

Making learning better for people with learning difficulties or learning disabilities in North West England

Easy read version

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You might like to have someone to support you when you look at this booklet.

What is this booklet about?

The Government has said that it wants to make life better for disabled people.



The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) wants to make learning better and easier for people with learning disabilities in Further Education (FE) in England. We want to help people with learning disabilities learn new skills to help them in their lives and in work.

This booklet is about how the LSC wants to make learning better for people with learning disabilities in North West England.



We would like you to tell us what you think of our plans. We will use what you tell us to help us make our plans better for people with learning disabilities.

The words we use

When we say 'we' in this booklet, we mean the **Learning and Skills Council** or LSC for short. The LSC plans and pays for services to help people in England get the best skills for life.

When we say '**people with learning disabilities**', we mean '**people with learning difficulties or learning disabilities**.'

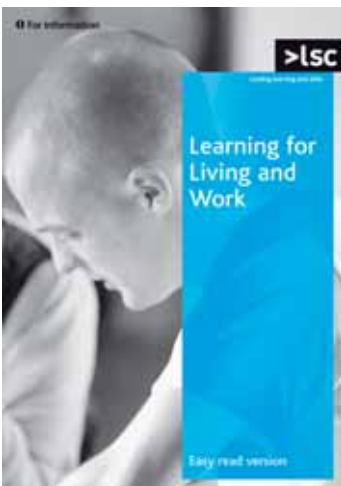
When we say **learners**, we mean **learners with learning difficulties or learning disabilities**.

When we say '**learning services**', we mean places which help people to learn.

What has happened already?



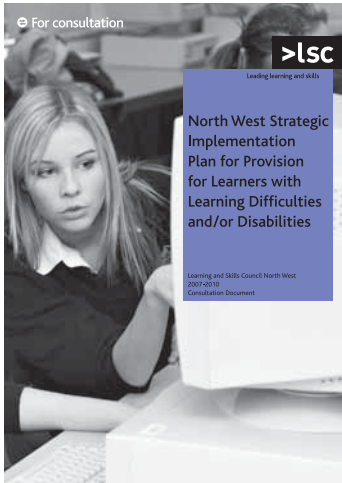
In 2005, the LSC looked at how we could make things better for people with learning disabilities who want to learn new skills.



In October 2006, we wrote about what we want to do to make things better in a booklet called **'Learning for Living and Work'**. We tell you how you can get an Easy read copy of **'Learning for Living and Work'** on page 25.

'Learning for Living and Work' said how we plan to make learning better for people with learning disabilities. The booklet said how we will make sure that we do all the things we want to do. There were 40 things that we think will make learning better for people with learning disabilities.

Our plans for North West England



This booklet is an Easy read version of a longer booklet called **North West Strategic Implementation Plan for Provision for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities**. This booklet tells you about some of our ideas and what we think our plans should be for North West England. If you want to read about all our plans, you should look at the longer booklet. We tell you how to get a copy of the longer booklet on page 25.



We will say what we want to do for learners with learning disabilities in North West England in Spring 2007. Our plan will be like LSC's plans for the whole of England, but will it also talk about special things we want to do for people in North West England.



We will keep on checking that what we do is working. And we will be ready to make changes to our plans if we need to.



But, before we make plans for North West England, we want to ask people with learning disabilities what they think.



We would like you to tell us what you think.

We would like to hear about your ideas by **Wednesday 7 March**.

We tell you how to do this on page 24.

More money



We know that we need to spend our money well to make things better for learners with learning disabilities. So we have set aside £35 million to do this in England. We will use some of this money to support learners with learning disabilities in North West England.



We will use some of the money to:

- Look at what people with learning disabilities want and need from our services



- Make learning services better,



- Help people who work in learning services to do a better job,



- Help learners to be part of their local community.

What do we want to do?



We want to provide the best learning choices for people with learning disabilities.

There are 6 main things we think we need to do. These are:



1. Talk with people
2. Make plans
3. Give a high quality service
4. Use money well
5. Work with others
6. Help learners to find jobs



We would like you to tell us what you think about our plans for these 6 things.

1. Talk with people

We want to talk with people:



- To find out what different sorts of people think about our plans,
- To make sure people understand our plans,



- To make sure people know how the changes we want to make will affect them.

We will have a group of people with learning difficulties who will help us make our plans for learners in North West England.



We will make sure we also talk to:

- learners with learning disabilities themselves,



- their parents, carers and guardians,



- employers who already have people with learning disabilities working for them.

