

Learning Disability

The Facts

There are more than 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK yet people are still confused about what it means . . .

What is a learning disability?

- The World Health Organisation defines learning disabilities as “a state of arrested or incomplete development of mind”.
- Learning disability is a diagnosis, but it is not a disease or a physical illness.
- A learning disability is very different to a mental illness. However, many individuals with a learning disability experience mental illness as a result of inadequate care and discrimination.
- Learning disability usually develops at birth and cannot be treated or cured.
- Learning disability is a label.
- Learning disability is not what defines a person. People with a learning disability are all individuals, just like you and me.
- There are different levels of learning disability with no clear dividing lines existing between them. For example, some people have low to moderate needs, where as others have profound and multiple learning disabilities.
- Dementia is a medical condition, not a learning disability.

What does it mean to have a learning disability?

- Individuals with a learning disability can be supported to live independently within their local communities.
- All people with a learning disability have the right to the same life chances as other people, including the opportunity to work and vote.
- Everybody with a learning disability has the right to a personal budget, which gives them control of the money for their care.
- Individuals with a learning disability can have a boyfriend or girlfriend, or get married.

More more information please contact Turning Point on 0207 481 7632