

# Have your say on the future of services for people with learning disabilities in Suffolk



# Alternative formats



This overview document is **easy read format**.



This overview document is also available as a **Talking Text**. Talking Texts are a combination of audio and easy read that plays like a video.



Please go to [www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations) to watch the Talking Text.

# Introduction



**Joint Learning Disability Strategy 2015-20**  
Year 2

Suffolk County Council is proposing some changes to services for people with learning disabilities, resulting from the Suffolk 2015-2020 Joint Learning Disability Strategy.



The strategy vision sets out a future in which services must be different, to meet changing needs and expectations of people with learning disabilities.

## The Vision

**People with Learning Disabilities live good ordinary lives as part of their community with the right support, at the right time, from the right people.**



You can read the strategy by following the link in the **background documents** section on page 21.

# Introduction



Over the past 18 months we have been talking and working with people to find out what they would like to see from services in the future.



This way of working is called co-production.



We know that many people value their services and want them to stay the same. Other people want different things from services so they can live a good life as part of their community.



We did different things to find out what is important to people, including appreciative inquiries and visits to services, some by professionals and some by self-advocates meeting and talking to their peers.

# Introduction



We also met with families earlier this year in a series of engagement events around Suffolk.



We value all the work and time given by people with learning disabilities, their families and friends, providers, support workers and other organisations.



Working in co-production we have achieved so much in the past 18 months.



We are looking forward to building even stronger relationships as we enter the next part of the journey.



# What are the consultation proposals?



Using all the information we gained from our work so far, we have developed proposals about what learning disability services could be like in the future.



We really believe the changes we are proposing will give people more choice and control over what they do.



We also believe that giving people choice helps us manage demand for services better.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## A. Planned Supported Breaks



### What are Planned Supported Breaks?

They provide a short term supported break for people, often called respite.



### What happens now?

At the moment people go to a regular building for their planned respite breaks.



People and families who have a need for planned respite breaks currently have an annual allocation of respite nights.



### The consultation proposals

1. People would get a personal budget to buy a break instead of getting an allocation of nights in a regular building.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## A. Planned Supported Breaks



2. People who currently use planned respite breaks affected by this change would be supported through the transition.



3. This would include a review with a social work practitioner about their needs and how they can be met.



4. One of the existing buildings would become an urgent respite service.



5. Having a designated urgent respite service would mean that fewer planned respite breaks would need to be cancelled.



# What are the consultation proposals?

## B. Urgent respite



### What is urgent respite?

Urgent respite provides care and support when someone's usual care is not available in unexpected and unplanned circumstances.



### What happens now?

Planned and urgent respite are often provided in the same building which means planned breaks sometimes have to be cancelled.



### The consultation proposals

1. We plan to commission a new specialist urgent respite service.



2. Having a specialist service in a designated building would mean fewer planned respite breaks need to be cancelled.

# What are the consultation proposals?

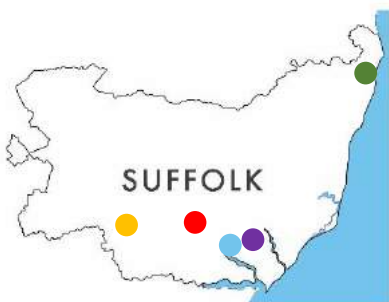
## B. Urgent respite



3. The new service would be available 24/7 and be supported by a skilled and experienced staff team.



4. It could offer support **at home** or **away from home**.



5. One of the buildings currently used for planned respite breaks would be used to provide the urgent respite service.



6. People who use this building now would be supported to find alternatives. This would include a review, with a social work practitioner, about their needs and how they can be met.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## C. Day, evening and weekend activities



### What are day, evening and weekend activities?

Day, evening and weekend activities are things that people want to do during the day, evening and weekend.



This could include going to a day service, a care farm or meeting with a social group in the evening.



### What happens now?

Social work practitioners currently arrange services for people from a small range of providers.



This is called a 'spot purchase'. Once people are in a service there is limited choice of things to do and how to make a change.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## C. Day, evening and weekend activities



People told us they want more choice about what they do. We co-produced a way to make this happen.



