of work they have done in the past, their skills and abilities and what sort of job they would like to do.

Sometimes people don't know or unsure of what they would like to do, Kent Supported Employment can help people to try some voluntary work or work experience before they look for a paid job.

Over the years Kent Supported Employment has helped 100's of people to find and maintain employment.



Mitch Mitchell,
Supported Employment
Officer

Mitch has worked with people with a learning disability for over 20 years. Mitch started his career with KCC as a Job Coach supporting people to learn skills in the work place.

He uses Vocational Profiling (a holistic method of assessing peoples skills, abilities and aspirations) to assist people in identifying a suitable and realistic career choice.

More Information


Kent has had a very active Learning Disability Partnership Board for the past 10 years. Over this time, many good things have happened with and for people with learning disabilities in Kent. There have been many different plans, people and groups that have made these things happen but often working away from each other and not always in full partnership.

The webiste can be viewed at kentldpb.org.uk

The Partnership Strategy for Learning Disability in Kent 2012-2015 is a very important document that will help Kent County Council and partners work together for a better future for people with learning disabilities who live in Kent.

It can be viewed at: www.kent.gov.uk/adult_social_services/your_social_services/services_and_support/learning_disability/plans_for_kent.aspx





“It’s great to see someone’s confidence and self belief grow in what they can achieve.”

Charlotte Burford,
Employment Support Officer

