

1. Introduction

Approximately 1.2 million children, young people and adults in England have a learning disability. There are around 2,615 people currently in inpatient units and around 24,000 at risk of admission to specialist settings; this is too high. In 2015, 48 Transforming Care Partnerships (TCPs) were established across England to tackle this overreliance (refer to [Building the right support](#)).

Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) leads should support the work of each TCP in their STP area and make clear any interdependencies in their plans (more information on TCPs [here](#)).

STP areas should also consider the wider needs of people with a learning disability and those with autism¹; how they can be supported as citizens with rights to lead active independent lives in the community, in a home they can call their own. The aim is to improve participation in society, improve health and wellbeing, decrease avoidable hospital admissions and decrease premature mortality.

2. Success in 2020

The change needed is as much about a shift in power (from professionals to individuals) as it is about service reconfiguration. This should be reflected not just in the new services and support put in place, but in the way service changes are planned and delivered. A step in this direction will be reflected in an increase in the number of people with a learning disability in employment, including those employed by the NHS.

- i. **Reduce reliance on specialist inpatient care** by working with TCPs. By March 2019 no STP area should be planning for more than, 10-15 inpatients in CCG-commissioned beds and 20-25 inpatients in NHS England-commissioned beds per million population.
- ii. **Deliver person-centred care and support** by integrating public services such as leisure, employment support, health, social care, education and criminal justice; and increasing choice and control, [including at the end of life](#), by extending the use of all forms of personal budgets and integrated personal commissioning.
- iii. **Improve access to services to reduce premature deaths.** A key driver of this is to ensure that GPs identify their local population on a learning disability register². People with a learning disability aged 14 and over on a GP's learning disability register should receive an annual health check.

Reduced reliance on specialist inpatient care

TCPs are working to reduce variation in community capacity and reduce the need for specialist hospital care by implementing the [national service model](#) by March 2019. TCPs are in the process of developing joint transformation plans which will be published in July 2016, aligning with STPs.

¹ In-line with the [Autism Act 2009](#)

² It is estimated that there are approximately 20/1,000 people with a mild learning disability and 3-4/1,000 with a severe and profound learning disability in the UK

3. To deliver on these plans NHS England, the Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services will support TCPs to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redesign services in-line with Building the right support by aligning budgets, developing commissioning expertise and reshaping local health and care economies. • Ensure support is available in the community to prevent admissions to inpatient units. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand use of personal budgets (in health, education and social care), personal health budgets and Integrated Personal Commissioning (IPC), as well as strong independent advocacy. • Train the local workforce within and beyond their organisations, working with Health Education England (HEE), Skills for Health and Skills for Care, for example roll out of Positive Behavioural Support (PBS) training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NHS England and LGA will support TCPs to explore models, such as Home Ownership for People with a Learning Disability (HOLD) scheme, to deliver high-quality housing in community settings.
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Tackling wider health inequalities and improving participation in society

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on improving access to health services, including by extending the use of liaison services in primary and secondary healthcare. • Increase the uptake of annual health checks, particularly by working with GPs to maintain an accurate learning disability registers for example by working with local authorities and providers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give people the option of having a Hospital Passport and a Health Action Plan (these plans should look to include regular medicines reviews). • Establish a mortality review function, in-line with the Learning Disabilities Mortality Review Programme (further guidance to be published shortly). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve people in decisions about their care, including by supporting the roll-out of the Quality Checker programme. • Sign the NHS Learning Disability Employment Pledge and develop an action plan for the sustainable employment of people with a learning disability using the existing tools and guidance.
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