

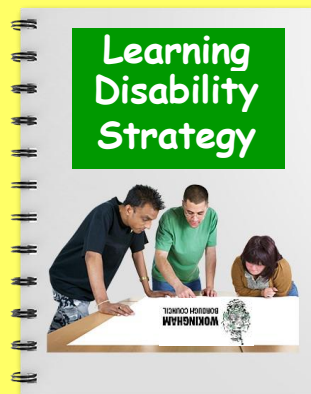


WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Wokingham Borough Council's Learning Disability Strategy

**5 Year Plan
2020-2025**

Easy Read Summary



**Written and approved
by CLASP members**



A charity supporting adults
with learning disabilities to speak up

This report is made up of 4 sections.
The sections are:



1 Introduction



2 Background



3 Action plan



4 Next steps

Introduction



2020 → 2025

What is a strategy?

A strategy is a document that sets out a plan. The council's Learning Disability Strategy says how people with learning disabilities (who live in the Wokingham Borough) will be supported to live positive lives. The strategy covers the next 5 years - from 2020 to 2025.



About this strategy

The council wanted to get the strategy right, so they went to the people who know best - the learning disability community!



They spoke to individuals and learning disability groups, including the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB). The LDPB is made up of people with learning disabilities, families, carers, support providers, voluntary groups and organisations like the council, police, NHS etc.



They held meetings and came to LDPB Roadshows to find out what's important to the learning disability community. People shared their experiences of services that worked well and said what could be done better. They got feedback from over 150 people and their views have been included in this strategy.



The council will continue to listen to the learning disability community and make changes where necessary, so that services work well for everyone.

Background



People with learning disabilities

The term 'learning disability' is used to describe a group of people with lots of different needs.

- Some people have a mild learning disability and are quite independent. They don't need much support.
- Some people have complex needs which means they need a high level of support.
- Some people have a mild learning disability as well as a range of additional needs such as autism, mental health or dementia. These people need a variety of support from both the council and the NHS. They need to work together, sharing information, so people are well supported and stay out of treatment units at long stay hospitals. The council is working with a group called the Transforming Care Partnership to help people live in the community with the support they need.



2014 Care Act

The Care Act says councils must pay for people's support if they are eligible. Each person is assessed by a social care worker from the council to decide their eligible needs.

Difficult words:

- **Care Act** supports carers with their important caring role
- **Assessed** means being carefully looked at, to see what support is needed.
- **Eligible** means whether someone is able to get support.



Facts and figures



- More adults with learning disabilities (who need support) live in the Wokingham Borough compared to other parts of the country. This number will get bigger over the next 5 years as more young people join adult services.
- The council supports **520 adults** with learning disabilities which is much more than other councils. It is the second highest number in the South East of England.
 - * **80%** of people need support with everyday living tasks
 - * **32%** need lots more care because they have complex or higher support needs.
- The council spends **£19.8 million a year** on learning disability support. This is nearly half (**42%**) of the council's adult social care budget. More people will need support over the next 5 years so it will cost the council even more money.
- The council is working hard to support people with learning disabilities and would like to do more. But with so many demands on the council's money, they need to spend it carefully.

What we already know

- **Families & Carers:** Lots of people with learning disabilities are supported by their families and carers. The council values what they do! They want to make sure families and carers are well supported to do their caring role. The council is writing a Carers' Strategy which will be ready soon.



- **Homes:** Lots of people with learning disabilities live in a home of their own and get support to be independent. The council would like more people to live in a home of their own, and with the staff & housemates they choose.
- **Health:** People with learning disabilities often don't have as good health as the rest of the population. The council wants to do more to improve people's health. Especially keeping them out of long-term hospital care.
- **Jobs:** Wokingham Borough is good at helping people with learning disabilities to get and keep a job. The council wants to make sure this continues.
- **Social lives:** Being active, making friends and choosing what we do is important to everyone. The council wants to make sure that people with learning disabilities are able to do all these things.
- **Information and advice:** People need good information and advice to make the right decisions about their care.
- **Choice:** People need a choice of good quality support and care services that meet everyone's needs.
- **Transition:** Young people and their families need additional support to prepare for adult life. This includes information to help them make good decisions regarding their future.

Action plan



With the help of feedback from the Learning Disability Partnership Board, CLASP, learning disability groups, carers and individuals, the council has put together an action plan:



More things for people to do

Support people to enjoy their social lives and do things that matter to them. Things like learning new skills, sport activities, further education, socialising and building relationships.



Better housing so people can be independent

Build homes that suit people with a wide range of needs to help them be more independent. Design neighbourhoods and transport services that are 'learning disability friendly' so people can get around and be part of their community.



Create a dedicated Learning Disability Team

Set up a team for the learning disability community. A team where people can find out about social care, health and housing support. It will mean people don't have to keep repeating their stories. The team will support people from 14yrs and older.



Support young people and their families in transition

Set up a team that supports young people and their families to help them get ready for adult life. Things like preparing social care pathways, further education, training, health, finding a job, or moving out of the family home.



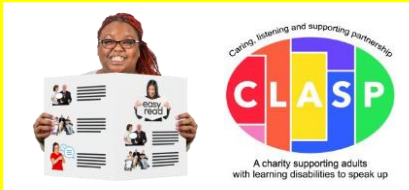
What?	How?
<p>Better partnership working with health services</p>	<p>Create better links with health staff to keep people well and stop them going into hospital. Teams like GPs, doctors, nurses, dentists, opticians, occupational therapists and public health. Make sure everyone has an annual health check, and that health staff know how to treat people with learning disabilities.</p>
<p>Support carers</p>	<p>Listen to what carers need to keep them supported, healthy and safe in their caring role. Things like respite care, going on holiday, exercise, training, socialising, and other things to help people manage their mental health.</p>

Next steps



The council will set up a new Learning Disability Team as set out in the strategy. The team will focus on the action plan. The council will work with the Learning Disability Partnership Board to monitor (check) the plan. They will continue to talk to the learning disability community to make sure they are getting things right.

This strategy is available online at www.wokingham.gov.uk



This easy read document was written by CLASP, a charity supporting adults with learning disabilities. For more information about CLASP and their Easy Read Service, email: admin@claspwokingham.org or tel: 0118 228 1801.