### The consultation proposals?

1. There would be a new list of contracted providers people could choose from. We would call this list a framework.



2. We will not be able to buy services for people outside this framework.



3. People affected by this change would be supported to make choices. This would include a review, with a social work practitioner, about their needs and how they can be met.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## C. Day, evening and weekend activities



4. If an existing provider is not successful in getting on the framework people will be supported to explore options.



# What are the consultation proposals?

## D. Short term enablement and drop-in support service



### What is short term enablement?

Short term enablement is planned one to one support.



### What are drop-in services?

A drop-in service is somewhere you know you can go for help when you need it.



### What happens now?

Suffolk County Council currently has contracts for these services;



- The progression and community support service
- The outreach services in Lowestoft (The Navigator) & the Infobar (Bury St. Edmunds)

# What are the consultation proposals?

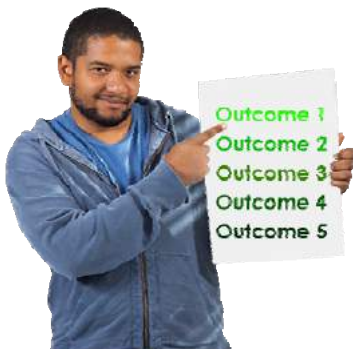
## D. Short term enablement and drop-in support service

Short term support



### The consultation proposals

1. In April 2018, we plan to commission a new short-term support service.



2. The new service would look to provide one-to-one support to help you to plan how to achieve outcomes and goals.



3. The new service would provide an open access drop-in service.



4. The new service would work with people to develop skills and take part in community activities.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## D. Short term enablement and drop-in support service



5. It would include an offer that helps people make and maintain friendships, and would support new peer networks and groups.

Free for 6 weeks



6. The one to one support offered by the service would be free of charge for 6 weeks to anyone with a learning disability. After that our charging policy would apply.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## E. The Suffolk Befriending Scheme Grant



### What is Suffolk Befriending Scheme grant?

Suffolk County Council currently provides a grant to the Befriending scheme as an annual lump sum.



### What happens now?

This grant is used to pay for;



**1 to 1  
befriending**



**Group  
sessions**



**Supported  
volunteering**



Some people pay to use the service using their personal budget.

# What are the consultation proposals?

## E. The Suffolk Befriending Scheme Grant



### The consultation proposals

1. So we can make the changes in **section D** happen, we would be ending the current grant for The Befriending Scheme.



2. Money from the grant would move into the tender to buy the new services in **section D**.



3. People affected by this change would be supported to make choices. This would include a review, with a social work practitioner, about their needs and how they can be met.



4. People eligible for social care with a personal budget would be able to buy day, evening and weekend activities they choose from the new framework. (explained in **section C**)



# Additional information And alternative formats



Please go to the section called '**Additional Information**' to find out more about the proposals and what they mean for you.

There are easy read booklets and Talking Texts (audio and pictures) for each service.

## How to have your say



The deadline for consultation responses is 5pm, Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.



You can have your say in different ways.



You can fill our questionnaire on **Survey Monkey**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MLMF2017>

# How to have your say

## Have your say



You can fill in our easy read questionnaire.

[www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/consultations)

If you don't have access to the internet, call or write to us and we'll send you a copy in the post.



Our telephone number is:  
**0345 603 1842**



**Our address is**  
My Life My Future  
Freepost RTACHSKLCSAY  
Suffolk County Council  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX

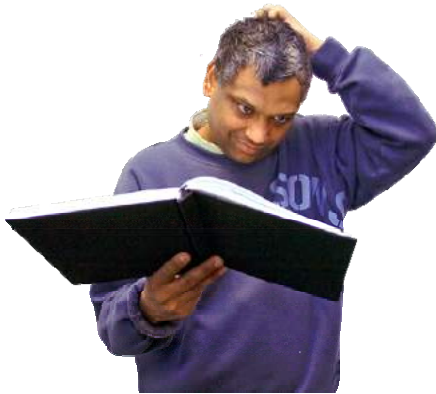


You can call us if you need support to fill in the questionnaire. One of our staff will talk you through the information and the questions. The number is **0345 603 1842**



Please get involved and help us to make services work for people in the future!