We will use what all these people tell us to help us make our plans for learners with learning disabilities in the North West.



We will also make sure that these people understand what learning services they can expect:

- learners themselves



- families and carers



- schools for young people under 16 years old
- learning providers



- local councils
- Connexions (a service for all young people to help them get ready for adult life and work)



- employers



- other people who support learners to learn.

2. Make plans



We have already looked at the needs of learners with learning disabilities between 16 and 25 years old in North West England. We will publish a report about this early in 2007.



We will also:

- look at the needs of adults with learning disabilities,



- talk with other organisations like local authorities, Connexions and Jobcentre Plus to help us understand the learning needs of people with learning disabilities,



- look at what support people need to move between learning providers,
- look at what support people need to find jobs.

We will use what we find out to help us make our plans for learners in North West England.

3. Give a high quality service

We want to make sure that we give a high quality service to people with learning disabilities in North West England.



- In 2007 and 2008, LSC will say how we plan to help people who teach and support people with learning disabilities in Further Education. We will work with other organisations, like Lifelong Learning UK and the Department of Education and Skills (DfES), to help us to help these people to get the right skills to teach and support people with learning disabilities.



- By September 2008, we will stop giving money to anyone who we think is not giving a good service in the North West.



- By December 2008, we will find out which learning providers in the North West give the best service to learners with learning disabilities. We will choose one of these to be the first to be given the special name, 'Centre of Excellence'.



- By 2010, everyone working in Further Education will have had proper training. This will include people working with learners with learning disabilities. We will check that this is happening in the North West.



We also plan to:

- Find out who is already doing a good job,



- Help some learning providers to do a better job,



- Help learning providers to work together to help each other,



- Help people who work with learners with learning disabilities to get skills to help them do their work better,



- Make sure we tell learning providers about good things other learning providers are doing,

4. Use money well



The LSC will work with local authorities to find out how much money it costs to support learners with learning disabilities. We will then make plans about how to use our money to give the best possible services to people with learning disabilities in Further Education.



We will also look at how to pay for more choice to learners with other learning needs.



We will work with children's services, adult services and health services to help us understand how money is used to support learners with learning disabilities.



We will work with these services to see if we can all use money better.

5. Work with others



We want to help learning providers to work together and with us to make better use of the money they have between them.

We want to:



- Make sure everyone knows what LSC is trying to do,



- Find learning providers that do a very good job and tell others about what they do,



- Work with others to make sure we make the best use of people who work in Further Education,



- Make better use of the services we have already by sharing what some learning providers have or know already with other learning providers,



- Make sure learners with learning disabilities can learn about health and sport as part of their learning.

6. Help learners to get jobs



We want to make sure our plans help people with learning disabilities to be part of their communities, to get better skills and to help them find work.

It is important that we check how our plans are working. We will make sure we look at:



- How well service providers are doing their jobs,



- How much support learners with learning disabilities need to find jobs,



- How long it takes for learners to get the skills they need to find jobs.

We will also make sure we talk with people with learning disabilities about how well they think we are helping them.



By September 2010, we will stop paying money to service providers if they don't support learning at work and Supported Employment. Supported employment is for people who need extra support or services to go to work.

In North West England we will look at how well learning providers are:



- Helping learners to do what they want to do,



- Giving learners the right support and training to help them move into work,



- Supporting people with learning disabilities to learn while they work,



- Keeping records about how well learners are doing.

How to tell us what you think

We would like your help. Please tell us what you think about our plans for learners with learning disabilities in North West England before **Wednesday 7 March**.



You can write to us at:
LLDD Strategy Consultation
The Learning and Skills Council
Arndale House
The Arndale Centre
Manchester
M4 3AQ

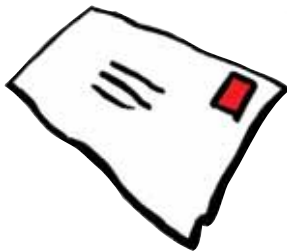


Or you can email us at:

nw-llddstrategy@lsc.gov.uk

How to get copies of other LSC booklets

If you want to know more about our plans, you can get copies of the longer booklet **North West Strategic Implementation Plan for Provision for Learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities** and the Easy read version of **Learning for Living and Work** from:



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electronic form on the Learning
and Skills Council website:
www.lsc.gov.uk

Publication reference:
LSC-P-NWR-07003ER

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