



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme

June 2018

**This is the Easy Read version of the
Improving Lives report**

Learning Disability Improving Lives Programme



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This report has been written by Welsh Government.



The report looks at the lives of people with a Learning Disability in Wales.



All the **recommendations** in the report have been agreed by Welsh Ministers.

A **recommendation** in the report is an action that we think should happen to make the lives of people with learning disabilities better.

What happened before?



30 years ago many people with a learning disability lived in big hospitals.



The Government realised people only needed to be in hospital when they are ill.



The Government closed the big hospitals and people moved out to live in ordinary houses.



This was a very good thing for many people with a learning disability.

What has happened since?



The last time the Government looked at the needs of people with learning disabilities was 10 years ago.



Since then many good things have happened.



There have also been some problems, like



- People with learning disabilities dying in hospital when they could have been made to feel better.



- And people being hurt by the carers who should be supporting them.

What work have we done?



Some Ministers in Welsh Government asked for a new piece of work to find out what is happening now.



We asked people what should be done to make the lives of people with learning disabilities better.



We have found out what is working well.



And what needs to work better.

Who have we talked to?



We have talked to over 2000 people.

This included



- People with a learning disability



- Families and carers



- Local Authorities and Health Boards who make sure people with learning disabilities have the right services.



- Staff who support people with learning disabilities



- Health workers who look after people with learning disabilities when they are ill.

The Report



We have listened to what everyone told us.



We have found out what else is happening for people with learning disabilities in the UK.



We have looked at the laws and rules that affect people in Wales.



We have written a report because people told us we needed actions to help improve lives.



We think these things can be achieved by making some changes to the way services work. These are the **Recommendations**.

Recommendations

People told us we need actions to make the following things better for people with learning disabilities



- Living in the right place



- Being healthy and happy



- Having the right care and support



- Having a happy childhood



- Learning skills and having a job

Recommendations

As well as the 5 key areas for change, there are 3 extra recommendations that we would like to make.



These changes will make all areas of the lives of people with learning disabilities better.



- To know how many people with learning disabilities there are and what their needs are. This will help services plan better.



- To make sure services think about and listen to people with learning disabilities and their families.



- To make sure transport services are easy to use for people with learning disabilities.



Having a happy childhood

We need to



- Look at what we can do to help children feel safe and cared for.



- Help parents and carers go to work by finding out if there are childcare places for children with learning disabilities.



- Help people with learning disabilities to be good parents if they choose to have children.



Living in the right place

We need to



- Build more homes for people with learning disabilities so they have more choice about where they live.



- Make sure people live close to their family and friends.



- Stop people with a learning disability from being homeless.



Having the right care and support

We need to



- Make sure everyone has a care and support plan that helps them live the life they want.



- Make sure everyone has very good care when they need it.



- Make sure support workers and carers are well trained and give very good support.



Being healthy and happy

We need to



- Make sure everyone with a learning disability has a health check every year.



- Help hospital staff know how to care well for people with a learning disability.



- Help people to take part in activities which make them happy.



Learning skills and having a job

We need to



- Make sure there are people working with schools who understand the needs of people with a learning disability.

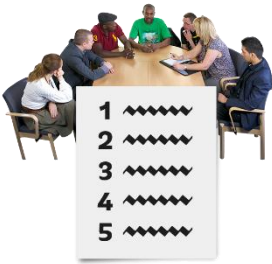


- Make sure when someone becomes an adult they get the support they need to have a good life.



- Make sure more people with learning disabilities have paid jobs.

What happens next?



We are going to work with lots of groups to start work on these actions.



We will work with the Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group to make sure this work happens.



We will keep asking people what needs to be better and how they can help change things.

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