

Proposed learning disabilities competencies for advanced practice: **OUR JOURNEY SO FAR**



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(Scan QR code for 7 mins overview)

INTRODUCTION

- Individuals with learning disabilities face significant health inequalities, often receiving suboptimal care within healthcare
- This poster aims to demonstrate an understanding of learning disabilities, the various interventions and treatments available, and the

LEARNING DISABILITIES

- There has been a real collaboration across NHS 24 and learning disability professionals in bringing the competencies together, including mapping the educational requirements.
- Learning Disability Nurses and services can play a key part in enabling this approach as this test of change

NHS 24 PROJECT

By August 2025, 100% of NHS 24 advance practitioners will be able to demonstrate self-confidence, knowledge and skills to support people with learning disabilities when accessing healthcare. This will be achieved through competencies identified, educational and clinical opportunities.

COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of learning disabilities, interventions and treatments
- Demonstrate the ability to engage with people who have a learning disability
- Demonstrate an understanding and knowledge of the diverse health needs of people with learning disabilities and associated treatments and medications
- Demonstrate an overall understanding of the Health Equalities in people with Learning Disabilities (LD)
- Support people with learning disability to be fully informed and involved in their care empowering them to be autonomous
- Identify and discuss problems associated with sensory issues that may be relevant to people with learning disabilities and/or autism as new areas are distressing and unfamiliar
- Evidence and demonstrate the ability to assess and range cognitive ability in relation to capacity and the overall ability to consent and awareness of Adults with Incapacity (AWI)
- Evidence and demonstrate the support of applications and safeguarding and the use of appropriate legislation

CONCLUSION

- People with learning disabilities often have complex health needs and require a nuanced understanding and person-centred approach.
- Recognising the various interventions and treatments, as well as the associated health equalities/unmet health needs we can empower people with learning disabilities in their care.

IMPACT and NEXT STEPS

- This project represents a significant step towards ensuring that all patients receive high-quality, accessible, and person-centred care.
- This project has demonstrated a positive impact on developing a collaborative partnership across various healthcare settings to increase accessibility and inclusivity for the learning disability population.

RESOURCES

- NES (2017) Supporting psychological wellbeing in adults with learning disabilities
- NES (2022) Adults With Incapacity (AWI)
- NES (2023) Once for NES : Learning Disabilities
- National Health Service (NHS) Education for Scotland (NES) (2023) Autism and Neurodiversity.
- NHS England (2020) Advanced Clinical Practice: Capabilities framework when working with people who have a learning disability and/or autism • NHS England (2022) New virtual network for advanced practice in learning disability and/or autism (multi professional). Scottish Government (2019) Sustaining the Commitment: update report Scottish Government (2021) Learning/Intellectual Disability and Autism Towards Transformation

- Addressing the health needs of individuals with learning disabilities through targeted competencies for advanced practitioners is crucial for reducing health inequalities.
- Facilitating educational and clinical opportunities for advanced practitioners supports increased awareness.
- Impact from the project will be shared with learning disability advocacy and third sector organisations.
- Next steps to consider role out of competencies and educational opportunities for other staff groups within NHS24.
- Scottish Government (2019) Unlocking Futures for People
- with Learning Disabilities
- Skills for Health (2019) Learning Disability Framework

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