

Welcome to the Learning Disability Coalition.



There are 15 learning disability organisations (groups) in the Learning Disability Coalition.



A coalition is a name used for a group that represents lots of other groups who all want to work together to do the same things.



We want to make sure the government gives enough money so that people with a learning disability have the same choices and chances as everyone else.



We believe people with a learning disability have the right to live independent lives with the support that they need.

Latest News



Please check [this page](#) for our latest news and work.

About Us



Here you can find out more about the 15 organisations in the Learning Disability Coalition and why the Learning Disability Coalition is so important.



“Many local authorities present the closure of 'old fashioned' day centres as a service improvement in line with Government policy. Sometimes it is, but often there are people who lose out in such changes, especially those with more challenging behaviour, higher support needs and/or communication difficulties.”

Closing the old day centres has meant that some people with high support or communication needs or challenging behaviour are really losing out.

[James Churchill, CEO, Association for Real Change \(ARC\)](#)



“The British Institute of Learning Disabilities can see that, due to cost savings, the quality of support available to people with learning disabilities is getting worse.”

Saving money means that support for people with a learning disability is getting worse

[Keith Smith, Chief Executive, British Institute of Learning Disabilities](#)



“The government’s Valuing People agenda promised so much – the Learning Disability Coalition will make sure that those promises are fulfilled.”
Valuing People made a lot of promises. We want those promises to really happen.

[Carol Boys, Chief Executive, Down’s Syndrome Association](#)



“We could be facing a generation of people with higher support needs who will rely on tracheotomies, tube feeding and ventilators to survive. Funding for this level of support must be built into the system.”

There could be many more people in the future with high support needs. There must be enough money to support them properly.

[Barbara McIntosh, Co-Director, Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities](#)



"The lack of funding for social care means that people's human rights are in jeopardy. The system is moving towards crisis and investment is urgently needed. As a founding member of the Learning Disability Coalition, Mencap believes that people with a learning disability should have the same choices and chances as everyone else. In the current tough financial situation we all need to continue the fight to ensure that there is sufficient funding to make this a reality."

The Government is not giving enough money for social care services. We need to keep fighting for more money.

[Mark Goldring Chief Executive, Mencap & Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Coalition](#)



"People with autism - many of whom also have learning disabilities - are increasingly being denied the services they need, due to a lack of funding. The Government's policies on choice, inclusion and human rights are laudable; but without sufficient investment they will never become a reality."

The Government has made a lot of promises to people with a learning disability. But without more money they will not happen.

[Mark Lever Chief Executive, National Autistic Society](#)



"There are too few people actually getting the things that the white paper talked about like person centred plans and free health checks. Human rights abuses are going on every day in our communities, suffered by people with learning difficulties and it is time something was done about it."

Not enough people are getting the things Valuing People promised, like person centred plans. People with a learning disability suffer human rights abuses every day.

[Andrew Lee, Director, People First](#)



"We're not asking for charity; and we're definitely not asking for more policy initiatives - just for a fair crack of the whip. People with disabilities have a right to expect the support they need to live like other people, in the community."

People with a learning disability have the right to have the support that they need to live in the community, like anyone else.

[David Wandless, Founder, Real Life Options](#)



"People born deafblind with additional learning disabilities need highly specialist support to protect their rights and enable them to have a high quality of life. Any system of funding social care must address the needs of people with high support needs, ensuring they have equal rights to live as active citizens."

Some people with a learning disability need very specialised care to have a good quality of life. There must be enough social care funding for people with high support needs to live their lives.

[Richard Brook, Chief Executive, Sense](#)



"Cuts to services are placing ever greater pressure on family carers; increasingly, we seem to be expected to prop up a failing social care system. The Government must stop looking on family carers as an unpaid workforce and start providing the funding for good quality services and respite care."

Family carers have to work as unpaid carers when people cannot get social care support. There needs to be more money for support services and respite services.

[Caroline Farnes, Director, National Family Carer Network](#)



“One of our key concerns is the number of people that are still in institutional settings, for example, those living in large NHS campuses or the rising numbers of people with learning disabilities being sent out of their area to live in independent hospitals. A hospital is not a home, and people who are not ill should not be there. We would call on the government to speed up their proposed review of NHS support for people with a learning disability.”

We are concerned about the number of people who still live in hospital or on an NHS campus. A hospital is not a home.

[Lord Victor Adebawale, Chief Executive, Turning Point](#)



“We hope that the Learning Disability Coalition will provide a unified voice to raise awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities and the key issues facing them.”

We want to work together to speak up about the needs of people with a learning disability.

[Su Sayer, Chief Executive, United Response](#)

Our aims

This is what we want to do and how we want to do it



Our aim is to make sure there is enough funding (money) for people with a learning disability so they have the same life chances and choices as everyone else.



We want to:

- Speak as 1 group to the government and other organisations



- Find out about cuts to services at local level

- Tell people about the way money and cuts affect services for people with learning disabilities and campaign for better funding



- Have a review and show what resources (things like money and services) will be needed in the future for people with a learning disability.

Stories from the frontline

These are stories from people with a learning disability or their families about their frontline support services



Click [here](#) to read stories from people with a learning disability and their families



If you would like to tell us your story, please email us [here](#)

Policy and statistics

This section tells you why the Learning Disability Coalition is needed.



Find out about:

- what we want
- what the Government is doing
- what services are available for people with a learning disability and their carers

Background

The Learning Disability Coalition believes that people with a learning disability should have the same chances and choices as everyone else



The new Government has said that it understands that social care needs to be changed. It is going to look at different ways of funding social care and will report back in 2011.



It will be difficult to find more money for social care because the Government has a debt of 160 billion pounds.

A billion is a thousand million, so this is a lot of money.



The Government has already said that it will make cuts of 6 billion pounds to its budget for this year.

The Learning Disability Coalition is fighting to make sure that money to social care is not affected by any more cuts.

Social care



Services for people who need support with daily living are part of health and social care.

People with a learning disability can get support through health and social care.



Community care services are given by local councils and the NHS.

[Click here](#) to read about what the old Government did for people with a learning disability.

About Learning Disability

A learning disability does not stop someone from learning and achieving a lot in life, if they get the right support.

Leroy's story

My name is Leroy Binns and I went to a special school called Downsvie in Hackney, London. I did not even know how to lift up a pencil and the education authorities did not think the school could teach me anything at all. At Downsvie, my headmaster said "give me 6 months with him and we will show you what we can do". I ended up staying there for 10 years.

I then started working as soon as I left school. My first job was at a company called Victor and Young in Cross Street in Islington doing book binding work. I now work for a charity called Mencap. I work in the post room 3 days a week and in campaigns and policy 2 days a week. I work on issues to do with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities which I am very passionate about. I am working on a project called Getting to know you. It is about how you can communicate with someone without using any words at all. We do workshops up and down the country about the project which are going very well indeed.

I have an Educare Health and Safety certificate, a Media training certificate and a pre GCSE basicskills module 6 certificate. I am very good at maths and I love watching my team Arsenal play on the TV. I also like speaking up for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

Too many people with learning disabilities are deprived of the support they need to have a decent quality of life and do things other people take for granted.

Contact us



We really want to hear from you.

How do your services make a difference to your life?

Have your services been affected by cuts in funding?

Has it been difficult for you to get a service that you need?

Email us [here](#) to tell us about your story.

You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

