



Learning Disability Services

Our plans for 2022 to 2026



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of '**Learning Disability Delivery and Implementation Plan 2022-2026**'.

October 2022

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 36**.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:

E-mail: Andrew.stevenson@gov.wales

Phone: 0300 025 5936



This document was made into easy read by **Easy Read Wales** using **Photosymbols**. To tell us what you think about this easy read version, [click here](#).

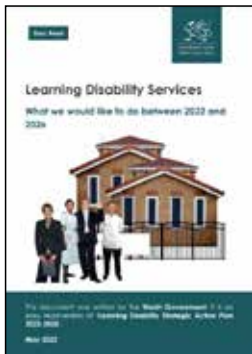
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About this plan



This plan was written by the **Welsh Government**.
We worked with partners to help us write this.



You should read this plan and our [Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026](#) together.



This plan says what we will do to achieve the things we have written about in our **Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026**.



This plan will be checked often. And updated as needed.

What we will do



There are 8 areas we want to work on in the next 4 years:

1. General issues that lots of government departments need to be involved in
2. Recovering from COVID
3. Health, Social Services and social care
4. Independent living and advocacy
5. Education, children and young people's services
6. Jobs and skills
7. Housing
8. Transport



We will explain what we plan to do in the rest of this document. And by when. We will also tell you what we have done already.

1. General



We worked with the **Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG)** and other partners to write:



- The **Learning Disability Strategic Action Plan 2022-2026**. It was finished in May 2022.



- This plan - the **Learning Disability Delivery and Implementation Plan 2022-2026** in October 2022.



We will check we are achieving the actions in our plans every year. And there will be a big review in 2024.



We will have at least 4 **Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group (LDMAG)** meetings every year.



We will make sure the meetings include everyone, and are easy to find, get to and take part in.



We will check **LDMAG** are doing a good job. And that the group is making a difference.



We will work to make sure **LDMAG** is well known and has a strong voice.



We will do this by March 2023. And then keep checking again every year.

Equality and inclusion



We will check how well our policies help meet the needs of people with a learning disability:



- from different protected groups, for example firstly from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic backgrounds.



We will do this by April 2023.



We will work on fixing any problems we find by April 2024.



After April 2024 we will check how our policies are impacting people with a learning disability from other protected groups.

National Learning Disability Observatory for Wales



We want to create a **National Learning Disability Observatory for Wales**.



A **Learning Disability Observatory for Wales** is about looking at and collecting information about people with a learning disability to help improve things. For example, information about health.



We will see if this is possible. And decide by April 2024 if we can do it.

Positive behavioural support



We want to improve support by using **Positive Behavioural Support** and **trauma informed care**.

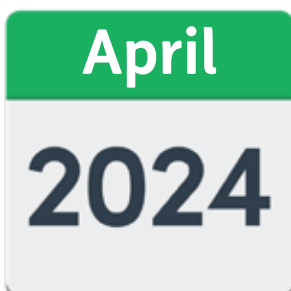
Positive Behavioural Support and **trauma informed care** are ways of supporting people with a learning disability and behaviour issues.



We will work with partners to make sure the **Reducing Restrictive Practices Framework** is being used.



We will make sure they agree on actions they need to take to use the **Framework** in their work.



And we will work on ways to check this. We will do this by April 2024.



In 2023 to 2024 we will test out the best ways of using the **Framework** across all public services.



We will create a video to raise awareness of the **Framework** for people who plan, organise and provide services by **Summer of 2022**.

Working with other people



We want policies and services to be developed with people **with** a learning disability being involved.



Their thoughts and views are important and should be thought about in all decision making.



We will work closely with people with a learning disability. And find out what they think about our plans.



We will make sure our work is easy for people with a learning disability to understand.



We will do all this by April 2024.

2. Recovering from COVID



LD MAG will work with a national task and finish group on **social prescribing**.

Social prescribing is when doctors and other staff refer people to services in the community to help improve their wellbeing. For example, going to the gym or joining a class.



They will look at how we can use **social prescribing** to recover from COVID and tackle loneliness.



