**Learning Disability and the NHS**

**Did you know: -**

There are over a million people in England with a learning disability and the NHS has determined that they often receive poorer access to healthcare than the general population. As a result, NHS Improvement launched the learning disability improvement standards for NHS trusts in June 2018.

An NHS Trust refers to hospitals and any NHS service provider - in Knowsley this is Northwest Boroughs Healthcare Trust, NWB]

**The learning disability improvement standards for NHS trusts**

There are now new standards to help NHS trusts measure the quality of care they provide to people with learning disabilities, autism or both.

The standards have been developed with a number of outcomes created by people and families — which clearly state what they expect from the NHS. By taking this approach to quality improvement, it places patient and carer experience as the primary objective, as well as recognising the importance of how the NHS listens, learns and responds in order to improve care.

**The four standards concern:**

* respecting and protecting rights
* inclusion and engagement
* workforce
* learning disability services standard (aimed solely at specialist mental health trusts providing care to people with learning disabilities, autism or both)

The standards are intended to **help organisations measure quality of service and ensure consistency across the NHS in how we approach and treat people with learning disabilities, autism or both.** They are prominent in the learning disability ambitions in the NHS Long Term Plan and included in the NHS standard contract 2019/20. The NHS aims to apply the standards to all NHS-funded care by 2023/24.

An easy-read guide to the standards can be found by following this link: [NHS Learning Disability Improvement Standards 2018 easy-read](https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/5502/ld-improvement-standards-key-findings-easy-read-lo-res_v1.pdf)

NHS Improvement have carried out a benchmarking exercise in 2019 and the results of this can be found by following this link: [Findings from the benchmarking exercise 2019](https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/5501/Learning_disabilities_standards_benchmarking_report_FINAL.pdf) . A total of 213 organisations across England completed the survey, including specialist LD service providers, Acute providers, community providers, mental health providers, ambulance services.

They found that many Trusts are performing well and can demonstrate commitment to service improvement. However, they have all identified areas for further improvement, particularly the ability to reliably identify people with a learning disability and having the capacity to ensure effective system-wide liaison and co-ordination.