

**Learning Disability  
Strategy  
2025 - 2030**

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# Foreword

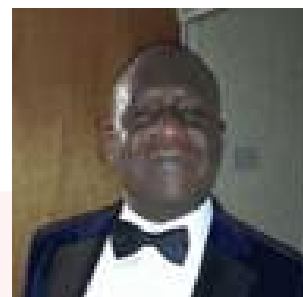
## Sarah Dillion – Director for Adult Social Care



We are proud to present this learning disability strategy because it has been co-produced with, and based on the views of, people with a learning disability and their carers. This has been possible through the work of the Learning Disability Partnership and with engagement at the Stockport Learning Disability Conference where people told us what is important to them. We are very grateful for the support of all those people who have taken the time to contribute their views either in person or through written feedback and together we want to empower people with learning disabilities in Stockport to live a Gloriously Ordinary Life [Gloriously Ordinary Lives](#)

## James Duckett - Co Chairman Learning Disability Partnership Board

Hello, my name is James Duckett. I am the Co-Chairman for the Learning Disability partnership board. My two main things I liked, was the 'Get me out the house' scheme and the 'Health' scheme. I like the idea of the 'independence opportunities framework.' I believe it is a great idea to offer these courses to people with learning disabilities, as getting out the house can be hard for a lot of people. I learned its importance when I started working and the benefits it can have on mental wellbeing. I also agree that hospitals could improve on not just it's support and care, but also the way that staff communicate with people with Learning disabilities. I think the actions that are being taken, are the right step forward to a better future. I think it's great that we are working with Life leisure to offer different classes such as yoga, and I would like to attend one of these at some point. As a man with a disability, I think every point being made in this strategy is valid and so far, I like the actions that we are going to take to help improve the Social Care sector.



GLORIOUSLY  
ORDINARY  
LIVES

# INTRODUCTION

**This document sets out the strategic priorities to help people with learning disabilities to have happier, healthier and more independent lives.**

Through the development of this strategy our engagement with people with lived experience, their carers, health and social care professionals told us that there are things that are working well in Stockport. However, we also need to continue to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities.

It is our vision that people with a learning disability in Stockport will have opportunities to be as independent as they can be. With access to the right information, advice, meaningful community engagement in paid work, work placements, education and support, to enable them to reach their full potential.

This strategy will help us to tackle some of the national challenges that we face. We will continue to develop services that are aspirational, support the ethos of Gloriously Ordinary Lives and think beyond the obvious for people with a learning disability and their families and carers.

## What is a Learning Disability?

The Department for Health and Social Care defines a learning disability as;

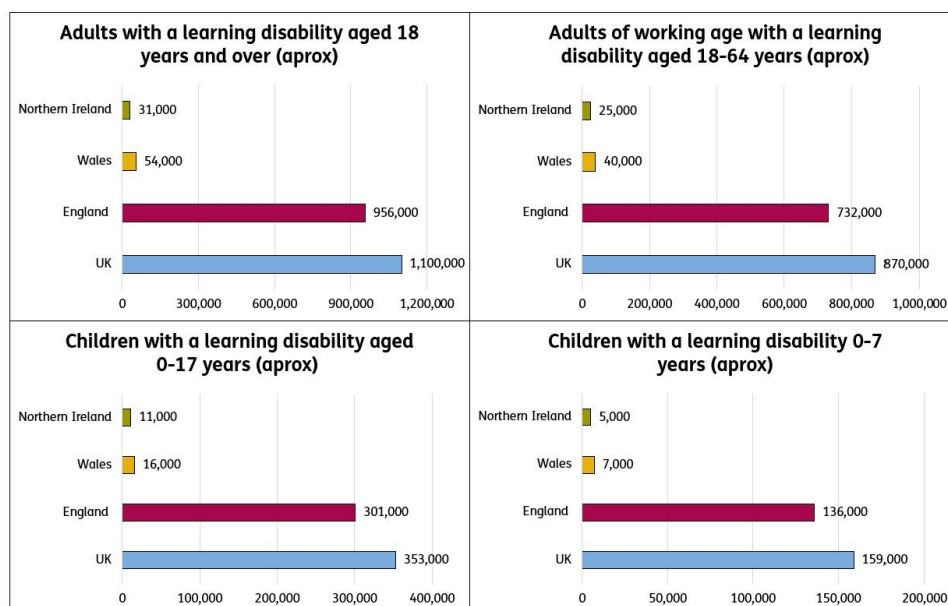
**“A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with a reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning) which started before adulthood”**

- A learning difficulty is not the same as a learning disability, a learning difficulty is a specific difficulty in an area, for example dyslexia.
- In Stockport, we work towards the social model of disability which encourages us to understand what people can do for themselves and reduce barriers to people having an ordinary life.

