

ROTHERHAM LEARNING DISABILITY STRATEGY 2024-2027

People are safe, healthy, and live well.



www.rotherham.gov.uk

OUR STRATEGY



This strategy sets out our vision for how we intend to make a real difference to people with a learning disability.

We have designed the strategy through engagement with adults and young people with a learning disability and Autistic people, their families, unpaid carers, as well as organisations that support people within the education, health, social care, and voluntary sectors.

In Rotherham, we have developed the Four Cornerstones in partnership with people with lived experience, partners and support organisations, which we believe are essential for ensuring that good practice is achieved. These are:

Welcome and Care

Value and Include

Communicate

Work in Partnership

We recognise that when these values are integrated into practice, trust is developed and progress in achieving positive outcomes is made.

The strategy further builds on the work achieved through our Learning Disabilities Transformation Programme. The programme provided the foundations for ensuring people with a learning disability have choice and control over how they want to live their life, that support is personalised to their individual needs and outcomes and that they are central to decision making within their adult social care journey.

The delivery of this strategy will be underpinned by the “Good Lives Building Change Together” as a framework to develop and deliver improvements for people with a learning disability.

This strategy has been designed to complement wider strategic plans for Rotherham, including our Adult Social Care Strategy, All-Age Autism Strategy, and SEND vision, as well as wider place-based and national plans such as The Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Rotherham Health and Care Plan and Transforming Care Programme

Ultimately, the strategy focuses on enabling people with a learning disability to live their best lives, have a strong voice and reach their full potential.



Cllr. David Roche

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health



Ian Spicer

Strategic Director for Adult Care, Housing and Public Health



OUR VISION AND VALUES

Our vision for people with a learning disability is:

People with a learning disability are empowered, have a strong voice, and are enabled to make choices so that people feel included, safe, and secure.

We will achieve this vision by ensuring:

- Access to the right information, at the right time, to help people make informed choices.
- That people feel safe, secure, welcomed, and included,
- People are listened to and have a voice.
- Aspirations, independence, and choice are the basis for person-centred support
- People can develop independence and life skills, to access education, employment, and their own home, to live as independent and full life as possible.

- Access to local communities where people feel welcomed and are enabled to maintain relationships which are the most important to them.
- Young people, their families and carers transitioning between Childrens and Adult Services know what to expect.

Our Learning Disability strategy is set within the context of the Adult Social Care Strategy, with themes for delivering adult social care as:

- **Wellbeing and Independence:** enabling people to live their best life.
- **Informed Choices:** having the right information at the right time.
- **Connected to People:** support to maintain relationships with people that matter the most to them.
- **My Support, My Way:** focused on strengths, abilities, and cultural needs of the person.

Transition Planning

Young people who require ongoing support as they transition from receiving support from Children and Young People's Services into Adults should know well in advance of their 18th Birthday what to expect and the type of support they will be eligible for. Further strengthening and implementing a robust Transitions Pathway will ensure young people receive the right support at the right time from the appropriate support service. The young person's voice should be central to this pathway and planning for their future to ensure choice, control and person-centred practices. This is a key priority for partners and people with lived experience during the term of the strategy.

Independence and Choice

The strategy focusses on developing services which promote independence and equip people with practical life skills, which will support them to maintain their own homes, obtain employment, and maximise independent living as much as possible. People will be at the centre of planning and designing the services they receive.

For people requiring additional support with their physical and mental health needs, particularly to help them deal with their anxiety and worries, they will be able to "flex" the type of support they need. Lots of people with a learning disability may require ongoing support to

maintain their independence. To achieve this, a key priority is ensuring services can adapt to the changing needs of people to deal with life changes and increased periods of stress and anxiety, as they occur through a person's life. Providing more flexible options will ensure person-centred practices are central to future models of support.

Education and Employment Skills

Increased aspirations from an early age for people, their families, carers, and support services, to engage people with a learning disability in meaningful education, skills training, and employment will be central to our strategic priorities. A dedicated learning disability employment pathway will support people with identifying their skills and matching them with employers, providing ongoing support to maintain their employment.

Joined up working between services will be able to identify with people earlier what their aspirations and life goals are, then work collaboratively with each other to achieve these.

Health

It is important to understand what the barriers to accessing health and mental health services and health information are.

Our strategy commits to working with people, health colleagues, partners, and other organisations to improve physical and mental health accessibility and ensure health information is available in accessible formats. Central to this will be ensuring people can access health screening and appointments in an inviting and welcoming environment.

Making and Keeping Connections

People want to feel connected, welcomed and part of a community or friendship group. Improved accessibility of information will provide opportunities for people to experience and be involved in more. Co-production will facilitate and empower people to share and create opportunities to engage with others and their communities.

This will include marginalised communities and those with additional communication needs to ensure equality for all.

Accessibility

Across Rotherham we are committed to working with people and other support organisations to further develop our understanding of the barriers people with a learning disability experience in accessing housing, travel, information and access to health appointments and mental health support. Joint priorities and actions will be agreed and co-produced to address barriers to access.

