

Warrington Learning Disability Partnership Board

Learning Disability Strategy

2024 - 2027

Warrington
Speak Up



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

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Warrington Voices

Welcome to Warrington's Joint Learning Disability Strategy- this page features first because our aim is to put the views, experiences and ambitions of people that use services, their families and unpaid carers at the heart of our plans. It is critical to us that people's views and experiences are heard and taken into account. People that use services have already taken a central role informing the content of this strategy and will continue to do so as is reviewed and developed over time.

- I get support that is person centered, that is all about me and what I want, in a way that works best for me. I am treated with respect
- I get support to be involved with and contribute to my local community.
- I get support to understand my money, to pay my bills and budget
- I get information that is easy to read and the right support to understand it
- I get support to enjoy relationships.
- I get support to use my mobility car to enjoy a full and meaningful life
- I get support to speak up and be listened to and to be involved in decisions about me and my care and support.
- I get support to use public and community transport and to develop skills to travel independently
- I get support to look after my physical and mental health.
- I get support from workers who know how to communicate with me and include me in decision making.
- I get support to choose where I live and who I live with and to make and keep in touch with friends and to enjoy a social life.
- I need support to feel safe and stay safe in my home and when out and about in the community.
- I get support to keep in touch with my family and to enjoy a family life.
- I want to choose who I want to support me. My support workers know me, and I know them.
- I want to get support to get involved in education and learn new skills.

In Warrington, we aim to deliver the right opportunities and the right care, at the right time, in the right place and the only way that we will get that right is by listening to people and understanding where we get things right and where we need to improve.

That is why our strategy begins here, with the **'I' Statements** developed by people with learning disabilities in Warrington. We will continue to check back with people and our partners and embed conversation, consultation, co-design and co-production in all that we do.

Overview

Learning Disability Partnership Vision: To work together to make things better for the people of Warrington with a learning disability.

Council Vision: Our residents live healthy, happy and independent lives.

Adult Social Care Vision: Working together with people to live well.

Services for people with learning disabilities across Health and Social Care

Commissioning partners support a range of services to support people in care homes, family homes, rented and owned homes. Technology that helps people to stay independent is also a major part of supporting independence.

Over 400 people live independently with support in 'supported living' with under 100 people living in 'registered' residential care. Supporting people to stay independent, living life to the full, is an important part of our plans.

Warrington for Community and Education

Commissioned voluntary sector activity, including information, advice and guidance, supports hundreds of people every year.

There are also local charitable and voluntary sector organisations in Warrington, many of them small and informal, supporting people to access leisure, education and community life. We will develop plans to do more to give people more and better access to their communities.

Our Key Aim

To make a long-term plan for Warrington, with Warrington residents and carers, that supports people with learning disabilities to achieve their aspirations and to meet their needs.

Co-production and co-design:

- We recognise that people with learning disabilities are the best people to design services that affect them, and we will continue to develop our model of consultation and co-production to maximise their feedback and input.
- Our three-year Strategy will commit to restructuring our Partnership Board, making it more accountable to people with learning disabilities, reporting in a way that people prefer, recognising and embracing difference and everybody's communication needs.

Communities in Partnership

We will work with all organisations so that we can deliver better and more joined up services that meet the needs of people with learning disabilities to help them to stay independent.

Introduction

Our Strategy has been developed with a wide range of key individuals and stakeholders, such as health and social care professionals and other local service providers and organisations and our 'I' Statements have been developed by young people and adults with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

The Learning Disability Partnership Board has decided to develop a focused, three-year strategy so that we can develop a plan that supports pathways that meet the aspirations and needs of people who use our services and access communities.

Support for people with learning disabilities has moved on considerably in previous years, and we have seen the move away from long-stay hospitals to people with learning disabilities being active residents who contribute to our town. However, we know that this journey is not fully complete, as people with learning disabilities and their families are yet to achieve the same outcomes as their peers.

As the population of people with learning disabilities continues to increase, and as we continue to experience a reduction in health and social care resources, we need, more than ever, a place that enables all people, including those with complex needs and their families, the option to take part in all aspects of life, with the support to make it happen.

Our strategy sets out the vision for adults with learning disabilities in Warrington, including those in the process of moving from childhood to adulthood, the principles that underpin our approach to improvement, and the key outcome areas for development, as set by people with learning disabilities.

Over the next three years, we will report on our successes and challenges in real time, while developing long term plans that aim to be positive and aspirational and focus on a community-based approach. Working together in the short term, we will utilise and build on resources and assets within the borough, whilst ensuring there are the statutory services available, with equal access, to provide support and care for those people with learning disabilities that need it.