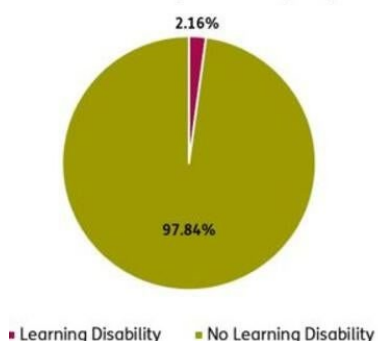
# The National Picture

The national picture on learning disabilities presents a comprehensive view of the experiences, challenges, and outcomes for individuals with learning disabilities across various sectors such as education, healthcare, employment, and social inclusion.

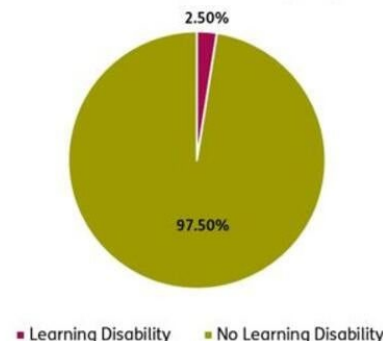
There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. The figures on this page have been calculated using learning disability prevalence rates from Public Health England (2016) and population data from the Office for National Statistics (2020).



Percentage of adults in the UK with a Learning Disability (aprox)



Percentage of children in the UK with a Learning Disability (aprox)



## National Legislation and Quality Developments

The strategy is set in the context of the national legislation and quality developments relating to the care and support of people with a learning disability. This includes:

- The Care Act 2014
- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice
- Human Rights Act, 2000
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Health Act 2007
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Autism Act 2009
- Think Local Act Personal
- British Association of Social Workers Professional Capability Framework

Within living history the way we support people with learning disabilities has changed for the better, however, there is still progress to be made towards supporting people with learning disabilities to have ordinary lives.

In 2022 Building the Right Support guidance was reviewed and emphasised the importance of people with Learning Disabilities and Autistic people having the right support in their communities. Building the Right Support's objective is to uphold people with Learning Disabilities and Autism as equal citizens, with the right health and social care support to meet their needs. At its heart the policy is ensuring that people are enabled to fulfil their potential.

The Care Act 2014, the Children and Families Act 2014, and the SEND Code of Practice provide vital frameworks supporting this strategy, particularly for young people Preparing for Adulthood. Legislative guidelines emphasise the need to take a holistic, person-centred approach to transitions, ensuring a continuum of care and promoting independence for young people to enable them to achieve their fullest potential and lead fulfilling adult lives. They mandate that local authorities ensure seamless transitions from children to adult services with the support of education work and skills, health, and social care to help them achieve their aspirations and transition smoothly into adulthood.

These legal frameworks align closely with the Learning Disability strategy supporting young people by working with them to equip them with skills, access to work placements, access to health provision and community participation. This ensures young people can achieve their aspirations while maintaining their well-being, independence, and a strong sense of belonging within their communities.

The SEND Board's Joint Commissioning and Preparing for Adulthood Sub-Groups, and the Learning Disability (LD) Partnership Board will play pivotal role in shaping, implementing, and overseeing the delivery of this strategy. These board's priorities drive active engagement with individuals, families, and professionals, reflecting our commitment on embedding the voices of children, young people, and their families into decision-making.

People with a learning disability have worse physical and mental health than people without a Learning Disability.

- On average, women with a learning disability die 23 years younger than women in the general population.
- On average, men with a learning disability die 20 years younger than men in the general population  
(LeDer 2023;ONS 2022)

Learning from lives and deaths of people with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR). LeDeR is a national improvement programme with a focus on improving care, reducing health inequalities and preventing early death of people with learning disabilities and autistic individuals. Locally our LeDeR reviews are reported Greater Manchester wide.

LeDeR enables us as a system to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities. Reviews have shown across England that people with learning disabilities face significant health inequalities when compared to other groups. As part of this strategy we want to continue to reduce health inequalities across all health settings.

# The Local Picture

## Learning Disabilities in Stockport

The One Stockport Health and Care Plan is our comprehensive strategy for health and care services in Stockport from 2024 to 2029. Learning Disabilities is one of the six priorities in our One Stockport Health and Care Plan. The plan's vision for 2029 sees us all;

**“working together to develop a borough which is fairer, inclusive, caring, enterprising and full of ambition. We want to deliver healthier, happier lives for the people of Stockport; where people are enabled to live the lives that they want to and where children, young people and their families are enabled to realise their potential”**

This sets out our commitment to work together as One Stockport to deliver our Learning Disability strategy, aiming to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of our residents and the responsiveness of our services. This strategy supports the Pennine Learning Disability Strategy, Stockport Autism Strategy and the Commissioning Strategy.