# What happens next?



We want to know what you think about the proposals. We are running the consultation from 13<sup>th</sup> June to 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017.



After the consultation ends we will look at the feedback, consider what it is telling us about our plans and if we need to change them.



We will write an easy read report about the results of the consultation and the final decisions about services.

# Additional Information and what this means for you

## Booklets available:



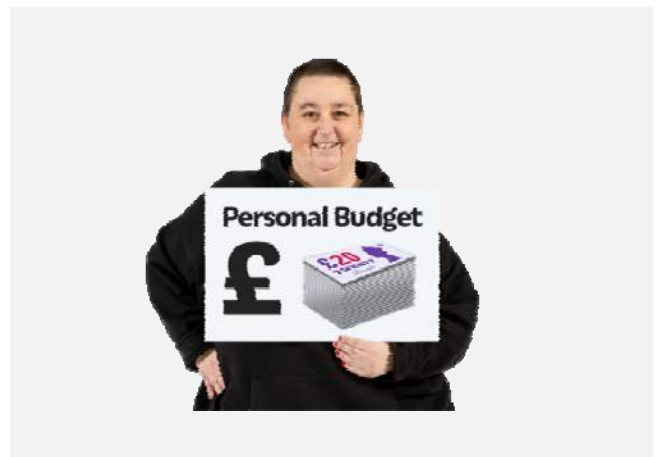
[Planned supported breaks](#)

[Urgent respite](#)

[Day, Evening and Weekend activities](#)

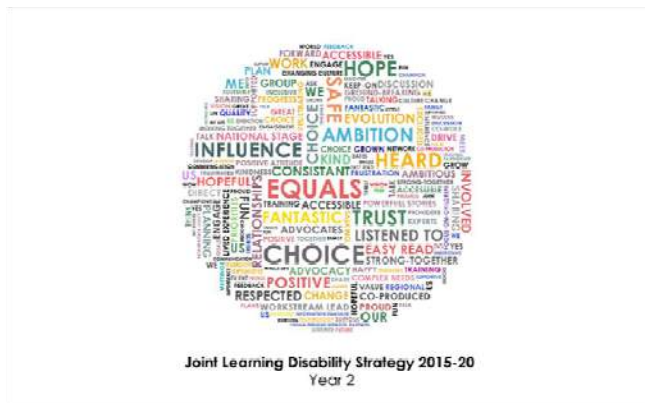
[Short Term Support and Drop-in Service](#)

[The Befriending Scheme Grant](#)



[Personal Budgets](#)

# Background documents



## Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy 2015-2020

# What is the Joint Learning Disability Strategy?

## Talking Text, What is the Joint Learning Disability Strategy?



## My Life My Future overview

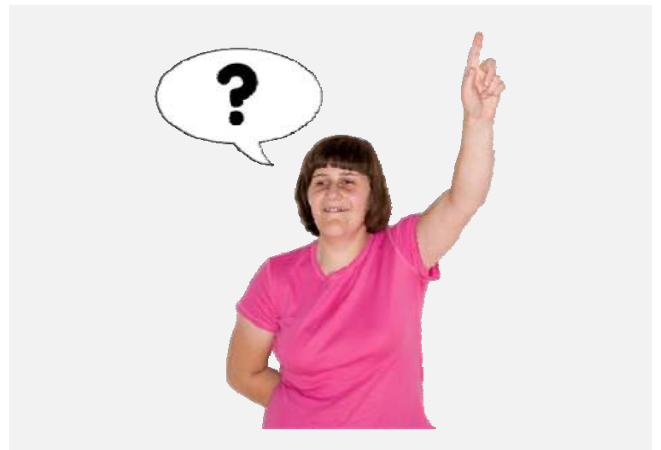
**Supporting Lives,  
Connecting Communities**



Supporting Lives,  
Connecting Communities



## Care Act guidance



## Frequently asked questions





This booklet was translated into Easy-Read by Ace Anglia,  
Accessible Information, using Photosymbols®



[info@aceanglia.com](mailto:info@aceanglia.com)



01449 678088