

Welsh Learning Disability Register Inclusion Tool

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Introduction

This has been written to support the inclusion of people with a learning disability on GP register for Annual Health Check in Wales.

This is not a formal diagnostic screening tool, such as the Learning Disability Screening questionnaire (LDSQ), but a checklist to assist in the identification for the inclusion on the Learning Disability GP register. Clinical judgement should be applied throughout.

Definition of a Learning Disability (Intellectual Disability):

- A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (Significantly impaired intelligence).
- AND a reduced ability to cope independently, (Impaired social/adaptive functioning).
- AND which started before adulthood (onset before aged 18) with a lasting effect on development.
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Sometimes other terms such as '**learning difficulty**' can be confused with the term '**learning disability**' or '**intellectual disability**.' A learning difficulty is a '**neurodevelopment condition**' which makes specific forms of learning difficult but does not affect the person's intelligence or cognitive ability.

Other '**neurodevelopmental conditions**' can also be confused with a '**learning disability**' or '**intellectual disability**.' Similarly, these conditions are whereby brain development is affected and can impact on social behaviour, language skills, motor skills and learning ability. Some common neurodevelopmental conditions are attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), Autism or autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and learning difficulties (such as dyslexia or dyscalculia).

Having a learning disability or intellectual disability impairs a person's cognitive functioning and consequently everyday daily tasks such as understanding complex information, developing new skills and social functioning are affected.

Sometimes a person can have more than one condition. For example, a person may have a learning disability, Autism and Down Syndrome. Or perhaps a person may have a learning disability as well as dyslexia.

Areas to consider

These questions aim to help the identification of a learning disability. You may need further advice.

Example Table	Yes	No
Did the person attend any specialist school or were they statemented in mainstream school?		
Did the person achieve qualifications at school? (GCSE at low grade could indicate LD, but high-grade GCSE, A Levels or university education then LD is not likely).		
Do you have an educational health care plan?		
Is there a recorded learning disability in the person's notes, an IQ of lower than 70 (please refer to the appropriate codes).		
Is the person known to the learning disability service?		
Is the person under the care of a Consultant Psychiatrist for Learning Disabilities?		
Has anyone ever told the person that they have a learning disability?		
How the person functions in society		
Does the person need support with activities of daily living? If so, what does this look like? Do they need support?		
What does the person do in their day, employment, day services, support 1:1.		

Can the person solve simple, or complex problems or do they help from others?		
Can the person understand new complex information?		
Does the person need help with reading and writing? Does the person need assistance with reading appointment or official letters?		
Does the person need assistance with transport? (unable to get around independently)		
Does the person have communication needs?		

Helpful tips to consider

Factors which may indicate <u>NO</u> learning disability present	Factors that may indicate a Learning Disability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded IQ above 70 Normal development until adulthood (before 18). Successfully attended a mainstream education facility without support. Gained qualifications (GCSE and/or A Levels). Able to function socially without support. Independently manage their financial commitments. Communication difficulties due to English as a second language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recorded IQ below 70. Age of onset (under 18 years) Record of delayed development/difficulties with social functioning and daily living before the age of 18. Requires significant assistance to undertake activities of daily living, such as preparing meals or attending to personal hygiene. Social/community exclusion. Social adaptive functioning. Presence of all three criteria for Learning Disability (as above). Communication needs. Contact with Specialist Learning Disability services. Attendance at specialist educational facility for people with intellectual delay

Further support can be found from the local Primary Care Learning Disability team (PCLD) or the Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT).

Acknowledgement of supportive materials

- Leeds & York Partnership NHS Foundation
<https://www.learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Inclusion-tool-Jan-2019-3.pdf>
- Powys Teaching Health Board: <https://pthb.nhs.wales/services/learning-disabilities-services/intellectual-learning-disabilities-services>