

Learning Disabilities Team Profile

Who is in the Learning Disabilities Team?

The Learning Disabilities Team is an integrated team of health and social care. It is comprised of:

- Team Managers
- Psychiatrists
- Social Workers & Assessment & Enablement Officers
- Psychologists and specialist counsellors
- Nurses
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Physiotherapy
- Business Support Officers

What does your team do?

In the Learning Disabilities Team we:

- Support people to live safe and fulfilling lives within the community
- We aim to reduce risk of hospital admissions (mental or health physical)
- Facilitate access to mainstream services
- Provide specialist services were people with a learning disability can't access mainstream services

Who do you work with regularly?

We work with a range of teams across the delivery unit such as Care Quality, Contract and Commissioning, Locality Teams, Mental Health Teams and the Finance Team. We also work with a range of primary care services over North London for example; Barnet Hospital, Royal Free Hospital, Northwick Park Hospital, Central London Community Healthcare, NHS Trust and Barnet, Enfield and Haringey NHS Trust, as well as sexual health clinics, dental surgery's and GP's.

We work with providers such as Mencap, Your Choice Barnet and Dimensions.

Where do you fit into the customer journey?

We have our own referral system. All initial contact is made via our duty desk.

If we are unsure whether a person has a learning disability, we complete an eligibility assessment. There is a national eligibility criteria that we follow, which helps inform our decision to determine entry to our services,.

We have internal and external referrals forms. The internal referral forms are used when members of BLDS need to make referrals to different disciplines within BLDS.

Anyone outside of BLDS uses an external referral form.

All referrals are discussed during our weekly referrals meeting and from here are allocated to the relevant disciplines.

All disciplines within BLDS provide different interventions, however we are an integrated team and therefore work together to ensure we have a holistic approach to care.

We also have several different pathways within our service, which were created by the multi-disciplinary team. The pathways enable us to have a consistent approach to care for some of the most complex conditions.

Anything else you would like your colleagues to know about your team?

90% of our cases are jointly worked between health and social care

What is the difference between a learning disability and learning difficulty?

A learning disability is defined as:

- An IQ lower than 70
- Onset before the age of 18. (Happened before age 18)
- Impairment of adaptive functioning (needs support with daily living tasks such as cooking, getting dressed, telling time)

There are 3 levels of a learning disability:

- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe and profound

A learning difficulty refers to someone who needs support with learning, reading and writing. Examples of a learning difficulty are dyspraxia, dyslexia,

Below are some examples of interventions that each discipline offers:

- Team Managers – help the teams meet targets within social care and ensure high quality of social care reviews
- Psychiatrists – review and manage mental health and challenging behaviour
- Social Workers & Assessment & Enablement Officers – manage the social care needs of people with learning disability placed both in Barnet and out of borough, including care co-ordination of complex cases
- Psychologists and Psychological Therapists – care co-ordination, implementation of positive behaviour support, provide specialist counselling
- Nurses – care co-ordinate service users with complex physical and mental health needs, ensure fair access to healthcare, promote good health such as cancer screening
- Speech and Language Therapists – support good communication for people with learning disability, review and manage dysphagia plans (swallowing)
- Physiotherapy – provide specialist physiotherapy advice and exercise plans

We have the biggest Kim Wild fan

We have Crunchy Friday that includes music links and promotes coming together and team wellbeing.

We love to socialise together and this often includes music.

