

Greenwich Learning Disabilities Strategy for Adults 2007 - 2012

Draft

Easy Read Version

1

The Council and Primary Care Trust are setting out how we see Learning Disabilities developing over the next five years in Greenwich.

This will help us offer better support for people with a learning disability and help them take part in the community and promote full citizenship.



2 Introduction

The main activities in our plan

- Understanding what it means to have a learning disability and the importance of continually checking that people's needs are being met in Greenwich
- Having knowledge of our existing services and resources
- Making sure people are treated **fairly**, have **control** over their own lives, and have **access to good services**.
- Developing how we plan to buy services that will help us deliver what we want.



What we have done in our strategy

- Developed **relationships** with users, carers and those offering services built on **trust and partnership**.
- Developed **good systems** to make sure we use our money and staff well.
- Agreed how to **make access to primary care better**. (Primary care is the **first** care you as a patient receive



- it might be from your local doctor)

- Developed **shared values**.

The strategy sets out the vision for services in Greenwich.

Checking how we are doing

We check on our performance through the **Learning Disabilities Partnership Board** and the **Joint Strategy Group**. This helps us check the work of organisations and helps them make the quality of their services better. It checks that the Council is using **Best Value** - which makes sure councils make their services better and spend money well.



3 About learning disability

This is one of the most common types of disability. There are different types of learning disability:

- mild
- moderate
- severe
- profound



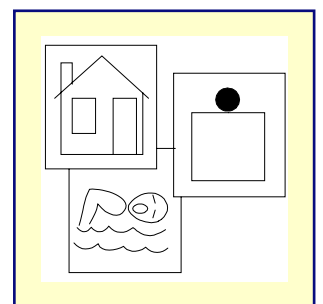
How many people with learning disabilities are there in the UK?

- There are about **1,200,000** people with a learning disability.
- About **200** babies are born every week with a learning disability.



What does it mean to have a learning disability?

- Many people find it more difficult to learn and understand.
- They may need help with things like getting dressed, cooking, or communicating.
- Some people may need 24-hour care.



We need to remember:

- People are **individuals** with their own likes, dislikes and goals.
- With the right support, a person with a learning disability can achieve a lot in life.
- Many people live independent lives.
- You cannot always tell if someone has a learning disability from how they look.
- **The way a person communicates** may show they have a learning disability - they may speak more slowly.
- Some people may not use words, and might use **signing or symbols** to communicate.



Some of the problems people with a learning disability face

- They may not find it easy to use services like health, education and housing.
- They are often **bullied** and **victims of crime**.
- **Employers** often treat them **unfairly**
- Many people do not understand their abilities and needs.



Rights

A person with a learning disability should have the same rights as other people.

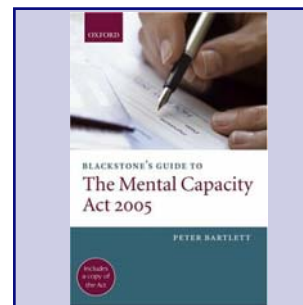
Some of these rights are part of the law:

- **The Education Act** makes gives the **right to education** to every child with a learning disability.
- **The Community Care Act** supports new housing choices and gives people **the right to live in the community**.
- **The Disability Discrimination Act** made **equal opportunities** a right for people with a disability.
- **Valuing People** gave people **the right to have choices and to be valued**.
- **The Disability Discrimination Act** helps make sure



organisations think about disabled people's rights - like making buildings and buses easier to use for disabled people.

- **The Mental Capacity Act** is a law to support and protect people who are not able to make their own decisions.



Without having the same opportunities as other people, and without good services, people with a learning disability cannot make real choices about their lives.

4 About Greenwich

- There are **223,700 people** in Greenwich Borough.
- There may be around **4,500 people** in Greenwich with a learning disability.
- There may be around **1,120 people** with moderate, severe or profound learning disabilities.
- A lot of support for people is provided by voluntary care, help or support by family, friends and or neighbours.



The CLDT Register

- The council has a register with **733 adults** with learning disabilities on it.
- The register has information like people's age, whether they are a man or woman, their ethnicity and where they live. The register helps us plan services.



Beacon Status

- In 2006 Greenwich won **Beacon Status** for **Valuing People**. This was because we offer services to people with learning disabilities that offer **choice** and help them to be **independent**.
- The council has listened to and worked with people, families and service providers to find out what they want from their services.