Our vision

'To work together to make things better for the people of Warrington with a learning disability'

Our ambition is for individuals with learning disabilities and their carers to enjoy a good quality of life which includes and reflects the Warrington 'I Statements'. The Learning Disability Partnership Board members are fully committed to our statements which have been coproduced with individuals with learning disabilities, their carers and family members.

To achieve our local vision and taking our 'I statements' as a guide, we will need to ensure that in all that we do, we remain focused on the principles that support people to have Quality of life, to Stay safe, to have Choice and control, to live in an open and accessible community and to have coordinated services that they can rely on.



What is a learning disability?

A learning disability will affect the way a person understands and how they communicate. This means they can have difficulty in understanding new or complex information, learning new skills and coping independently.

A learning disability is different to a learning difficulty, which does not affect intellectual ability (for example, dyslexia).

There are mild, moderate and severe learning disabilities. Those with a mild learning disability may lead independent lives, while those with moderate learning disabilities may need more support with completing day-to-day tasks. Those born with a severe or profound multiple learning disability (PMLD) may need much more support, as this is a diagnosis where an individual has more than one disability, with the most significant being a learning disability. Many of the children diagnosed with a PMLD will also have a sensory or physical disability, complex health needs or mental health difficulties.

National picture

There are a number of key pieces of legislation and national policies that have set the expectation for learning disability services and how they should be delivered. There are also many local policies and events that shape how learning disability services are delivered in Warrington. Here, we aim to provide an insight into the legislation and policy that guides and influences the approach to learning disability services and access to communities in Warrington.

Valuing people now

In 2001 the Government published their 'Valuing People' strategy for people with learning disabilities and their carers. This was updated in 2009, as *Valuing People Now*, and is still relevant. This national strategy and policy related specifically to people with learning disabilities. Within the Strategy, the Government set out their vision for people with learning disabilities, it said that:

"...all people with a learning disability are people first with the right to lead their lives like any others, with the same opportunities and responsibilities, and to be treated with the same dignity and respect. They and their families and carers are entitled to the same aspirations and life chances as other citizens."

The 'Valuing People Now' strategy aimed to include everyone – so that all people with learning disabilities are considered, and nobody is left behind. It also championed 'personalisation' giving people a say about the care and support they receive, for the life that they choose.

It also talked about access to the services and support they people and their families and carers require, including health, housing, work, education and training, relationships, and having a family and local activities. Its key message was to treat 'People as citizens'.

Transforming care

Following the Winterbourne View Review, a national programme was developed for people with behaviours that are challenging, including people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health needs. The aim of this programme is to enable people with live in the community with the right support.

The programme was set up to:

- Offer more choice for people and their families, and more say in their care

- Provide more care in the community, with personalised support provided by multi-disciplinary health and care teams
- Support more innovative services to give people a range of care options, with personal budgets and personal health budgets
- Provide early more intensive support for those who need it, so that people can stay in their community, close to home
- For those that do need in-patient care, making certain that it is only for as long as they need

In Warrington, as a partnership, we are committed to the principles and aims of the Valuing People Now agenda and Transforming Care, and our Strategy will continue to build on their aims.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 applies to everyone involved in the care, treatment and support of people aged 16 over living in England and Wales who are unable to make all or some decisions for themselves. It is designed to protect and restore power to people who lack capacity and supports those who have capacity and choose to plan for their future – this is everyone in the general population who is over the age of 18 and has had a particular impact on people with a learning disability. The Act's five statutory principles are the benchmark and underpin all decisions taken in relation to it.

Anyone caring for or supporting a person who may lack capacity could be involved in assessing capacity, but the MCA is designed to empower those in health and social care to assess capacity themselves, rather than rely on expert testing – so good professional training is key.

Draft Mental Health Bill 2022

Learning disabilities and autism are not mental health conditions, but you can have a learning disability and have a mental health condition. The draft Mental Health Bill 2022, due to become an Act during the life of this strategy will have an impact on many people, but there are specific changes that will impact on people with learning disabilities, and some of the key changes are listed below.

People with a learning disability can be told to stay in hospital under mental health law. This can mean that some people may not receive the right care and support. The draft Bill says that people with a learning disability should have a care (education) and treatment review to be sure that they are being treated correctly and to help them to leave hospital as soon as they are ready.

The draft Bill also says that there must be better support for patients, including offering everyone the option of an independent mental health advocate, and allowing patients to choose their own 'nominated person', rather than have a 'nearest relative' assigned for them.

For people who have a learning disability and have a mental health condition, the draft Bill says that mental health law cannot be used to keep someone in hospital if they have a learning disability unless they also have a mental illness.

