

Making 'Valuing People Now' happen in Kent



Summary of the Partnership Strategy
for Learning Disability in Kent 2012 - 2015



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The full version of the Partnership
Strategy for Learning Disability in
Kent 2012-2015 is available at
www.kent.gov.uk/ldplansforkent



Foreword by the Kent Partnership Board

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 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. This summary sets out the vision and commitments central to the strategy.

The Kent Learning Disability Partnership Board endorses this strategy and recognises this as the main plan for people with learning disabilities in Kent. The Board looks forward to working with all partners to make sure that the challenges and changes shown in this strategy are clearly planned, acted on and achieved. 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 Disabilities
and Mental Health

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Tina Walker
Co-Chair of Kent Learning
Disability Partnership Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tina Walker".



Graham Gibbens
Co-Chair of Kent Learning
Disability Partnership Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Graham Gibbens".



Making 'Valuing People Now' happen in Kent

This is a summary of the Partnership Strategy for Learning Disability in Kent for 2012-2015, which sets out the priorities for making sure that people with learning disabilities are getting the services they need.

It is called a Partnership Strategy because it involves everyone working together. It was developed by commissioners from Kent County Council and NHS Kent, along with input from service users, their families and carers, service providers and other professionals.

This summary includes the major points in the strategy but not all of the details.

The full strategy is available at www.kent.gov.uk/ldplansforkent and www.kcc.cswebsites.org/default.aspx?page=27721

Valuing People Now

Valuing People Now is the national strategy for learning disability. It is based on four key principles:

- **Rights**

People with learning disabilities and their families have the same human rights as everyone else

- **Independent living**

This does not mean living on your own or having to do everything yourself. All disabled people should have greater choice and control over the support they need to go about their daily lives; greater access to housing, education, employment, leisure and transport opportunities and to participation in family and community life

- **Control**

This is about being involved and in control of decisions made about your life. This is not usually doing exactly what you want, but is about having information and support to understand the different options and their implications and consequences, so people can make informed decisions about their own lives

- **Inclusion**

This means being able to participate in all the aspects of community – to work, learn, get about, meet people, be part of social networks and access goods and services – and have the support to do so

The current coalition government are continuing with this strategy and have identified health, housing and employment as the priority areas. It is important that these principles are also included in our Partnership Strategy for Learning Disability in Kent.

The local picture in Kent

In Kent there are:

- probably about 28,000 people with learning disabilities but it is difficult to tell because not all of them need services
- 4,100 people with learning disabilities who are known to Kent County Council (KCC)

In future, these numbers are expected to grow because people are living longer due to healthier lifestyles and better medical attention.

People with learning disabilities often live with their families or in registered care homes but some live in their own homes. If they need support, this usually comes from service providers, which may be private or voluntary organisations. This is often arranged and paid for by the National Health Service (NHS) or KCC but in some cases, people are given the money so that they can purchase the support they need themselves.

There is more detailed information about numbers of people with learning disabilities in the Kent Learning Disability Needs Assessment.



Our vision - enhancing independence

The vision driving the Partnership Strategy for Learning Disability in Kent is to **work with our partners** to provide information and quality services in a personalised way so that **each individual** is able to access the **support** they need, delivered in a way that **enhances their independence**. We will look for outcomes for people so that we can tell if their services are working for them.

Five keys to enhancing independence

Our strategy will focus on five key areas that will be important to help people gain greater independence:

1 Citizenship

Being treated as an equal citizen in society and supported to enact your rights and fulfil your responsibilities

2 What you do

Having a fulfilling life of your own, including opportunities to work, study, enjoy leisure and social activities and to have relationships and friendships

3 Where You live

Real choice over where you live and with whom

4 Health

Mainstream health services providing you with appropriate, effective and accessible health care

5 Partnerships

Promote partnership working to encourage innovation and improve efficiency



Our ten commitments

Personalisation	We will continue to use person centred planning, along with family support or advocacy, to determine what each person wants or needs and support them to make choices about how best to achieve it.
Support for carers	We recognise the important role that families and carers play in enriching the lives of people with learning disabilities and will support them to contribute their expertise.
Safeguarding	We will work with partners, including the police and criminal justice system to safeguard vulnerable people and, if they are victims of crime, ensure they have access to justice and support.
Health	We will continue to work with our Health partners to ensure that mainstream health services are equipped to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.
Transition	We will work in partnership with education and children's services to support individuals with a smooth transition into adulthood.
Accommodation solutions	We will promote choices for the most appropriate housing for people with learning disabilities and will work with providers to ensure they are able to provide personalised services.
Employment	We will encourage innovation in employment support services and support social enterprises that seek to provide employment for people with learning disabilities.
Including everyone	We will work to ensure that personalised services are available for everyone, whatever their background or level of disability.
Partnerships	We will work with new and existing partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to find innovative ways to deliver the elements of this strategy.
Measuring Outcomes	We will monitor and review progress toward the key elements of this strategy to ensure that we are achieving our targets and to provide analysis of the outcomes they are producing for individuals.