We are also running a consultation at the moment. It is about creating a **National framework for social prescribing**. This is a big plan that says what it is and how it should be used in Wales.



The consultation closes on 20 October 2022. [You can find out more about it on our website here.](#)



We will think about everything we learn from this consultation to write the **National framework for social prescribing**.



We will look in particular at how to fund this long-term.

3a. Health

Specialist adult services



In January 2022 we set up a national group to make sure we achieved the suggestions in the [Improving Care: Improving Lives Review](#).



We will make sure all the suggestions are followed by April 2024.

Deaths



We want to make sure that when someone with a learning disability dies, their death is reviewed.



There is a new service for this, called **Mortality Review and Medical Examiner Service (MES)**.



This is to check if something could have been done differently to provide better care and support.



Any lessons learnt must be shared so we can improve services.



We will make sure this is being done by April 2023.

Learning disability education



We will start delivering the **Paul Ridd Foundation Level Module of the Learning Disability Education Framework** to healthcare staff.



This will make sure staff in health services meet the needs of people with a learning disability better.



We started doing this at the beginning of 2022.



We will roll out more training to more health and social care staff in 2023.

Quality and safety standards



We will make sure there are good health and safety plans in place for people with a learning disability in health services.



We will do this by December 2023.

Health checks



We will check how well our test health check project worked. This project ran between October 2021 and March 2022. We will look into taking this further by Spring 2022.



By April 2023 we will:



- Check how health boards provide health checks. Find the best ways of doing health checks. And share what we learn across Wales.



- Write national standards for providing health checks. And make sure health boards are working in the same ways.



In April 2023 we will start working with partners to measure how well the national standards are working and being used.

Health Equalities Framework



We will research how people could best use the HEF online. We will do this by Spring 2023.



From Spring 2023 onwards, we will start rolling out the HEF online platform. We will check how well this is working for people. And how much it is being used.



From April 2024 onwards, we will look into ways of reporting how well different therapies are working for people.

Physical health



We will write policies and guides to improve how health services deal with the needs of people with a learning disability. We will focus on:



- **Diagnosing** and treating **constipation** – this is when you cannot poo or find it hard to poo.

Diagnosing is when a doctor or medical professional look at your health and behaviours and says whether you have a certain condition. This may involve some tests too.

- Access to **vaccines** first and **screening**.



A **vaccine** is a medicine that helps to stop you getting sick from diseases.



Screening means checking people for some types of cancer and other health problems. When cancer and health problems are found early, they are easier to treat.



- Using the health profile.



- Checking the system for flagging up when someone getting health care has a learning disability.



- Checking the care bundle.



We started working on all this in April 2022.

3b. Social Services and social care

Loneliness



We want to find out what causes people with a learning disability and their family and carers to become lonely. And cut off from their communities.



We will help create policies to deal with these issues.



We started working on this in April 2022.

Day services and respite care



We are currently working with partners on **Priority 3 - Give support to unpaid carers to take a break and have a better life** from our [Strategy for Unpaid Carers](#).



We are working with:

- Association of Directors of Social Services Cymru
- Local authorities
- and other partners.



To safely reopen local authority day services that meet the needs of people with a learning disability, their families, and carers.



We started working on this in October 2022. We will keep checking how this is going.

Direct payments



In April 2022 we started working with partners to find out how Direct Payments can work better with Continuing NHS Health Care.

Parents with a learning disability



We will create a guide for Children's Social Care Services. The guide will help staff give support to parents who have a learning disability. To make sure families can stay together and children thrive.



We will also create a guide for parents with a learning disability.



We will create these guides by **Autumn 2022**.

The Social Services and Well-being Wales Act 2014



We will finish our review of the **Social Services and Wellbeing Wales Act 2014**.



We will make sure the views and experiences of people with a learning disability are included in the review.



Social Care Workforce

We will work with partners on planning for a good, strong social care workforce.

Learning Disability Nurse Workforce



We are working with partners to plan for a Learning Disability Nurse workforce that meets the needs of people.



We are looking at ways to get more people to train as Learning Disability Nurses. We will check what uptake was like on these courses in October 2023 and October 2024.