An important change for the Partnership Board and for services in Warrington, is that people who arrange care for people with a learning disability who are not in hospital must understand the needs of people in their area and make sure that the right support is available. Although there is a lot of knowledge and understanding within the town, this will mean more connection and conversation with people who use services and/or access communities.

Our three-year strategy will be sure to take into account any changes in the law or updates to guidance and codes of conduct, and we will continue to develop our plans, striving to lead and follow best practice within the sector. The safety, good mental health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities in Warrington is a key priority for us now and will be in the future.

National picture in 2022

Two recent, key government documents lay out expectations for the Health, Social Care and communities national drive to prevent, reduce and delay needs, to take a person centred and strengths-based approach, to learn from each other and to build an evidence base of what works, recognises that people and communities have strengths, and we will continue to recognise and support them.

People at the Heart of Care

The Government proposes change and development across both services and notably a considerable shift in the way and how much people will pay for care. Whilst the detailed plans, expectations and potential funding associated with the reforms are still emerging the overall vision is one that proposes to:

offer people choice and control over the care they receive

promote independence and enables people to live well as part of a community

properly value our exemplary and committed social care workforce, enabling them to deliver the outstanding quality care that they want to provide

recognise unpaid carers for their contribution and treats them fairly

Joining up care for people, places and populations

This plan focuses on more integration in planning, commissioning and delivery of co-ordinated, joined up and seamless Health and social care services - right care, in the right place, at the right time.

Main themes include:

- Shared outcomes which prioritise people and place
- Developing effective leadership and accountability
- Financial framework and incentives
- Digital and data: maximising transparency and personal choice

- Delivering integration through workforce and carers

Local picture

The nearest suitable school means the nearest qualifying school with places available that provides

People with a learning disability in Warrington have long been involved in the local community and are always willing to 'Speak Up' about their aspirations and the things that they need to lead as good a life as everybody else. The Town has a range of quality small, local and larger national care providers and organisations, along with support, advice and guidance services. However, we need to do things differently to make sure that there is more availability and choice, as well as easy access to other community resources.

Many Warrington residents, who have a learning disability are supported through statutory, voluntary and/or charitable sector organisations and businesses all year round.

They provide information and guidance, equipment, frontline community and home support and access to sport and other creative activities. We have a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector, one that understands the needs and aspirations of local people.

In Warrington, 439 adults manage their own care and support through direct payments. Direct Payments also pay for equipment and activities that promote independence.

Unpaid Carers play a huge role in supporting people with learning disabilities and our co-produced Carer's Strategy highlights how we will continue to improve support to them in the future

Less than 100 people live in care settings away from Warrington, and each of them receives a regular review to be sure that it remains their choice and is the right place for them to live. We recognise that it is often better for people to live as close to their family, connections and community as possible, so we will continue to consider this through our planning, particularly for those preparing for adulthood.

Supported Living services enable individuals with learning disabilities to live independently, with support, to help them manage a tenancy or a home that they own, and to achieve greater freedom. This is an area of high performance for Warrington, and we support over 400 people in this way. This accommodation-based supports gives people more choice and control over their day to day lives and more opportunities for the future. We plan to do more.

Less and less people between 18 and 65 access day services, but the majority of people with a learning disability are supported to live independent lives at home during the day. However,

we know that we need a wider range of activity and employment opportunities on offer so that people can make the most of their local areas and personal strengths.

People in Place

Warrington Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2023 Partnership Vision

Warrington is a place where we work together to create a borough with stronger neighbourhoods, healthier people and greater equality across all our communities.

Warrington Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy (2022-2032) Vision

To encourage and enable people, their families and carers to stay well and live independently for as long as possible. When support is needed, our aim will be to identify approaches that build upon strengths so that people can take control, arrange and influence their own support and care. To deliver the best outcomes and value for investment the Council will work closely with all partners and is committed to a more integrated and place-based approach to commissioning.

What can we expect in the future?

Nationally published data has projected that the population of people with learning disabilities across the country and locally will increase. In Warrington, it is projected that numbers of people with a learning disability aged between 18-65 will decrease slightly, but numbers of people over 65 will increase significantly. This likely population increase reflects the growing older population across the rest of our communities, and the fact that people with learning disabilities are now living longer.

The pressure on all resources across Warrington is immense. As people grow older, our communities will need to support more people with multiple long-term conditions, but with a reducing budget. Our response, as set out in the Health and Wellbeing strategy, and in the Council's Adult Social Care Commissioning Strategy, is to transform ways that we deliver services, taking a **preventative and strengths-based approach** and increasing levels of resilience in people, communities and in the systems that support them.

