

# The future role of RNLDs in supporting people with learning disabilities to achieve the best health possible



Easy Read Version of:

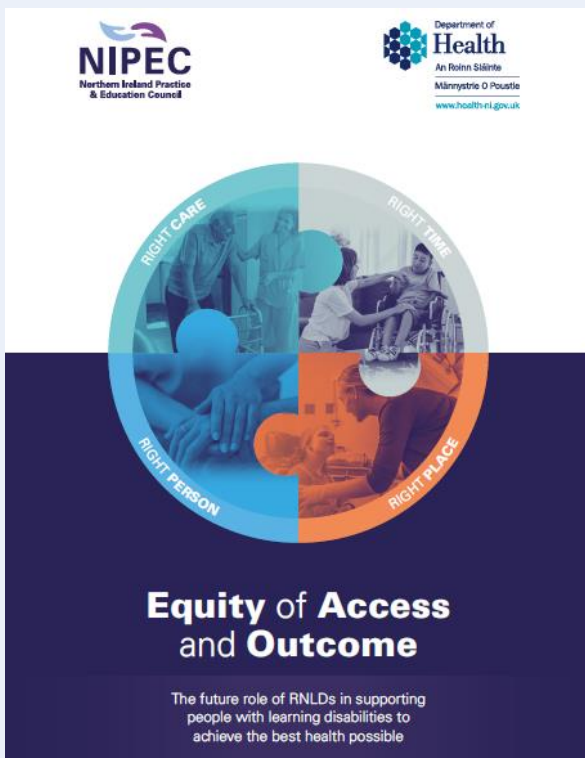
## **Equity of Access and Outcome**

# Easy Read

This document will use words and pictures to help you understand a new report about RNLDs.

RNLDs are Registered Nurse Learning Disability.

When the word nurse is used, it will mean Registered Nurse Learning Disability.



This report is called **Equity of Access and Outcome**.

It explains how we want your nurse to help you stay well and access health and social care.

# bold

There is a word bank at the back of this document to help with hard words.

The words in **bold** are in the word bank.



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

The **Chief Nursing Officer** for Northern Ireland who works in the Department of Health has asked for a new model for nursing.

This new model will help people with learning disabilities to:



Get the right help, at the right time, from the right services.



Have the same opportunity for good health care as everyone else.



Live a healthy life as a child, adult and as you get older.



Across Northern Ireland there are over 40,000 people with learning disabilities.



More people with learning disabilities are living longer.



People with learning disabilities can have more health needs than other people.



People with learning disabilities don't live as long as people who don't have learning disabilities.

Sometimes people with learning disabilities become unwell and die from conditions that they should not die from.



You should be able to get the same help from a nurse no matter where you live in Northern Ireland.



**Home**

Most people with a learning disability live outside of hospital either in their own home, with a family member or with friends.



Your nurse should help you to live a happy, healthy life.



**Hospital**

People should only be a patient in hospital if they are unwell and need to be in hospital for assessment or treatment.



Sometimes people with learning disabilities will need extra help to keep well.

Your nurse will help you with your physical health, mental health and social care needs.



Physical health is the health of your body and how well it works.



Mental health is how you think, feel and act.



Social care needs are the practical support you may need help with to live independently.



This includes living somewhere that you feel happy, safe and where you can see your family and friends.

It is also about getting to do things that you enjoy and that are important to you.



Your nurse will work closely with you and also help others to make sure you stay well, get good care and have a good quality of life.



Your nurse will work with both children and adults to improve their health.



Your nurse will make sure your needs, wishes and values are understood, listened to and your **human rights** are protected.



**Learn**

Your nurse will learn from the past, provide **evidence based care** and help teach others to improve care in the future.



Your nurse should make sure you have the right care.



That you have the same opportunity for healthcare as everyone else, in the best way for you.

This might include making **reasonable adjustments**.



**Learn**

Your nurse will teach you about keeping healthy so that you can look after your health.

They will also help you to live well with health problems.