We recognise the vital role of unpaid carers in supporting people with Learning Disabilities. Their support to the individuals they care for is crucial for people to have the opportunities we want in Stockport. For this reason our vision for to support carers is detailed within the Think Carers Strategy, you can read more about our Think Carer strategy [here](#). Both strategies will complement each other as we strive to support people and families in a holistic way.

The delivery of the actions described in this strategy underpin our longer term vision for people with learning disabilities in Stockport. With One Stockport: One Future we look and plan ahead. We want to ensure that Stockport is a place that is resilient to whatever changes and opportunities will come in the future.

Stockport is an ambitious place undergoing a big transformation. A place to live and work, with green space and lots of culture on our doorstep, with excellent connections to Greater Manchester, London and the Peak District. It is a place where residents, businesses and communities work together to make good things happen and enable people to live a gloriously ordinary life.



One Stockport: One Future is the next phase of our borough plan & One Health and Care Plan. It sets out how we will work together to tackle the challenges we face, so Stockport can be the best place to live happy and healthy lives, a place where anything is possible, a place that everyone, right across the Borough can be proud of.

No one thing or organisation can address these challenges alone. One Stockport: One Future is a collective call to action to work together to deliver the '5 big things' we believe will transform our borough over the next 15 years to help us achieve our shared vision.

Our Big things are:



It will help us to ensure that for people with a learning disability that we have impactful joined up health and care services that are delivered in our neighbourhoods. We know that this approach will help us to provide better access and support for people, to reduce inequalities and improve access to healthcare for people with a learning disability.

Through working with housing providers we will ensure that we have the right accommodation offer for people, providing choice, building independence and meeting people's needs.

# Working in Partnership

**This strategy has been written in line with the commitments made in our Stockport Working In Partnership Charter, and Engagement and Participation Strategy 2024-27.**



The Working in Partnership Charter covers all services and sets out how we collectively as a Council will work together with local residents and stakeholders.

This strategy has been developed alongside the Learning Disability Partnership Board, the Speaking Out Group, Stockport Advocacy and people with learning disabilities, the Learning Disability Conference.

To build on this we then sought support and feedback from The Speaking Our group, Opportunities Together, PossAbilities and The Making it Real board. We have brought this feedback together to inform the development of this strategy. An initial draft was then presented to the Partnership Board over the summer.

The feedback and continued work has shaped our vision for what a Gloriously Ordinary Life looks like for people with Learning Disabilities. We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in developing our strategy.

## **Our Plan: Stockport's Five Pillars: An Ordinary Life for People with Learning Disabilities**

**We all want to live in the place we call home with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing things that matter to us.**

**That's the social care future we seek. #socialcarefuture**

- People with Learning Disabilities told us what they wanted as their priorities. We have used these to shape our vision for the next 5 years and how we will work with people with Learning Disabilities.
- People with Learning Disabilities also told us that feeling a sense of belonging was important to them. They wanted to feel connected with their friends, families and local communities.
- People with Learning Disabilities told us that they needed communities to understand, see and value how they enhance and make Stockport's communities better.
- Each Pillar of our strategy sits under our vision for people with learning disabilities to feel belonging in all areas of their lives.

The five pillars identified were;



#### **Pillar 1 - Living my life**

Employment, life long learning, day and night opportunities, holidays, overnight short breaks



#### **Pillar 2 - Getting to where I need to be**

Transport, walking, cycling, getting the bus or train, using taxis



#### **Pillar 3 - The people who work with me are wise and kind**

Support in all areas of a person's life, including paid and unpaid opportunities



#### **Pillar 4 - Living a healthy Life**

Having a healthy lifestyle, annual health checks, improving health inequalities and access to healthcare



#### **Pillar 5 - Home, Family and Friends - where I live**

Where a person lives and who they live with, friends, romantic relationships and pets

## **Pillar One: Living my Life**

The **One Borough Plan** for Stockport has at the heart of it that we want a skilled and confident Stockport. Our vision to support people have meaningful lives starts with valuing the skills and attributes that people with learning disabilities have and seeing them as equal valuable citizens who make our communities better and more vibrant.

#### **You said:**

- We need more paid work opportunities that give me choice and control
- We need more work placements to develop our skills
- We need access to learning opportunities that develop independence
- We need opportunities to contribute to our communities

#### **Next Steps:**

- Further develop the employment support offer
- Work in partnership to make sure day time support focuses on independence
- Building independence is at the centre of all we do
- Work with providers to ensure they have a flexible and personalised offer that supports independence

## Pillar Two: Getting to where I need to be

Thriving Neighbourhoods underpin our vision for Stockport. Getting out and about is vital for us all to feel a part of our communities and do the things we want to do independently. People with Learning Disabilities told us how important this was to them and how they want to support developments.

