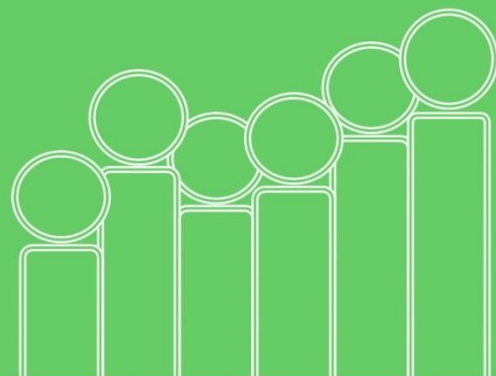




Health Inequalities and People with Learning Disabilities in the UK.

**Some things that people who buy services
(commissioners) should do. (Easy Read)**

Sue Turner and Carol Robinson



If some people get poorer healthcare than other people, we say they face 'health inequalities'. This can mean people have less good health. This happens for many people with learning disabilities.



The Government has said something should be done about the health inequalities for people with learning disabilities.

Improving Health and Lives is a project that is looking at what health problems people with learning disabilities have and what everyone can do to make it easier for people to stay health and get good care when they are ill.

We wrote a paper for people who commission (buy) health and care services to help them plan services better.



This is an easy read version of the guidance we wrote about health inequalities.



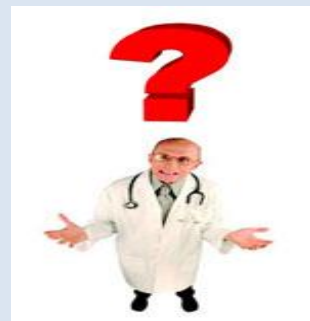
This report tells you about six big issues and what commissioners can do to make things better. You can ask your local commissioners what they are doing to help people with learning disabilities keep well and get good health care.



Health needs of people with learning disabilities

Issue 1.

Health staff don't always understand the health needs of people with learning disabilities.



What commissioners should do

Make sure that the health needs of people with learning disabilities are included in a big plan called the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).



Use the information to plan better services.

Find out about the health needs of people with learning disabilities by doing a Health Needs Assessment and a Health Equity Audit. A Health Needs Assessment finds out about the health needs of people locally. A Health Equity Audit finds out about the ways that different groups of people experience of health care, so that services can be planned better.

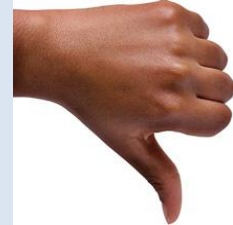
Talk to Partnership Boards about involving people with learning disabilities and family carers in plans.



Where you live and what you do

Issue 2

People with learning disabilities often live in poorer areas and don't have jobs or their own home. This can affect their health.



What commissioners should do

Make sure the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment has information about where people with learning disabilities live, and whether they have a job.



Commission services like health and social care to work together so that people with learning disabilities get better health, their own home and the lives they want.



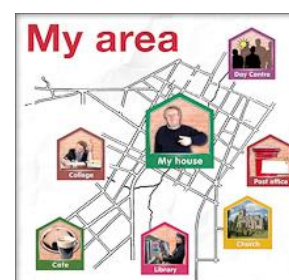
Have plans about increasing jobs and getting a home for people with learning disabilities.



Make sure benefits advice is accessible



Make sure people can use services in their local area. For example their local swimming pool, post office or bank.



Health checks

Issue 3

People with learning disabilities are less likely to get health checks in some areas than others, even though we know they are a good way to find out about people's health needs.



What commissioners should do

Make sure family doctors have a good record (register) of the people with learning disabilities who go to their surgery.



Make sure people get health checks.

Make sure health checks include checking for all health needs people may have.



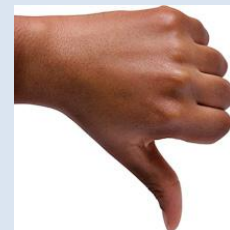
Make sure health staff know how to find and use information.



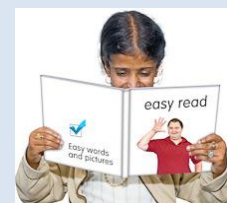
Making services accessible

Issue 4

Health staff don't always change how services are given to people with learning disabilities so they can use them.



For example longer appointment times or having information in easy read.



What commissioners should do

Make sure patient records have information about how people communicate so that they can be supported properly in hospital and other health services.



Make sure staff know how to support people with learning disabilities.

Make sure cancer screening services (for things like breast cancer) are accessible, and check they are being used by people with learning disabilities.



Make sure that services which check eyesight and hearing are being used by people with learning disabilities.



Use Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (a way of commissioning services) to make services better for people with learning disabilities.

Being healthy

Issue 5

People with learning disabilities, their families and support staff don't always know what a healthy lifestyle is.



What commissioners should do

Give advice and training for staff so they know how to support people with learning disabilities to have healthy lives.



Make sure that services that help people be healthy – like services to help people stop smoking – can be used by all people with learning disabilities.



Make sure that people with learning disabilities have information and other support so that they know about the choices they are making.



Some services are better than others

Issue 6

The services in some areas are better and more easy to use than in other areas.



What commissioners should do

Use the tool called the Performance and Self Assessment Framework which is used by the health service to see how well they are doing in providing better health care for people with learning disabilities.

Use the Green Light Toolkit which is used to see what good health support looks like to help make mental health services better.



Do regular checks on how medication is used for people who challenge services.



For more information about Improving Health and Lives, please go to www.ihal.org.uk

Easy read version prepared with the aid of Photo Symbols 3



National Development Team
for Inclusion

Montreux House
18A James Street West
Bath BA1 2BT
T: 01225 789135
F: 01225 338017
www.ndti.org.uk