



# The learning disability improvement standards for NHS trusts: learning and sharing events.

NHS England and NHS Improvement are calling on managers and practitioners, from across NHS trusts and wider systems, to share details of innovation and actions that are delivering against the national learning disability improvement standards.

As many of you will know, in 2018 NHS Improvement (NHSI) published the learning disability improvement standards for NHS trusts, with the aim of improving the outcomes and experiences of people with a learning disability, when using NHS services. The standards reiterate many of the expectations arising from a range of national legislative and policy imperatives. They also require all acute (hospital) NHS trusts, mental health NHS trusts and community health NHS trusts, to put in place a range of improvement measures.

All trusts must ensure, that when people with a learning disability use their services, their rights are respected and protected; they are included and engaged as partners in their own care, as well as in the review and design of services; and they are supported by staff with the right knowledge, skills and values.

To support trusts in delivering the standards, we developed national benchmarking programme. This is seen as an important approach in the progressive realisation of quality improvement. Benchmarked positions against wide ranging metrics and measures of staff and user experience, allow participating trusts to understand areas of relative strength and weakness, alongside matched comparators; and to re-vision what optimal performance might look like and how it might be achieved.

Trusts are expected to work with system partners, to develop and implement local improvement action plans. Whilst there is no current requirement for these to be published and they are not centrally collated, at NHS England and NHS Improvement we often hear of exciting approaches, both in NHS trusts and across wider networks.

We are looking to arrange a series of virtual 'learning and sharing events', from July 2021 onwards, so that people can share innovations from their area and either ask for help, or inspire others. The current intention is to run these, for a couple of hours, every couple of months. We envisage using MS Teams; and sessions will be informal - tea and biscuits will be the order to the day (occasional contributions from pets will always be welcomed!).

In first instance, we are looking for people to volunteer to spend 20-30 minutes telling others what they are doing to meet the standards. These could be projects that are complete and have been fully and rigorously evaluated; or they could be 'works in progress' that show great promise, or where people are looking for ideas about the next steps.

Whether you are a support worker, a consultant, a student, or a service director, if you are happy to tell us about your work, we want to hear about it. Whether you want to sit, stand or pace around; or talk, share pictures and videos, or a PowerPoint presentation, we want to provide a forum where you can share your innovation with others.

If you have a project that is delivering against the improvement standards, please get in touch and tell us about it. If you are nervous or in any way unsure about sharing your idea or project, we will happily help in any way we can.

Please address your replies or queries to Sean Mitchell ([sean.mitchell@nhs.net](mailto:sean.mitchell@nhs.net)), who is providing programme support, in planning the learning and sharing events.

Many Thanks

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