Finding alternative, less costly provision and making our communities work for all, will be essential to ensure that any future plans are financially sustainable for the Council, Warrington ICB, providers, families and for people with a learning disability who commission their own services.

As a Partnership, we know that improvements are needed, and that we must find a much wider range of opportunities for people to stay well and happy whilst delaying and reducing the need for health and social care services. With this in mind, our three-year *Learning Disability Strategy* will kick start plans to optimise resources and to build the resilience that people need to enable them to make the most of their independence, to be happy and socially active, and to stay healthy and safe within their communities.

Principles for the future

Our core principles are fundamental to the planning and delivery of services for people with a learning disability in Warrington, and as a Partnership, we are wholeheartedly committed to them. They will be central to delivering a plan to achieve our vision.

Quality of life – As a town, we are all responsible for ensuring that people with learning disabilities have the same quality of life as their peers. This is through having a community that involves and treats everyone with dignity and respect and that we are focused on the individual and their hopes and aspirations.

Staying safe – We need a place that enables people with learning disabilities to stay safe and to be safeguarded from harm. However, this is not about restricting people, but about supporting and encouraging people to take positive risks and to try new and exciting things.

Choice and control – Our borough supports people and their families to make their own decisions, and where an individual may lack capacity, the decision must be made in their best interests involving them as much as possible and those who know them well.

An open community - All mainstream places and services in Warrington need to be accessible, and reasonable adjustments will be made where necessary. For where there is a particular need, people with learning disabilities must be able to access specialist multi-disciplinary community-based health and social care expertise as appropriate.

Co-ordinated support – As well as all support being accessible, we need to ensure that there is a clear model of care and a pathway through which people with learning disabilities and their families are able to confidently navigate independently.

Below image highlights the core principles explained above.



People led priorities

We have worked together and taken the Warrington 'I Statements' to produce six people led priorities. These are the things that are most important to people with learning disabilities who live in Warrington communities and access services and communities.

I am confident and looking forward to my future: Preparing for adulthood by developing my independence, opportunity and things that I do well

I have a healthy life: With the same access to health services and support for a healthy and active lifestyle as everyone else

I am part of my community: I have the best day possible, every day through activity, training, work and friends

I live in a place that I call home: I can choose what I so and I stay safe

I am supported by the right people: in the right place at the right time: With support that is all about me

I know how to find support and I have a say in what happens in my community: Through people and places and with communication that suits me

People's priorities in local outcomes

To focus our pathway to achieving and meeting our 'People Led Priorities', a number of key outcome areas have been developed. These areas theme the work that needs to be undertaken and leads us to the priorities and plans that will help us to achieve our vision. The following sets out each of the key outcome areas and the vision for each.

Preparing for adulthood - planning for independence, opportunity and aspiration

Health and health services - healthy lives with equal access

Part of the community - and having the best day possible, every day

Housing and a place called home - promoting independence and keeping people safe

Receiving the right support - person centered, individualised care and support

Involvement and access to information - real involvement in personal and community decisions and finding community resources easily

Key outcome areas

Work stream one - Preparing for Adulthood

Planning for independence, opportunity and aspiration.

We will continue to review and develop our long-term plan for a future to support young people:

1. To feel **confident** to lead as **independent** a life as possible as they transition into adulthood.
2. To reach a level of academic achievement that supports their aspirations and makes them feel **proud**.
3. To **feel safe** and appropriately supported to take decisions into adulthood and are offered the right level of supported environment to do so.

Living, learning & short breaks for young people 'post 19' is key when preparing for adulthood. We will further develop our local offer to ensure that young people can, where possible, remain and enjoy an active life in Warrington, avoiding out of area education and residential placements so that there is more opportunity to invest in their home area for the future.

Work stream two – health and health services

Healthy lives with equal access.

We will continue to work with our Warrington Together Partnership Board to support the Health and Wellbeing of people with learning disabilities so that they:

1. Stay feeling healthy throughout their lives
2. Are comfortable, confident and happy when finding and using health services.
3. Be as informed and **independent** as possible in terms of their health physical and mental health needs.

An important part of our future plans is to help people with learning disabilities to be as active as they choose to be and to have access the same health services as everybody else, whether that be acute hospital treatment or an exercise class!

Health services can support people by being flexible, accessible, person centred and joined up. This will support people to *be healthy* and *active* and will increase levels of *happiness*.

Work stream three – part of the community

Having the best day possible, every day.

We will develop new plans to support people with to live community lives, doing things that:

1. Have purpose and are meaningful
2. Bring about a feeling of belonging and increase wellbeing and self-worth and pride.
3. Give a feeling of financial independence and increase confidence.