Purpose and Support

Rotherham now has two specialised Adult Social Care teams dedicated to supporting adults with a learning disability in Rotherham. There is also a dedicated Transitions Team that supports young people with an Education, Care and Health Care Plan (EHCP) who require additional support to transition from Children's support into Adult support. Our strategy outlines a further commitment to work very closely with people and the other organisations that support them, ensuring that people's voice is at the centre of everything we do, that interventions are person-centred, and independence is maximised at every opportunity.

OUR PRIORITIES



2024	Provide accessible information and advice to support making informed choices. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ensure information including this strategy is accessible.● Redesign the adult social care web pages to be accessible.● Ensure links from adult social care incorporate the My Front Door (MFD) website and local offer.
	Strengthen the voice of the person. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Develop co-production and feedback mechanisms to understand how well we are meeting people's needs.● Building on the coproduction provide opportunities for people to work with us as equal partners in the delivery and monitoring of this strategy.● Develop more inclusive ways of communicating and engaging with people who have additional communication needs or experience marginalisation.
2025	Support young people with care and support needs to prepare for adulthood (in line with ASC strategy). <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Implement a new transitions assessment process with partners and create an end-to-end Transitions pathway.● Ensure the voice of the person is heard, listened to, and respected.● Improve employment opportunities for people with care and support needs.
	Provide needs lead support. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Informed training programme to support meeting needs more effectively.● Improved collaboration between Adult, Childrens, Health and Education Services.● Invest in new assistive technologies (AT) and digital solutions supported by an AT strategy.
2026	Provide more opportunities for care and support closer to home. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Invest in local accommodation with support services.● Engage people on the types of services they want and need to access.● Increase the range of services delivered collaboratively.
	Provide more meaningful opportunities. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Providing more opportunities for real choice in employment.● Develop options around Transport, Travel Training and Community Access.● Create more options to support building independence and life skills.

YOU SAID...

“I sometime feel I don’t have the same opportunities as normal people because I might need more help and struggle to do things on my own. People sometimes get mad when I am out places because I do things a lot slower”.

“I feel like there should be more support to get to places and meet people with the same disabilities as me”.

“one main central place that people with additional and learning needs can access to get the help and support needed so they do not have to travel to different areas for different services, they can find it all in one main place.”

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS



Safeguarding is about protecting people from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and how they can report their concerns.

We know there are lots of actions we currently do and more we can do, to keep our residents safe. Amongst our aims are improving mental health, developing resilience, and giving choice and control to support people to stay as safe as possible.

Adult Social Care has a Safeguarding Adult Pathway to protect vulnerable residents and ensure we make safeguarding personal to the person at risk of harm or abuse. Our Rotherham Safeguarding Adults Board (RSAB) is committed to taking a partnership approach to help protect adults at risk of, or experiencing, neglect, harm, or abuse.

Our approach includes working with partners and residents to educate them to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect, including how they can report any safeguarding concerns.

If you are worried about an adult, you can report a concern on our website, or call 01709 822330.





HAVE YOUR SAY

To achieve the best outcomes for people, Adult Social Care recognises the importance of putting the person at the heart of everything we do.

That means involving people in the things that matter to them and making sure we design our services based on the voices of people who need our support.

If you would like to get involved and be a part of delivering and monitoring delivery of this strategy, then please let us know. How much you want to get involved is your choice, so if you would like to get involved to shape our future services, please email: genuinepartnerships@rotherham.gov.uk.

You could also ask someone to help you to do this on your behalf or speak with your allocated case worker who will be happy to help you.



FIND OUT MORE



You can find out more information about learning disability support in Rotherham by visiting the My Front Door website.

My Front Door – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Information for young people and their family and carers is also available on the Local offer website.

Support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) – Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Visit our Adult Social Care website to find out more about adult social care, including case studies about the positive impact the service has made for residents.

www.rotherham.gov.uk/adult-social-care

You can also review our achievements and outcomes for the last 12 months by looking at ‘How did we do?’ our Local Account that is published each year.



GET IN TOUCH



Safeguarding (Customer Contact Team) – Adults

01709 822330

Safeguarding (M.A.S.H. Team) – Children

01709 336080

Housing Services

01709 336009

Reablement Services

01709 336096

Shared Lives

01709 334948

Supported Employment

supportedemployment@rotherham.gov.uk

01709 249600

Other Useful Contacts

Speakup

team@speakup.org.uk

01709 720462

www.speakup.org.uk

Absolute Advocacy

cst.referrals@cloverleaf-advocacy.co.uk

01709 794294

www.absoluteadvocacy.co.uk

Genuine Partnerships

genuine.partnerships@rotherham.gov.uk

01709 822580

www.genuinepartnerships.co.uk

Guiding Voices

www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk/guiding-voices

Rotherham Parent Carers Forum

admin@rpcf.co.uk

01709 296262

www.rpcf.co.uk

Mental Health Crisis Team

0800 6529571

Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust

03000 213000

www.rdash.nhs.uk

Age UK Rotherham

01709 835214

Citizen's Advice Bureau

0808 2787911