

Learning Disability; from exclusion to inclusion

Workshop for National Inclusion Week
delivered by Erica Pope and Anj Hatcher
from the Primary Care Learning
Disability Health Liaison Project

“The health and strength of a society can be measured by how well it cares for its most vulnerable members”

Sir Jonathan Michael, Valuing People,
2008

Introductions

- Erica Pope – Primary Care Learning Disability Health liaison nurse
- Anj Hatcher – Project Support Officer
- And you...?!



What is learning disability?

- Significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence) with:
- Reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning)
- Which started before adulthood, with lasting effect on development (DoH 2001)

One size does not fit all!

- Some people may have a diagnosis, some may not.
- Some people may have a specific syndrome, some may not.
- Some people may have been to Special Needs school, some may not.
- Some people may have received specialist services, some may not.
- Some people may live independently, some may not.
- Some people may be able to form relationships, some may not.



**KEEP
CALM
IT'S
QUIZ
TIME**

Death By Indifference

- Report written by Mencap in 2007
- 6 case studies of people with learning disabilities who died prematurely.

- ***Emma***
- ***Mark***
- ***Martin***
- ***Ted***
- ***Tom***
- ***Warren***



Themes

- Diagnostic overshadowing
- Not listening to families
- Poor communication
- Presumptions
- Poor understanding of consent and capacity
- Lack of holistic care
- Poor understanding of 'challenging behaviour'
- Institutional discrimination

How can people with learning disabilities be included and health inequalities be reduced?



Easy read information

- Clear
- Jargon free
- Large font
- Pictures, symbols and words
- Short sentences
- <http://easy-read-online.co.uk/media/10612/comm%20basic%20guidelines%20for%20people%20who%20commission%20easy%20read%20info.pdf>

- Keep sentences short. Several short sentences with pauses are easier to understand than one long sentence.
- Do not use sentences containing more than 2-3 keywords. Keywords are the words that someone needs to understand in order to respond appropriately to or interpret correctly.
Put the pen and a coin in the box (3)
- Use everyday words that are familiar to the person which are relevant to the context.
- Do not use jargon and remember the person will be reluctant to say if they have not understood.
- Remember that what you term jargon may be different to the person. The following is an example of vocabulary used in a meeting that the parent did not understand: Entitled, claim, proportion, stimulation, possibility, positive, privacy, development, progress, co-work, child proof, disruptive, implications.
- Avoid:- Comparatives e.g. bigger, smaller etc
- Complex emotions e.g. jealous
- Prepositions e.g. above, below
- Complex negatives e.g. you shouldn't put it there (use no at the start of a negative sentence)
- Pronouns e.g. the, it, they, them etc. instead name
- Places and people
-
- Use pictures and other appropriate materials to convey abstract concepts.
- Repeat information often. Information will be forgotten due to memory and language processing skills.
-
- Give time to the person and make sure there are no distractions.

- Please design an easy-read leaflet to explain your job role!



Legislation

- Disability Discrimination Act 2005
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Care Act 2014



Tools

- Communication passports
- Hospital passports
- Annual Health Checks
- Health Action Plans
- Reasonable adjustments



Professionals

- The Primary Care Learning Disability Health Liaison team
- Community Learning Disability Teams
- Acute Learning Disabilities Liaison Nurse
- GP learning disability leads
- Adult Social Care
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- Charities e.g. Mencap

In groups please discuss how Emma, Mark, Martin, Ted, Tom and Warren's experiences could have been managed differently.



- The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference.
The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference.
The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference.
And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference.

Elie Wiesel