Commitments and actions



Living on my own

Commitment 1: Personalisation

We will continue to support use of person centred planning, along with family support or advocacy, to determine what each person wants or needs and support them to make choices about how best to achieve it.

Personalisation is about people having more choice and control over their lives and the services they receive, with support tailored to their needs rather than requiring the individual to fit into existing services.

Self directed support allows the individual to take control in deciding the support they need and how it is delivered and paid for.

Over the next three years we will:

- look at developing more individualised, local solutions. Use approaches such as co-production to design and deliver services in an equal and reciprocal relationship between professionals, people using services, their families and their neighbours
- ensure the process for setting personal budgets is transparent and give people appropriate support to purchase their own services while ensuring that they have real power to make the choice
- increase the number of direct payments to learning disability clients to 50%



Support for my family

Commitment 2: Support for carers

We recognise and value the important role that families and carers play in enriching the lives of people with learning disabilities and will support them to contribute their expertise.

The provision of short breaks is often cited as the single most important issue by carers both in terms of their own quality of life and their capacity to continue in their caring role. Feedback from individuals and people with learning disabilities indicates that a choice of short term break options is a requirement for the future.

Over the next three years we will:

- feed into the Carers' Implementation Plan to deliver the Kent Carers' Strategy, ensuring that we are commissioning services that meet the needs of carers of people with learning disabilities

- review respite services in order to improve efficiency, availability and increase the occupancy rate. Ensure that they can safely accommodate the needs of a wider range of people
- continue to support carers to engage with organisations in their communities and sponsor local carer support groups



Keeping me safe

Commitment 3: Safeguarding

We will work with partners, including the police and criminal justice system to safeguard vulnerable people and, if they are victims of crime, ensure they have access to justice and support.

KCC considers the safeguarding of vulnerable children and adults one of its most important functions. In order to be as responsive as possible, KCC has a number of procedures in place designed to alert staff to issues relating to the quality of care people are receiving. These procedures will contribute to the monitoring of outcomes related to all of the rest of our strategy.

Over the next three years we will:

- maintain a close relationship with the Care Quality Commission to review risks and ensure follow up of any concerns
- use the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults competency framework to evidence the competence of community teams to deal with safeguarding issues
- use the Quality in Care framework to engage with other authority commissioners when safeguarding concerns are raised in services where KCC has not placed people



Having a healthy lifestyle

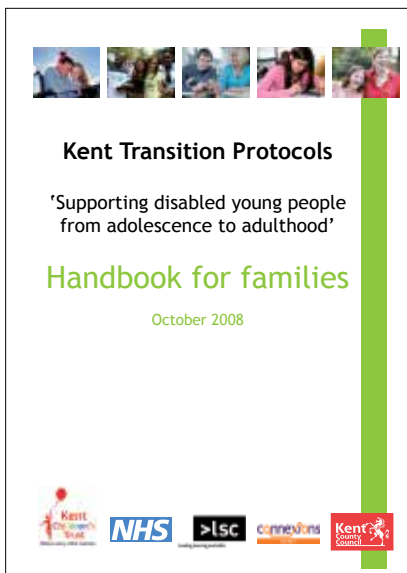
Commitment 4: Health

We will continue to work with our health partners to ensure that mainstream health services are equipped to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and will strive to work toward reducing health inequalities.

Our strategy is to work with mainstream health services to provide good, accessible services for adults with learning disabilities, and to ensure all planning includes this group of people. We will continue to engage with GP surgeries to encourage Annual Health Checks, which have produced positive health results for many people.

Over the next three years we will:

- contribute to meeting and evidencing the targets of the South of England Strategic Health Authority Learning Disability Self Assessment Framework
- continue to work with Local Involvement Networks (LiNs) and support their transition into Local HealthWatch organisations
- ensure that electronic reporting systems will allow accurate recording and checking of people's access to health checks and other health screening programmes



Commitment 5: Transition

We will work in partnership with education and children's services to identify gaps in transition services and facilitate solutions.

A good transition plan is key to assisting a person to move into adulthood and should provide opportunities to make choices about further education, employment and where to live. Families and people with learning disabilities have said that their outcomes from transition are often not as good as for other people and we need to work to improve this.

Over the next three years we will:

- work to maintain strong links with professionals who are responsible for placements out of county schools, independent schools, specialist units in mainstream schools and further education colleges
- review and relaunch the Kent Transition Protocols to ensure a person centred transition approach for all young people
- continue to identify gaps in transition services and work in partnership with education and children's services to facilitate solutions for young people with learning disabilities



Commitment 6: Accommodation Solutions

We will promote choices for the most appropriate housing for people with learning disabilities and will work with providers to ensure they are able to provide personalised services.