### You Said:

- We want to be able to travel safely around Stockport like everyone else.
- We want people who work in public transport to know about what is a Learning Disability and what reasonable adjustments are.
- We want to influence public transport across Stockport.
- We want support to learn how to be safe in my community.

### Next Steps:

- Develop the travel training offer.
- Provide advice and information of different transport options available.
- Work with people with a Learning Disability to plan with them how to achieve their aspirations about using public transport.
- Support awareness raising about what is a Learning Disability and reasonable adjustments.

## Pillar Three: The people who work with me are wise and kind

In Stockport people are at the heart of everything we do. During the Learning Disability conference it was clear that some people with Learning Disabilities have developed good working relationships with the people who are working with them. We want to support people with a learning disability to live a Gloriously Ordinary Life.

### You said:

- We want our rights to be at the centre of all discussions.
- We want good working relationships with the people that we work with in social care and health.
- We want support to promote our independence to have Gloriously Ordinary Lives.
- We want our annual health check and care act reviews to be person centred and meaningful.

### Next Steps:

- The Learning Disability Partnership board will focus on working together (co-production) to influence the wider system around the needs of people with Learning Disabilities.
- Continue to drive best practice through training and development opportunities for staff focusing on national best practice and guidance
- Ensure people and carers have access to good quality information and advice.
- Continue to implement the Think Carers Strategy with a particular focus on people with Learning Disability.

## Pillar Four: Living a healthy life

A key focus for the councils **One Health and Care Plan** is a Healthy and Happy Stockport: People live the best lives they can, happy, healthy and independent and this is no different for people with Learning Disabilities.

### You Said:

- We want exercise to keep healthy
- We want to be independent and health
- We want personalised health checks that support our individual needs
- We need reasonable adjustments to be made when we need health and social care
- We want good information, advice and opportunities to having a healthier lifestyle
- We want a better experience when we go into hospital

### Next Steps:

- to continue to work to reduce barriers to people accessing vaccinations and health screenings
- equal access to vaccinations and health screenings (for example breast, testicular, bowel cancer)
- to work closely with the GP practices to support them with ensuring their Learning Disability register is up to date and that annual health checks are completed
- We are continuing to explore support for people who require more bespoke support and accommodation options
- Continuing to work with GP's, carers, family members and providers to support health checks
- Implementing the action plan from the NHS England and LGA Building the Right Support peer review
- To work with hospitals to ensure that people have good experiences in an emergency and as an outpatient
- Develop a more inclusive leisure offer

## Pillar Five: Home, family and friends – Where I live

Finding a home can be difficult, stressful and complicated to navigate for all people in Stockport. People at the Heart of Care is all about ensuring that the person is the centre of all planning. Whilst we understand the national and local housing challenges, it is our vision that people with learning disabilities can live in their own homes and feel safe and happy there. Our commissioning strategy details the types of accommodation (including shared lives and supported accommodation) that are available to people, we want to expand on this to ensure that within Stockport there is accommodation available which meets people's needs with the right level of support.

### You Said:

- My family just want to know that I am safe and happy.
- Housing feels too complicated and you do not know where to start.
- That there is no choice.
- That you value having accommodation that has outdoor space, the internet and that allows pets.
- Having access to over night short breaks (previously called respite) was important to you.

### Next Steps:

- We will work alongside housing providers to help people to find their own home which meets their accommodation needs.

- We will develop a supported housing strategy and action plan to ensure that we have the right supported accommodation for the future.
- We will explore opportunities for people to have outdoor space and build relationships with animals.
- We will build on our current technology offer to promote peoples autonomy, choice and control.
- Overnight short breaks will be a home from home and will be a steppingstone to peoples own home by promoting and building independence skills.
- We want to better understand who is providing support as an unpaid carer and ensure that where people with a learning disability are a carer themselves that they get the support that they need.
- To continue to deliver on our supported housing improvement programme (SHIP) and deliver on our commission strategy for 2023 to 2028.

## Useful Links

The current legislation and guidance;

- [Care Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [Children and Families Act 2014 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years- GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Autism Act 2009 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [National strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026- GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Mental Capacity Act 2005 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [Equality Act 2010 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk)
- [NHS England » Where can I find out more about LeDeR?](https://www.nhs.uk)
- [The Capabilities for Social Work with Adults who have Learning Disability | BASW](https://www.basw.co.uk)
- [Autistic Adults PCF \(basw.co.uk\)](https://www.basw.co.uk)
- [Building the right support for people with a learning disability and autistic people- GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

A big thank you to the Speaking Out Group and Stockport Advocacy for their time and commitment to helping us to get our joint vision right.



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