

Named social workers – better social work for learning disabled people?

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Easy read by Rebecca Fish



This article is about people with learning disabilities having access to their own, named social worker.

The Department of Health wanted to find out if this is good thing. They asked local authorities to take part in the Named Social Worker project.

We at Calderdale Adult Social Care and Lancaster University worked together on this project.

We got help from a self-advocacy group called Lead the Way.

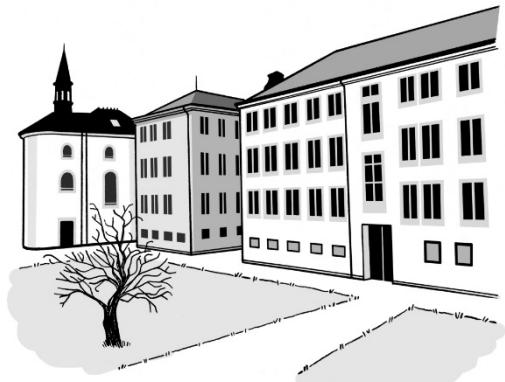


We wanted to be part of this project because we want to improve the way social workers work with people with learning disabilities.

We think that social workers control the lives of people with learning disabilities too much.



We believe in the social model of disability. The social model says that people are disabled because the world is not accessible enough.



We think that people with learning disabilities are not treated fairly.

We are not happy that people with learning disabilities get put in long stay hospitals. This happens because staff think they are a risk to themselves or other people.



Social workers often try to protect people with learning disabilities from risk. This means that people do not get to make choices for themselves.



People with learning disabilities should be allowed to make their own decisions. Social workers and staff should not stop people making their own choices even if they disagree with them.



We think that people's families should be listened to better.

They should be helped to get support in the community.

When families do ask for help, their loved ones should not be sent to a care home or hospital. This is too restrictive.



We think that people are kept in hospitals and units for too long. Long term care does not help people.

We want more to be done to get people back home.



We think that social workers should always think about Human Rights. They should help people and not just tell them what to do.

Social workers should give advice and help people to access support. They should tell people what is available in the community.

We hope that this project will improve the way social workers support people with learning disabilities.

All pictures used are from CHANGE www.changepeople.org

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