Suffolk Joint Learning Disability Strategy (2015 – 2020)
This Strategy sets out a clear vision on how we can work together differently to deliver better outcomes for individuals, meeting our Statutory obligations and making best use of the rich and diverse assets we have in our County.

There’s nothing radical here, nothing extraordinary and nothing that should be difficult for any of us to achieve.

Enabling people to have good ordinary lives doesn’t need to be expensive and is within the gift of communities, Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and organisations who support people.

Anna McCreadie (Corporate Director Adult and Community Services)
Introduction

Suffolk County Council and the three Suffolk NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (Ipswich and East, Great Yarmouth and Waveney and West Suffolk) have developed this five-year Strategy detailing how people with learning disabilities (aged 14 and over) and their families should be supported to live good ordinary lives in Suffolk.

The Strategy was developed with people with learning disabilities, families, health and social care professionals, supporters and community organisations.
Vision
People with learning disabilities live good lives as part of their community with the right support, at the right time, from the right people.
The Strategy recognises that good support isn’t just paid support. It isn’t just from services.

Good lives happen when we:

- are healthy
- have a place to live of our choosing
- are connected to our communities through relationships, work, and activity
- have good support and a voice that is valued, respected and listened to.

Sometimes some people need some paid support to achieve this.
We commit to ensuring that

- Co-production is understood and evidenced at all levels. Honesty, trust, openness and transparency throughout.
- We are brave, innovation is encouraged and we learn together when things don't work out as anticipated.
- We have compassion and respect for each other as we work towards the one vision.
- The vital role support workers play in the lives of individuals is valued and nurtured.
- People have choice and control over their lives.
- Organisations, people, and systems value and include families, community and the importance of relationships in freeing people to live good ordinary lives.
- People are free to live good ordinary lives whilst having the appropriate support to be safe and well.
- We celebrate together.
We will

• We will build on the skills, resources, and abilities that people and communities already have, rather than focusing on what they can’t do

• We will simplify the social care and health system, making it more personal, flexible, and accountable to people who need to use it

• In order to do this we will provide information and advice so that people know how to get the right support at the right time, from the right people
• We will be flexible and responsive, enabling people to move between different levels of support, building on their individual strengths and capacity so that they live as independently as possible.

• To implement The Strategy and make real the priorities with integrity, decisions must be tested against this fundamental question; does this decision take us closer to or further away from our Vision? If it takes us further away from, we shouldn’t be doing it.
The Test

Does this decision take us closer to or further away from our VISION?
People told us a lot about their experiences and what is important for the future.

To write this Strategy the thoughts and ideas have been grouped into eight key priority areas with ideas for action.

These key priorities for ensuring people live good ordinary lives are on the following page.
The Key Priorities

- Information, Advice and Advocacy
- Work and purpose
- Family centred support as I move into adulthood
- Good support
- Family, friends, pets and relationships in my community
- Choosing where I live and who I live with
- Staying healthy and well
- Choice and control over my life, my support, my money

It’s My Life
“By linking up with their local community, some Women were supported to get a stall at a local craft fair to sell their work. They sold loads!” (Provider)

“The Acute Nurse is amazing! She listens and makes going to Hospital easier for son.” (Parent)

“Last year 10 people with disabilities formed a Social Enterprise working with the organisation Young Enterprise to enjoy running a business.” (Provider)
Some of what people told us

“Some of what people told us

“My family are my greatest supporters. My person centred meetings make sure I am heard. My family supervises my own staff team.” (Self-Advocate)

“My job is to lock up the Church in my village every evening. I don’t get paid but it’s really important. I am important.” (Self-Advocate)

“The support me and my son (aged 16) get from the Community Psychiatrist and Learning Disability Nurse keeps us going and my son out of hospital. They see us as people first not a diagnosis.” (Mother)
To achieve the Vision, things need to be done **differently**.

This means changing the way people work with each other.

We must be brave and challenge each other when we see behaviours or decisions being made that move us away from the vision and commitment to co-production that we have developed in this plan. Remember the test!!

The image on the next page shows how we need to work together.
Cogs – The groups that need to work together

**Social Work Services** – Working alongside people, families and communities to deliver Personal Budgets through assessment, reviews and robust support planning

**Suffolk County Council Adult and Community Services Commissioning** teams continuing to move away from block contracts and tendering processes to focus on innovation e.g. community commissioning, market development, provider reviews and quality

**Providers** – Health and Social Care Providers (including Primary Care, Community Health and the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust) working together to create flexible, person centred services
Clinical Commissioning Groups – continuing to provide community based responses to the physical and mental health needs of people with learning disabilities that are flexible, accessible, person centred and joined up.

Communities – supported to flourish, grow and support people with learning disabilities (this might mean using resources differently)
The way we do this

**Supporting Lives – Connecting Communities:** the way that Adult and Community Services in Suffolk County Council work with people, families and communities to offer advice and information, help to be more independent or ongoing support to live in the community.

**Health and Social Care Integration:** The work that Adult and Community Services and Health bring their teams together to offer better support to people.

**Co-Production:** people, carers and professionals working together as equal partners to: design, develop, commission, deliver and review services, information and advice.
In addition to the national and local context lots of reports have been written by other people to show how the approach proposed in this Strategy is the right way to move forward.

They show that working inclusively with people, families and communities to create individual and community led solutions both improves people’s quality of life, meets statutory duties and shows value for money.

There is a list of some of these reports at the back of the Strategy.
The following legislation and guidelines are also important and have helped in the writing of the Strategy.

This the Strategy enables Suffolk to deliver its statutory and other responsibilities as outlined in national policy and guidance as well as meeting the challenges of the current climate.

- The Care Act 2014
- Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Programme
- Driving Up Quality Code
- Quality of Life Standards
- No voice unheard, no right ignored – a consultation for people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions (Green Paper March 2015)
- Children and Families Act 2014
- Think Local Act Personal
Headline Actions

1. Agree how the Strategy implementation will be overseen with the Learning Disability Partnership at the core embedding co-production from the start

2. Agree who will have responsibility for driving the Strategy within each of the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and Suffolk County Council

3. Explore the benefits and possibility of a jointly funded Programme Manager

4. Work together to create a Health and Social Care Providers Forum for sharing learning and innovation

5. Continue to find ways of Health and Social Care teams working together more closely
6. Work with people with learning disabilities, their families and other partner agencies to co-produce the implementation plan for this Strategy.

7. As per the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), develop accurate information for planning and reporting.

8. Co-produce and implement ways of measuring what ‘good looks like’, a set of Key Performance Indicators.

9. Check whether the right people are in the right place doing the right thing to make the most of resources.

10. Review all meetings and who attends to ensure the best use of resources and the right people to be at the right meetings to make well informed and timely decisions.
Further Actions

In addition to the Headline Actions, recommendations are detailed under each of the Key Priorities.

Please see full details in the Strategy.