

St Georges Learning Disability Team

OCTOBER 2022



Aims of the session

To introduce the new team.

To think about how we can all support patients with learning disabilities to access St Georges.

The New Team

- Karen Howell
 - Senior Learning Disability Practitioner and Occupational Therapist.
- Dearbhla Ahern
 - Learning Disability Practitioner and Occupational Therapist
- Christabelle Bruno
 - Learning Disability Practitioner and Registered Learning Disability Nurse
- Sara Balaxia
 - Learning Disability Health Care Assistant
- Kirsty Pitt
 - Safeguarding administrator

Referrals

Referrals accepted by telephone or email.

- 020 8725 2217
- learning.disabilityreferral@stgeorges.nhs.uk
- Monday to Friday 9-5.

Majority of referrals are internal.

Other referrals from London and beyond (CLDTs, other hospitals)

Occasional inappropriate referrals. Same eligibility criteria as your local CLDT

Part of adult safeguarding

The learning disability team is part of the adult safeguarding team. We work closely with the other teams:

- Adult safeguarding
- Mental Capacity and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS).
- Domestic Violence

What do we do?

- Raise awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities throughout the trust.
- Ensure that reasonable adjustments are made to meet individual needs.
- Support clinicians with complex cases which may include issues relating to the Mental Capacity Act.
- Support patients with learning disabilities on our wards.
- Support patients with learning disabilities to access appointments.

What is a Learning Disability?

Reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), usually associated with an IQ below 70)

A reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning)

Which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development

DoH 2001 – Valuing People

What is a learning difficulties?

Problems with reading, writing or numeracy e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia

Emotional difficulties that may have sufficiently disrupted schooling, influencing achievement

Neurodiverse conditions like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or hyperactive disorder

Asperger's syndrome and some individuals with Autism

However you can have a learning difficulty as well as a learning disability

National reports about the care of people with LD in hospital.

'Death by Indifference' MENCAP (2007)

Sir Jonathan Michaels Independent Inquiry (2008)

Six Lives (2009)

Death by Indifference: A progress report 5 years on – 74 Lives and Counting (2012)

CIPOLD (2013)



Challenges for People with LD using hospital services

- Lack of appropriate admission planning
- Poor Communication
- Lack of reasonable adjustments
- Coping with pain and distress
- Poor experiences of previous hospital care
- Poor information sharing and decision making
- Inadequate discharge planning

Increased health Issues for people with LD.

- Breathing problems
- Heart problems
- Obesity
- Digestive cancers
- Epilepsy
- Autism
- Mental Illness
- Dementia
- Psychotropic medication
- Physical disability
- Sensory Impairment
- Communication problems
- Thyroid dysfunction
- Dental problems.
- Medical hospital services

Reasonable Adjustment's

- Hospital Passport
- Accessible Information
- Ward Side Room
- First or last OPD appointment
- Unrestricted visiting hours for carers
- Blistered pack medication
- Pre planned visit to ward/department
- Coordinating multiple treatments
- Overnight stays for family/carers
- Meals and drinks for carers
- Flexible visiting hours

5 principles of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA).

1. A person must be assumed to have capacity unless it is established that he lacks capacity.
2. A person is not to be treated as unable to make a decision unless all practicable steps to support him to do so have been taken without success.
3. A person is not to be treated as unable to make a decision merely because he makes an unwise decision.
4. An act done, or decision made, under this Act for or on behalf of a person who lacks capacity must be done, or made, in his best interests.
5. Before the act is done, or the decision is made, regard must be had to whether the purpose for which it is needed can be as effectively achieved in a way that is less restrictive of the person's rights and freedom of action.

Admissions April-June 2022

Borough of origin	Patients admitted	Multiple admissions
Croydon	6	0
Greenwich	1	0
Hampshire	1	0
Kingston	2	0
Lambeth	3	0
Merton	40	3
Richmond	2	0
Surrey	8	0
Sutton	7	0
Wandsworth	32	8
West Sussex	1	0

What can you do to support people with LD to access hospital?

- Let us know they are coming and what reasonable adjustments they might need as soon as possible.
- Do they need information about what to expect or would it help to visit prior to the admission or appointment?
- Do they have an up to date hospital passport?
Please bring this with you.

What can we do to help you
and your families?