Our Board and partners will work with our business, community and education partners for further access to employment and training, as our long-term plan will support the creation of more paid jobs and training opportunities for people with a learning disability.

Giving people more control through direct payments will encourage ordinary things to happen in ordinary places, as most members of the community do.

Our future plans will always aim to encourage people's strengths by providing support that meets individual requirements; people can live the best life possible.

Living a full life means meeting local people, developing friendships and connections and building a sense of belonging; this will have a big impact on the wellbeing of people with a learning disability in Warrington.

Work stream four – housing and a place called home

Promoting independence and keeping people safe.

In partnership with people, housing organisations and care and support providers, our plans will ensure access to homes for the future. People will:

1. Live in a place that they call home, using resources and technology to increase their independence.
2. Lead and/or feel involved in discussions regarding their housing aspirations and will be more in control of decisions.
3. Feel safe in their home and community, with good transport links and access to support when it's needed.

Being part of the decision- making process and being able to personalise their own space, to reflect their identity, personality, taste and needs will continue to be an important part of the housing process for people with a learning disability in Warrington, leading to a feeling of independence, confidence, pride and control.

Work stream five – receiving the right support

Person centred, individualised care and support.

People are supported in the right place, at the right time, by the right people, so that people with learning disabilities:

1. Feel safe with the people that support them

2. Are in control of their lives and have choice in the support that they receive.
3. Feel happy and supported with wider relationships.

For us to achieve our vision in Warrington, it is vital for people with learning disabilities and their families to access the right support at the right time. Through Community capacity building, regular assessment, good health and social care support planning, a clear plan to improve the workforce, and personalised commissioning practice, we will make sure that we achieve it.

People will have better options to personalise and tailor their support to match their preferences and interests. This increases independence, encourages managed risk and supports people to feel safe and be safe at home and out in the community.

Work stream six – involvement and information

People feel involved in personal and community decisions and can find advice and resources easily.

Our communities and information will be more accessible to people with a learning disability, which will:

1. Provide places that supports independence
2. Offer access to information that will bring wellbeing through choice and control over active lives.
3. Supports financial independence bringing confidence and self respect.

In line with the Warrington Adult Social Care Commissioning Plan, we will work with all our partners to develop and promote place-based models of support that grow voluntary and community sector activity. Our Partnership Board will support the design of a model of consultation and co-production with local community organisations and people that supports the continuing development of new services and pathways for support.

We will develop access to information through online tools and face to face contact that will guide people to local opportunities and support in ways that work for them.

Delivering the Warrington Learning Disability Vision: Our Partnership Board will work for and with people

Our three-year strategy commits us to developing a long-term plan for the future, one that will achieve our partnership vision for people with a learning disability in Warrington. We will work as a board and with people, their families and carers and other stakeholders, and as well as designing plans for all six outcome work streams, we will build an environment where things get done, and where there is joint responsibility and accountability.

The new Board will make sure that people are held accountable for their actions through clear plans and regular reviews of our work.

We will make sure that people have their say through 'you said, we did' meetings where everybody will feel included.

We will make sure that Learning Disability is raised in all the other plans that are happening across Warrington.

We will review how well the Board is doing every six months so that we are always working in the best interests of people with learning disabilities.

We will share information from the Board in ways that make things clear for people. This may be through direct contact or through Easyread.

Our Board will be small and will drive to get things done, always developing long term plans for our People Led Priorities, now and in the future.

Clear governance

Our Partnership Board will have representatives from commissioning and service provision, as well as advocates so that we are always aware of and focused on the views of people.

We will regularly report back to people so that we are accountable for our actions.

Clear plans

A long-term plan will be developed as part of our three-year strategy, and there will be one plan for each of our people led outcomes. There will also be ongoing delivery of already identified actions. To deliver our plans, we will return to our promises regularly, so that we respond to the needs of people with learning disabilities.

Real Co Production and Engagement

Our vision cannot be achieved without the engagement, participation and support of people who use services and access communities. The long-term strategy must involve and engage as many people and agencies as possible, and we will follow the principles of the TLAP Ladder of Co Production to 'Make it Real'.



Next steps

We will create a long-term action plan for each of our priority areas.

Our three-year strategy will be produced in Easyread, and all our plans, policies and announcements will be delivered through clear and simple communication, fit for all.

The Partnership Board will meet every three months and report back to people through our 'You Said, We Did' sessions, which will happen every six months.

Our plans will work alongside the plans for our 'Place' agenda, and we will report our progress, regularly to the Warrington Together Partnership Board.

We will work as a Partnership and with people with learning disabilities in Warrington to achieve all our Person Led Priorities.