We will work with partners to find ways of making a career as a Learning Disability Nurse more attractive to people.

Carers



We are working with partners to write policies that meet the support needs of people who care for people with learning disabilities.

4. Independent living and advocacy

Having a say



In October 2022 we will start work with partners to find out how we can provide **advocacy** and **self-advocacy** services in the best ways.



Advocacy is when someone helps you and speaks up for you to:

- say what you want to say
- and make things happen.



Self-advocacy is when you speak up for yourself.



We will also provide guidance to make sure they do this properly in the future.

Technology



In April 2023 we will start work with partners to find the best ways to use technology to:

- help people have a say
- and get the information they need.

Relationships



We will work with LD MAG and partners to look into writing guides and advice about relationships.



They will be for people with a learning disability, their families and carers and service providers.



We will start this in April 2023. We want to have this support in place by April 2024.

5. Education children and young people

Learning disability services



From April 2022 we will work with partners to improve how services work together.



Between April 2022 and April 2025, we will:

- Write plans for working in the best ways.



- Check what gaps in support there are so we can make changes.



- Look at how we can improve services.



- Write a plan for joined up learning disability services for children and young people.

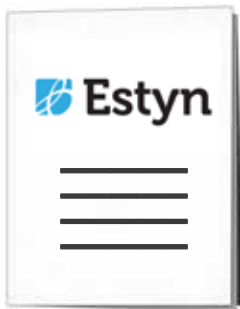
Additional learning needs



In September 2022 we set up an **ALN steering group**.



This **ALN steering group** will help us to use the new **additional learning needs** system properly.



Estyn inspects education in Wales. Estyn will review the new ALN system. They will write a report about it by Spring 2023.



We will start moving children over to the new ALN system in September 2021. By September 2024 all ALN children will be learning under the new system.



In Autumn 2022 we will choose people to lead the move over to the new system. They will provide support to schools and staff.



We have created guides to help everyone understand the **additional learning needs** system better.



In early 2023 we will set up a children and young people group. This is so we can make sure learners and their parents are involved and understand the new ALN system.

6. Jobs and skills

We will think about the lessons learnt from project like:



- the [Engage to Change project](#)
- [Jobs Growth Wales Plus programme](#)



We will look into creating a national job coaching service with the Department for Work and Pensions.



We will do this by Summer 2023.



We will look at support for employers. Like the online [Employers Toolkit](#). We will make sure it is up to date by April 2023.



We will make the most of opportunities for people with a learning disability to get **apprenticeships** – this is when you are paid whilst learning the skills of a job.



We will start working on this in 2023.



We will keep on offering employers money to provide **apprenticeships** for disabled people. Starting in April 2022. We will keep checking this.

7. Housing



We will make sure **Regional Partnership Boards** include people with a learning disability in their work and plans.



We have written [guidance](#) for **Regional Partnership Boards** to support people with a learning disability to live independently.

8. Transport



We worked with a lot of different people with different needs to write the [Wales Transport Strategy](#).



As a result, we have written another plan to make sure we think about **equality** when delivering the **Wales Transport Strategy**.



We did a [consultation to find out what people thought about this plan](#). We will think about the answers we got to develop our ideas for this further.



We want to run a project for bus drivers. We want them to learn more about **equality** and **access**.



We are waiting on permission before we can run this project.

Hard words

Advocacy

Advocacy is when someone helps you and speaks up for you to:

- say what you want to say
- and make things happen.

Self-advocacy is when you speak up for yourself.

Diagnosing

Diagnosing is when a doctor or medical professional looks at your health and behaviours and says whether you have a certain condition. This may involve some tests too.

Positive Behavioural Support and trauma informed care

Positive Behavioural Support and trauma informed care are ways of supporting people with a learning disability and behaviour issues.

Screening

Screening means checking people for some types of cancer and other health problems. When cancer and health problems are found early they are easier to treat.

Social prescribing

Social prescribing is when doctors and other staff refer people to services in the community to help improve their wellbeing. For example, going to the gym or joining a class.

Vaccine

A vaccine is a medicine that helps to stop you getting sick from diseases.