

Camden's New Big Plan for People with Learning Disabilities

Ideas to discuss

January 2026

(Plain English)

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What is the Big Plan?

- Different parts of the UK have a Learning Disabilities Big Plan. Each one is a little different because every area has its own needs.
- The main aim is to make life better for people with learning disabilities.
- It explains what services and support should look like in the future.
- The Big Plan belongs to all of us – it's something we shape together, so everyone's voice matters.
- In Camden, we would like the new plan to be for anyone aged 14 or over who has a learning disability.

How do we know we are making progress?

- We will have a work plan alongside the Big Plan, with short, medium, and long-term goals.
- Every six months, we'll bring this work plan to Planning Together to share updates and check progress.
- In between, small groups will work on different areas to make real changes happen.

Camden & other plans

Many of the things in The Big Plan are already part of other strategies in Camden and across the whole country.

You can find copies of the strategies here:

[We Make Camden](#) (including Camden Missions)

[Supporting People Connecting Communities](#)

[The CLDS Promise](#)

[Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-30](#)

[NHS Long Term Plan](#)

Knowing where to get support and information

- We will keep improving the places where people get support – so people know where to go and can get the help they need easily. At the moment the main places people can get information are:

[CLDS info](#)

[Camden Care Choices](#)

[Camden Wikis](#)

The Greenwood Centre, 37 Greenwood PI, London NW5 1LB.

- We will speak to The Greenwood Centre on where and how best to display information. Including people who do not have an email or phone e.g. how to get added on to mailing lists, posters, a central folder with activities different of the week?
- Community Support drop ins at Greenwood where people can go for advice and support.
- Websites will be updated regularly and easy to use
- Explore other ways to share information e.g. Whatsapp
- Make libraries easier to use for people with learning disabilities e.g. the buildings, training for library staff
- We will make sure information about Adult Social Care services is clear to people with learning disabilities and their families, including what is available and how awards and contributions work.

Having a home that is right for me

- Refresh the Accommodation Plan with up to date information. The new Strategic Accommodation lead to give updates on what is being delivered.
- We will look at extending the current learning disabilities Supported Living Service when the current contract runs out in September 2026 (following initial 6 year period)
- Recommissioning of new learning disabilities Supported Living Service contract (when the extension ends).
- Shared Lives will continue to recruit and support a diverse group of carers, building on the service's progress so far.
- Check if the housing form is easy to use for people with learning disabilities.
- Transitions – early planning with children’s commissioning, CYPDS and CLDS to find suitable accommodation for young people transitioning to adulthood

Finding and keeping a job

Short Term

- Make more group training sessions for people with a learning disability so they can make friends while learning skills that will help someone get, or stay in a job.

Medium Term

- Make more 6-month paid work experience opportunities for people with a learning disability by working with local employers.
- Community support services to provide some light-touch employment support outside of the time they spend with advisors at the Disability Job Hub, i.e. job searching - so people don't need to wait to apply for jobs between appointments with an advisor
- Employment support services and community support services to work together better with ongoing support to residents in the employment journey.
- Community support to also support people who don't need more in depth support from a job hub advisor.

Long term

- Help local employers learn more about how to support disabled people in work really well.
- Find more employers to work with the job hub to include roles for people.
- Look at current work experience opportunities in CLDS to see if we need to have more of these

Feeling safe and connected

- We can use the community support drop-ins as a way to better understand people's needs and identify the best ways to support them. Drop-in providers can also tell CLDS, CYPDS if they have any worries about a person. This way, everyone works together and shares feedback.
- Working with other departments in Camden to improve awareness of the needs of people with learning disabilities
- The new Community Support service will focus on what people said matters most. This includes:
 - Helping people feel part of their community
 - Reducing inequalities
 - Supporting people to make friends
 - Helping people find jobs or further education
 - promoting healthy lives
- Support people with learning disabilities to be connected with wider community opportunities e.g. in supported living, community support and with Living a Good Life.
- Shared hours and friendship matching - matching people up who might want to go to activities together – e.g. to a movie (could link to Living a Good Life).
- Ongoing work to raise awareness of safeguarding
 - Regular sessions and activities to prevent cuckooing and financial exploitation, and mate crime
 - working alongside police and community safety partners.
 - Sending information around to promote awareness.

- Check in unannounced visits and contract monitoring for Support Living that people have care & support plans that help them to being involved in valued roles and chosen communities

Recognising different needs

- Planning Together agenda group to plan how to make the meeting more accessible for people with more profound and multiple learning disabilities
- Speak up groups in the Alexandra Centre
- Camden Accessible Transport – work in closer partnership with the service that runs this so there are no delays in people starting services.
- Get better information to make sure services ready to meet new and different needs in the future e.g. people with behaviours of concern, complex health conditions, and autism.
- CLDS to get better data on people who are referred but are not eligible for the service – to see if there are any gaps or improve services in other areas.
- Work closely with council officers on the Carers action plan so that it includes support for carers of people with learning disabilities e.g. Continue work on future planning, improving carers mental health, risk of burn out tool information and advice offer.
- Work with people with learning disabilities and their families to make sure we have the right short breaks offers

Having difficult conversations (including sex and relationships, death, mental health, personal health, money and culture)

- Working group to develop use of the Universal Care Plan.
- Deliver Significant 7 training for Community support
- The Sex and Relationships group and Health and Wellbeing group will both run once a year.
- The Living and Dying group will improve how we support people around death, dying, and bereavement.