Person-Centred Planning

- Learning Disability policy in Greenwich is based around **Person-Centred Planning**. This means making sure that the needs of people with learning disabilities themselves are the most important part of planning. It also means working to support people to take part in the same services and activities as everyone else.



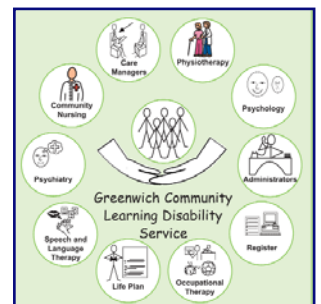
Specialized services

- A small number of adults have complex needs that need specialized services. **Oxleas NHS Trust** offer these to people who need more intensive services than the council provides.



CLDT

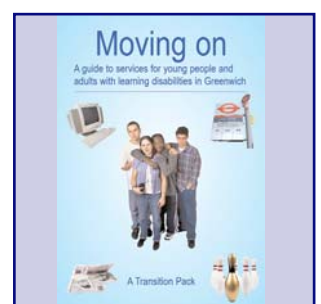
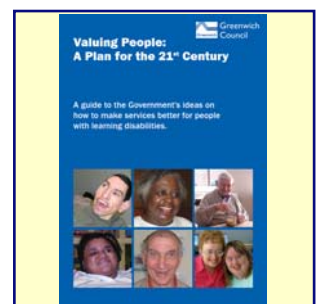
- The Council's Adult and Older Peoples Service and Oxleas Trust run a **Community Learning Disability Team** (CLDT). This offers health and care management to help people live in their local community.
- Care plans are coordinated by CLDT to meet people's needs and are developed with service users and carers **themselves**.



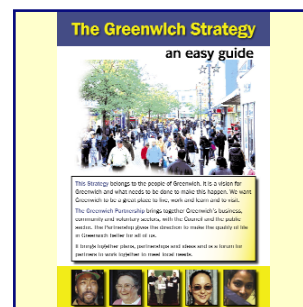
Strategic documents

These are the strategic documents developed to support people in Greenwich:

- **Greenwich Council Valuing People: A Plan for the 20th Century**
- **Greenwich Council Housing Strategy for People with Learning Disabilities**
- **Greenwich Council Moving On: a guide to services for young people and adults with learning disabilities in Greenwich**
- **Health Strategy Framework for People with Learning Disabilities in Greenwich.**



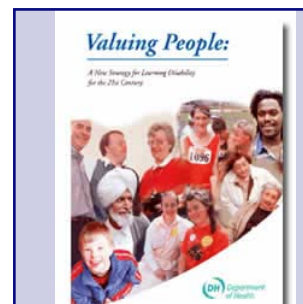
- **Greenwich Adult Services Outcomes Framework**
- **The Greenwich Strategy (2003 - 2010)** This is the main strategy for the development of the Borough.



5 Greenwich Vision

Our vision for making the lives of people with learning disabilities better is based on the **Valuing People Strategy**. Greenwich will focus on:

- access to mainstream services
- social inclusion
- citizenship.



Each person should have the support to be the person they want to be.

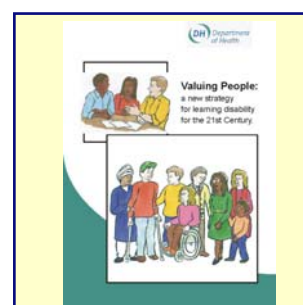
6 Our aims over the next 5 years

Our plan is based on the **Valuing People Strategy** as well as **Greenwich local priorities**.

The government aims from **Valuing People Strategy** are:

1 Making more opportunities for disabled children

To make sure disabled children get the best education, health and social care, while their needs are properly met living in the community.



2 Transition

To make sure there is support for the young person and their family as young people move into adult life.

To offer **equality of opportunity** to help them take part in education, training or work.



3 Choice and control

To help people to have as much choice and control as possible over their lives through **advocacy and person-centred planning**.



4 Supporting carers

To make sure carers get more support from all local organisations.

5 Good health

To make sure people can quickly and easily use a good health service which meets their needs and that they get extra support when they need it.



6 Housing

To offer people more choice and control over where and how they live.



7 Satisfying lives

To help people lead full lives in their community and to help them build friendships and activities.



8 Moving into work

To help more people to work.

9 Quality

To make sure all service providers offer good services.

10 Workforce Training and Planning

To make sure that staff working with people with learning disabilities have the right skills, training and qualifications. To help the workforce better understand people with learning disabilities' needs.



11 Partnership Working

To make services better through local agencies working together.



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