

Primary Care Liaison Service for People with a Learning Disability An Introduction

The Primary Care Learning Disability Liaison Nurses (PLDLN's) exists to support and ensure people with a learning disability have their health needs met by primary care services in a timely and appropriate manner.

The service was developed in line with the recommendations of the Confidential Inquiry into the premature deaths of people with Learning Disabilities (CIPOLD) 2013 and the Suffolk Serious Case Review, 2013

The team offers:

- Advice and support to GP practices, social care colleagues, education and other NHS and third sector organisations around the needs of people with learning disabilities through awareness raising and targeted training.
- Consultation, advice, brief assessment and formulation to GP's on the needs of adults with learning disabilities who may also have associated physical health conditions, behavioural difficulties and/or mental illness.
- Advice and support to individuals and families about health needs.
- Support to develop accurate Learning Disability registers, attendance at annual health checks, and health action planning for people aged 14 and over with learning disabilities.
- Signposting to access the use of health and social care services and other organisations.
- Supporting access through reasonable adjustments for people with a learning disability and autistic spectrum conditions.

The service is provided in the GP practices and across various other community settings, including outreach into people's homes, where appropriate. It will usually operate between 09.00 and 17.00 Monday to Friday, with some opportunities to be flexible outside of these hours to suit service need. The PLDLN's do not provide an emergency service.

The service consists of four learning disability nurses and is available to patients with GP surgeries in the West Suffolk and Ipswich and East Suffolk CCGs and will operate from bases in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds.

The teams are employed by NSFT and sit within the Wellbeing Suffolk service alongside colleagues who work with primary care services.

Referral Criteria

- 14 years and over with a Learning disability

Service users with autism are included but not those who do not have a learning disability

Referrals can be sent to
liaison.nursesLD@nsft.nhs.uk
or you can call
01284 741785 (*there is an answerphone system available*)

Referrals via the above methods will be checked daily, we cannot guarantee that referrals sent via other methods will be responded to daily.

All record keeping will be made on IAPTUS, Wellbeing Suffolk's electronic recording system and the GP practice recording systems (System One and EMIS) as appropriate.

The PLDLN's are not case holders and do not undertake a care co-ordination role.

The team has close links with other NSFT services for people with learning disabilities and can access specialist support and advice from a range of professionals in the Neurodevelopmental pathways of the integrated delivery team and aid transition between services. This includes regular attendance at East & West Suffolk Learning Disability team meetings.