



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 means 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 and built from lots of campaigns and actions. More than 450 people from the 680 organisation and individual members got directly involved in deciding what is most important.



It brings together what everyone think are the most important priorities for the next government to take action to make good lives possible.



Ask your local political candidates to pledge to support people with learning disabilities to live good lives.

Be a champion

1. Be a champion for the rights of all people with learning disabilities, including people from minority ethnic communities and with high support needs.



Political candidates can help by:

Putting disability equality at the heart of UK law.



Say yes to a new cross government strategy that puts power in the hands of people with learning disabilities.



Make sure there is funding, so all disabled peoples voices are heard.

Be a Champion

Why this is important...



People with learning disabilities and autistic people face inequalities and barrier to living a good life.



There has been no new national policy about people with learning disabilities since 2009.



The UK Independent Mechanism checks people's human rights are being upheld.

They wrote to the United Nations to say the UK wasn't following their recommendations and that they had found 'grave and systematic' violations of the Convention.

Reform Social Care

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.



Political candidates can help by:

Coproduce social care with the people who use it.



Support Social Care Future '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.'



Pay Support Workers the same as band 3 staff in the NHS.

Reform Social Care

Why this is important...



People with learning disabilities make up lots of the people drawing on social care, but the issues they and the people who support them face often aren't a priority in policy.



There are 2.6 million voters with direct experience using social care or working in social care.



A pay rise for support workers is supported by 70% of the public.



Social Care Futures has the vision and evidence for how we can make social care better for everyone.

Good Health and Health Care

3. Have effective, reasonably adjusted health services that contribute to better health and raising life expectancy for people with learning disabilities.



Political candidates can help by:

Supporting more funding for better reasonably adjusted care before things go wrong.



Calling for people with learning disabilities to be prioritised on hospital waiting lists.



Committing to support and promote training, awareness and culturally competent specialist support to be in place.

Good Health and Health Services Why this is important...



The health inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities are stark and preventable.



People with a learning disability die younger than non-disabled people by at least 20 years younger.

People from ethnic minority backgrounds die at an average age of just 34, compared to an average age of 62 for white people with learning disabilities.



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

Employment and Poverty

4. Help people with learning disabilities get the jobs they want supported by a system that recognises contributions not forcing poverty.



Political candidates can help by:

Working with disabled people to remove barriers and show what's possible.



Making sure people with learning disabilities are equally included in support initiatives. Like reforming Access to Work.



Coproduce the benefits system so it is fair, and people have a enough money to live well.

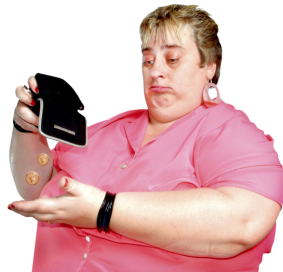
Employment and Poverty

Why this is important...



The number of people with a learning disability with a job is now at a low of 4.8%.

Research shows as many as 86% want a paid job.



Research found poorer households with a disabled person are being hit hard by the cost-of-living crisis.

With 71% going without essentials between November 2022 and May 2023.



On average, disabled households need an extra £975 a month to have the same standard of living as non-disabled households.

Housing

5. Make sure people with learning disabilities have the same access to housing options as their nondisabled peers.



Political candidates can help by:

Stop using secure hospitals, we want homes not hospitals.



Level up social housing so everyone can have somewhere safe and secure to live.



Supporting national and local annual targets to build supported housing for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

Housing

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 keep being missed.



Around 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.

Accessible Elections

6. Make this an accessible general election.



Political candidates can help by:

Making sure you have accessible information about what you and your party do.



Raising awareness of the My Vote My Voice campaign.



Joining and arranging inclusive and accessible election hustings.

Accessible Elections

Why this is important...



People with learning disabilities represent 1.5 million people in the UK, we must be listened to.



82% of people felt the Government did not listen to those with a learning disability as much as it listens to other people.



There are lots of barriers to voting: After the 2012 election 17% of people were turned away from the polling station due to their learning disability.



60% said that registering to vote was too hard.

Working with us



Ask your local political candidates to pledge to support people with learning disabilities to live good lives.

Pledge card

Share the briefing pack to help the candidates learn more.



Manifesto briefing

Remember to connect and share with other Learning Disability England members to take action together.

Get in touch



0300 1110444



info@LDEngland.org.uk

