

# Social care (care and support)

## Vision Statement



People with a learning disability should be able to live their life in the way they choose, like anyone else. Getting the right care and support can be crucial for this to happen. Mencap believe that people with a learning disability must also have choice and control over where they live and how they are supported.

Care and support can range from a few hours to 24 hours a day. This can include many things, like supporting someone to get up and get dressed, develop friendships and relationships, and become active members of their community.

We want a future where people with a learning disability and their families get high quality support when they need it. This support should be offered early on, before their needs reach crisis point.

We want a society where the importance of social care is recognised and the social care workforce is valued. Ensuring there is enough funding in the system is vital for this to become a reality.

## Current situation

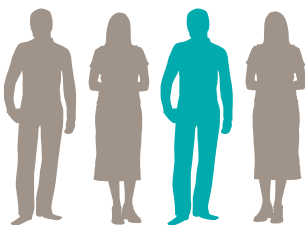
Choice, control and wellbeing are at the heart of government visions for social care across the UK. But the lack of funding in the social care system can mean that people with a learning disability are not able to live a fulfilling life. It can also mean they are put at risk.

People are living longer, including those with disabilities and complex health conditions. The number of adults with a learning disability is expected to grow 10% by 2030<sup>1</sup>. As a result the number of people with a learning disability who need services grows each day.<sup>2,3</sup>

Funding is not matching the growing number of adults with social care needs. Many people who need support are not getting it because the criteria for receiving support is set at a high level. Even those who do qualify for support are not always getting the amount they need.

In addition, there is not always enough investment in the skills of staff, which can mean people do not always get high quality safe care and support.

- 1 in 4 people with a learning disability now spends less than 1 hour a day outside of their home due to cuts to day services (Mencap's Stuck at Home report, 2012).
- Spending on adult social care in England has fallen £4.6bn over the last five years<sup>4</sup>, so there is real pressure on the system.
- Today, support for people with a learning disability comprises around 30% of social care funding in the UK. If pressures on the system persist, there will be an estimated £926m funding shortage for learning disability support services by 2020<sup>5</sup>.
- There are currently around 3,480<sup>6</sup> people with a learning disability in inpatient units in England. Many are there due to a lack of the right support and services in their local community.



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## What we want

**We want everyone with a learning disability, together with their families and carers, to get the support they require when it's needed. And we want people with a learning disability to be happy, safe, well and valued; able to live their lives to the full in the way they choose. In order to make this happen:**

- The threshold for getting support should be lowered to ensure people with a learning disability with moderate needs do not miss out.
- There must be more funding in the social care system to ensure the needs of people with a learning disability can be met.
- The social care workforce must have the right skills to support people with a learning disability, including those with complex needs. They must be paid a wage that reflects their skills and responsibility and be valued for the work they do.
- The right support and services must be developed in local areas to ensure people with a learning disability can become active members of their community. Local authorities and the health service must work together effectively to make this happen.
- People with a learning disability and their families must get information about the support that is available to them and their rights. They must also get the help they need to understand and exercise these rights, including challenging cuts to support and services.

1. Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information, 'Learning Disability Estimates', last accessed 2015
2. <https://www.jrf.org.uk/mpse-2015/disability-and-poverty>; these figures adjust for disability benefits.
3. Emerson, 2009 Estimating Future Numbers of Adults with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities: [www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2010-04/dh\\_103200.pdf](http://www.mencap.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/2010-04/dh_103200.pdf)
4. ADASS, Budget Survey 2015 Report
5. Learning Disability Voices (2016): The Care Crisis Manifesto
6. \*Estimated figure from the Learning Disability Census 2015: [www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB19428/ld-census-initial-sep15-rep.pdf](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB19428/ld-census-initial-sep15-rep.pdf) (Pg 76)

Last reviewed: July 2016  
Next review: currently being reviewed