All people with learning disabilities and their families should have the opportunity to make an informed choice about where and with whom they live. We believe that housing for people with learning disabilities should look like other housing in the area and not appear different, it should be near to good transport routes and have easy access to local facilities.

It is important that people with learning disabilities have the opportunity to live in their own accommodation, either as a tenant within the rental market or as a home owner. The campus re-provision project has demonstrated that many people with learning disabilities, even those with complex needs, are able to manage their lives and be a part of their local community. Those who have had this opportunity are showing how important it is to them to have choice and control over where they live. Too few people with learning disabilities have been given this choice.

Over the next three years we will:

- hold regular meetings in each district to discuss housing and find out the housing needs of people with a learning disability
- continue working with all local boroughs, district councils and registered social landlords to ensure that the housing needs of people with learning disabilities are known and that options are developed locally
- work with supported living providers to ensure that they have the expertise to provide services for all, including those with more complex needs



Having a job

Commitment 7: Employment

We will encourage innovation in employment support services and support social enterprises that seek to provide employment for people with learning disabilities.

Nationally, employment for people with learning disabilities is a key focus, with emphasis within Valuing People Now on employment and the launch of a National Employment Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities, Valuing Employment Now (2009).

KCC is committed to ensuring that people who want to work are supported in doing so. We know that jobs are often as important to people with learning disabilities as to everyone else. Along with the benefits to the individual of gaining real employment, there is the potential to find significant reductions in costs by re-investing money from day services into supported employment. This presents an opportunity to interlink with a number of other projects including the Good Day Programme, Residential Change Programme and Getting a Life.

Over the next three years we will:

- invest in supported employment services to work with Jobcentre Plus to ensure that people with learning disabilities are supported to benefit from Department for Work and Pensions services
- aim to predominantly do business with support providers from the private and voluntary sector who offer permanent employment opportunities to people with learning disabilities
- establish a wider scope of support to enable people attending day services to access other activities such as employment and volunteering



Having a voice

Commitment 8: Including everyone

We will work to ensure that personalised services are available for everyone, whatever their background or level of disability.

Giving people a voice in the commissioning process is seen as vital and this should include all voices, not just those that are the easiest to hear. Our strategy is not to create a series of specialist services but to ensure that when a person with learning disabilities is eligible for a service their additional needs are recognised while providing person-centred support to enable them to enjoy the same rights as anyone else.

Over the next three years we will:

- work with mainstream sensory services to ensure that these are accessible and that people with learning disabilities are signposted to them when appropriate. Sensory impairments among people with learning disabilities are common, so training in recognition of sensory impairment and strategies to support people is an important element of service provision

- work with partners to develop services in response to the 33 recommendations contained in the report Raising our sights (Mansell, 2010) and using the report on Complex Needs in Kent completed in September 2011
- continue to support the personalisation agenda by finding personalised solutions to ensure that everyone can access the same services and ensuring that this is reflected in how communities are organised to meet the assessed needs of all people, including those with learning disabilities



Partnership opportunities

Commitment 9: Partnerships

We will work with new and existing partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to find innovative ways to deliver the elements of this strategy.

Bold Steps for Kent is KCC's medium term plan to 2014/15. It outlines how the council will work within much tighter budget constraints to continue to deliver public services. This will require a transformation in how the council engages with the communities it serves as well as with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The council will become a commissioning authority, finding partners to take over delivery of current in-house services and giving the voluntary and community sectors more responsibility for running local public services. These new partnerships will present an opportunity to bring a fresh approach to development of services for people with learning disabilities.

Over the next three years we will:

- promote inclusive private and voluntary sector community services
- continue the work of the Good Day Programme to change day service provision so that people with learning disabilities can engage in mainstream opportunities in the community
- launch the Supporting Independence Service to provide a range of enablement services to help people reach their full potential and live as independently as possible



Telling the Health Secretary about what we are doing in Kent

Commitment 10: Measuring Outcomes

We will monitor and review progress toward the key elements of this strategy to ensure that we are achieving our targets and to provide analysis of the outcomes they are producing for individuals.

In forming this partnership strategy, we look at the needs of people with learning disabilities and of the market currently in place to provide for them. We have put forward plans that will meet these needs by developing new services and managing the market over the coming three years. Our next steps will be to monitor and review, both to ensure we are working towards our targets and to provide analysis for future commissioning.

Over the next three years we will:

- check outcomes for individuals through the integrated Community Learning Disability Teams and routine contract monitoring
- engage in self assessment exercises such as the South of England Strategic Health Authority Health Self Assessment Framework and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services reviews
- continue to collect and analyse performance management information through current governance arrangements, including scrutiny by the Kent Partnership Board



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