They will know when you are becoming unwell and have the right knowledge and skills to help you.



They will help you at the end of your life to receive the best care, in the right place, by the right person.

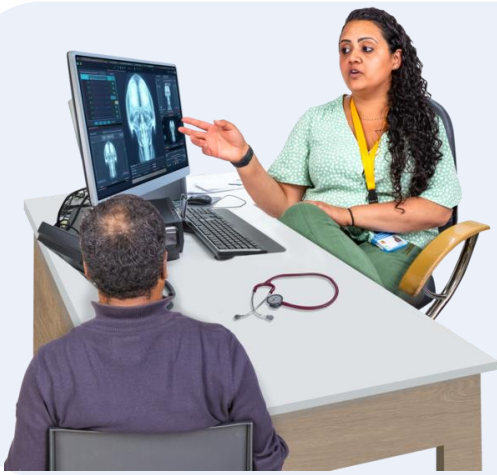


**Time**

Your nurse will help you get the right help at the right time.



They will support you to have good health at all stages of life, this might include regular health monitoring.



By helping you get the right assessment, diagnosis, treatment and care, in the best way for you.



Helping to stop **diagnostic overshadowing**.

Diagnostic overshadowing happens when a health professional thinks that a person's behaviour is because of their learning disability and then do not investigate any further.



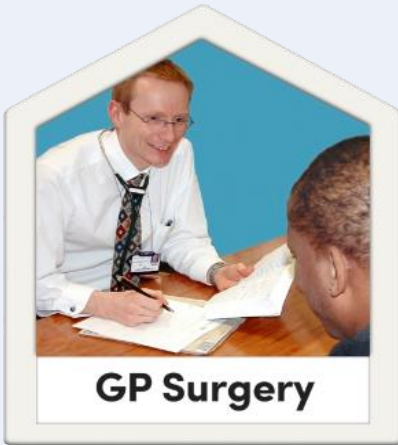
By helping you at each stage of your healthcare journey.



They will be in the right place to help you.



In Community Learning Disability Teams,



In GP surgeries,



In hospital wards and the Emergency Department,



In outpatient departments,



Or if you are in prison,



Health and  
Social Care

In a specialist learning disability hospital if you need extra support with your mental health.



Your nurse will support you to get the right help from the right person.



This help should be focused on your needs and wishes, by supporting you to make choices about how you want to live your life.



This help should be given by someone who has the right skills to meet your needs.



Your nurse will work with other people to make sure you see the right professional to help you.

# Conclusion



People with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland sometimes need help to meet their physical health, mental health and social care needs.

This report will help your nurse to best support you.



This will mean some changes for different services across Northern Ireland.



**Time**

All of these changes will take time to happen.



These changes are important to:



Make health services easily accessible and create fair health outcomes for everyone.





Help people with learning disabilities, their families and carers to be supported to live and maintain good health.



**Happy**

Help for people with learning disabilities in Northern Ireland to live long, healthy, active and fulfilled lives.

# Word Bank



**Equity of Access and Outcome**

The future role of RNLDs in supporting people with learning disabilities to achieve the best health possible

## Equity of Access

For healthcare to be fair, everyone must have the same opportunity to receive the care they need.

This includes providing people with support to make sure they have equal access to that care.

## Outcome

An outcome is a measurement used to show change and improvement of care delivery for people and their health.



Department of  
**Health**  
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## Chief Nursing Officer

The Chief Officer's name is Maria McIlgorm. She works with the Minister to provide leadership and support the development of all nurses and midwives across Northern Ireland.



**Human Rights Act**

## Human Rights

A law that outlines rules to protect people and how they should be treated.





**Learn**

## **Evidence based care**

Giving care that uses the best available evidence for decision-making and providing the best care for patients on a scientific basis.



## **Reasonable adjustments**

This is a change to a service to make it easier for people to use it.



## **Diagnostic overshadowing**

When a health professional thinks that a person's behaviour is because of their learning disability and then do not investigate any further.