

learning disabilities

our vision



The needs of people with learning disabilities will be recognised, understood and met across public services. They will experience the same choice and quality of care as the general population.

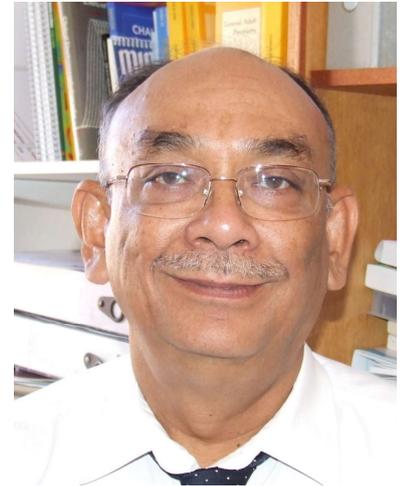
All healthcare services, working closely with social care, the independent sector and the wider community, will be dedicated to promoting maximum independence and quality of life for people with learning disabilities.

Primary and secondary health services will understand the health vulnerabilities and risks of people with learning disabilities, offer effective health promotion advice, check their health regularly and offer care and treatment sensitively and effectively.

Specialist services will be offered in the community, as close to home as possible. They will be able to intervene in emergency or crisis to help stabilise situations and offer increased support while it is needed.

the evidence for change

- There are about 86,000 people with learning disabilities in the East Midlands and this is expected to increase by 11% by 2021
- They are more likely to have poorer health than the general population in such areas as heart and lung disease, epilepsy, sensory impairment, dental health, dementia, mental health problems and be more likely to be underweight or obese
- Often do not receive the same quality of care from health services as the general population and frequently find themselves living in over-institutionalised hospital/nursing care



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our priorities for change:

- Get commitment from all GP practices to actively identify and record patients with a learning disability on their registers
- Give every patient with a learning disability an annual healthcheck and a health action plan
- Design joint children and adolescent mental health and learning disabilities services
- Further develop specialist local learning disability teams, supported by crisis response and assertive outreach services to bring care closer to home
- Build access to healthcare into contracts for residential and nursing homes
- Complete the closure of NHS 'campus' beds by 2010 and move residents into more appropriate community settings.

the ideal stepped model of care

The model will create a flexible system that can adapt and respond to the changing needs of patients with learning disabilities including changes to their circumstances and incidents of crisis. It will require different agencies and health organisations to work effectively together so that the individual and their carer/advocate are properly supported.



1

Self care supported by family and friends, health checks in the community, health action plans and supported referral into hospital services if needed. GPs and other primary care practitioners are trained to support patients with learning disabilities.

2

Supported by community social care organisations with healthcare advice and a properly co-ordinated care plan for community and hospital services. Social carers are trained to support patients with learning disabilities.

3

Supported by local authority social services. Local specialist learning disability healthcare team is a partner in assessment, offering time limited clinical intervention and supporting primary, secondary, mainstream mental health and end of life care

4

Supported by specialist learning disability healthcare services, which provide ongoing clinical intervention, integrated practice with social care, risk assessment and facilitation through mainstream services