

GOOD LIVES MANIFESTO 2024



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People with learning disabilities, families and organisations started coming together in 2020 to think about what **Good Lives** mean to them.

This was supported by Learning Disability England, the member-led national organisation which brings together people with learning disabilities, families, organisations and paid supporters.

This manifesto has been coproduced and built from a number of campaigns and actions, bringing people and organisations together on what they think are the most important priorities for the next government to take action on to make good lives possible.

The manifesto is supported by a briefing document offering more information, details on why each priority is important, and linking to original campaign pages.



We ask all political candidates to pledge to:

1. BE A CHAMPION FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, INCLUDING PEOPLE FROM MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES AND WITH HIGH SUPPORT NEEDS.

You can help by

- Putting disability equality at the heart of UK law. This means legislating to fully incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) into UK law.
- Committing to a new cross government strategy which puts power back in the hands of people with learning disabilities and makes sure all policy includes people with learning disabilities.
- Making sure there is strategic funding to support self-advocacy and disabled people's voice into all national and local policy. This should include plans to increase representation from people from minority ethnic communities and with high support needs.

These asks are from the [Disabled Peoples Manifesto](#), [Good Lives](#) and [Small Margins](#).

Why this is important

There has been no new national policy supporting people with learning disabilities since 2009 and the closure of The National Forum and the Valuing Families Forum in 2017 has reduced people with learning disabilities and their families ability to influence and be part of policy.



2. REFORM SOCIAL CARE SO IT MEETS THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND PROVIDES FAIR PAY FOR SOCIAL CARE WORKERS.

You can help by:

- Supporting the Social Care Future movement. The movement has a shared vision and a set of strategic actions where funding is seen as an investment in people's lives.
- 'We all want to live in the place we call home, with the people and things that we love, in communities where we look out for one another, doing what matters to us.'
- An immediate uplift to pay, funded by the government, so frontline care and supporter workers receive at least the midpoint of the hourly 'basic pay' level of NHS Band 3 staff in 2024/25.
- Make sure all people drawing on social care and their families are included in social care policy, design and delivery that focuses on person-centred and culturally competent approaches.

These asks are from [Social Care Futures](#), [Unfair to Care](#), and the [Pay Fair For Social Care campaign](#).

Why this is important

People with learning disabilities represent a **significant proportion** of people drawing on social care, but the issues they and the people who support them face are rarely priorities in policy. There are 2.6 million voters with direct experience of drawing on or delivering social care services.¹



3. HAVE EFFECTIVE, REASONABLY ADJUSTED HEALTH SERVICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BETTER HEALTH AND RAISING LIFE EXPECTANCY FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES.

You can help by:

- Supporting investment in better reasonably adjusted preventative care, such as access to GPs, dentists and opticians, health checks and programmes to support people with learning disabilities, e.g. Postural Care.
- Calling for people with learning disabilities to be prioritised on hospital waiting lists, stopping delays that can lead to people having worse health or dying younger.
- Promoting the use of multiple formats for all written communications from the NHS, whether printed or online, including large print, braille, easy read, and audio.
- Committing to support and promote training, awareness and culturally competent specialist support to be in place. Ensuring this is properly funded and monitored in every area so we can see if things are improving.

These asks are from the [We Can't Wait Campaign](#), [Got My Back Campaign](#), and [Your Care, Your Way Campaign](#).

Why this is important

The health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities are stark and preventable.² Half of people from ethnic minority backgrounds die by the age of just 34, compared to 62 for white people with learning disabilities.³

42% of the people with learning disabilities who died in 2022 died an 'avoidable' death.



4. HELP PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES GET THE JOBS THEY WANT SUPPORTED BY A SYSTEM THAT RECOGNISES CONTRIBUTIONS NOT FORCING POVERTY.

You can help by:

- Making sure people with learning disabilities are equally included in employment support initiatives and not further disadvantaged. This includes but is not limited to:
 1. Employment and pay gap reporting.
 2. Supporting disabled people into employment.
 3. Reform of Access to Work.
 4. Reform of Disability Confident scheme.
- Working with people with learning disabilities and their supporters to remove the barriers to employment and to share what is possible
- Co-produce the benefits system that recognises everyone's right to an adequate standard of living and values individual's contribution not penalising disability.

These asks are from the [Disability Employment Charter](#), [Employment is for Everyone Campaign](#) and [Disabled Peoples Manifesto](#).

Why this is important

The number of people with a learning disability recorded in employment has been around 6% for many years and as low as 4.8%,⁴ but research shows as many as 86% want a paid job.⁵

Joseph Rowntree Foundation found low-income households with a disabled person are being hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis, with almost 6 in 10 experiencing food insecurity in April/May 2023, 71% going without essentials between November and May. On average, disabled households need an additional £975 a month to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households.⁶



5. MAKE SURE PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES HAVE THE SAME ACCESS TO HOUSING OPTIONS AS THEIR NONDISABLED PEERS.

You can help by:

- Ending the use of secure hospitals as homes for people with learning disabilities and fund the right support in the community.
- Level up social housing so people with learning disabilities, alongside others have access to safe and secure accommodation.
- Make sure there are Support to Live options by:
 - Supporting national and local annual targets to build supported housing for people with learning disabilities and autistic people and publish the number and type of schemes funded.
 - Supporting reform of the rules for rent setting for housing associations in relation to Supported Housing and public subsidy. This could allow grant funding to support the development of housing needed for many people with learning disabilities and autistic people to have appropriate housing.

These asks are from the [Don't Lock Us Away Campaign](#), [Shelter England](#) and [Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network](#).

Why this is important

12 years on from the Winterbourne View scandal, there were still 2,035 people with learning disabilities and/or autism in secure hospitals at the end of January 2024. Targets to support people to leave hospital and live in the community being continuously missed.⁷

Approximately 27,000 new supported housing units are needed over the next 15 years to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and autistic people.⁸



6. MAKE THIS AN ACCESSIBLE GENERAL ELECTION.

You can help by:

- Providing accessible information to constituents about your role as a public representative.
- Raising awareness about My Vote My Voice campaign which is there to help people with learning disabilities and autistic people vote.
- Joining and arranging inclusive and accessible election hustings for constituents to directly engage with you and ask questions about your party's positions, where people from minority ethnic communities are informed, invited and engaged in the hustings.

These asks are from the [My Vote My Voice](#) campaign charter.

Why this is important

People with learning disabilities represent 1.5 million people in the UK, we must be listened to. 82% of people in a survey by Dimensions felt the Government did not listen to those with a learning disability as much as it listens to other people.⁹



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MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO HELP YOU TAKE ACTION

Good Lives briefing

This is a document offering more information, details on why each priority is important, and linking to original campaign pages.

Pledge card

YOU CAN READ MORE

Learning Disability England can help you connect to members in your area.

Contact us at info@LDEngland.org.uk

How we made this

This manifesto was made by Learning Disability England members. More than 450 people from the 680 organisation and individual members got directly involved in deciding what is most important.



We would love to hear from you

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Or call our office on 0300 1110444