

Building Rights: a review of Bristol's policies and actions for people with learning disabilities and autistic people



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People with Learning Disabilities and Autistic people experience some of the greatest social disadvantage of all citizens. Our social structures are not geared up to cater for people with diverse needs. This is about equity, human/civil rights, social justice and citizenship.

As individual organisations, support for people with Learning Disabilities and Autistic people is disjointed, and offers incomplete solutions.

Our services approaches seek to manage crises through control. We don't enable.

Often we send people to assessment and treatment facilities.

Sometimes people become subject to the criminal justice system, which is also not geared up to offer progressive support.

A joined up approach through which NHS, local authority, criminal justice system, DWP, independent, voluntary and community sector services and support are coordinated to provide local, bespoke and progressive solutions is essential.

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Sir Stephen Bubb recognised these issues in his independent review of the Winterbourne View ‘hospital’ facility in 2014. He recommended within that that all such facilities should be closed, and replaced with progressive community solutions.

[transforming-commissioning-services.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Sir Stephen Bubb makes clear that we commit huge amounts of resource to these inadequate approaches and that we could support our citizens in better and more cost effective ways that do not involve what is in effect, incarceration.

Sir Stephen recommended the following, in direct response to the experiences within the stories of the three families featured in his review.

A charter of rights for people with LD and Autism.

A simple and effective ‘right to complain’, for people who feel marginalised by decisions made about them.

An ‘independent commissioner’. (To be specified)

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In Bristol, we want to follow up the report with an 'aggressive' challenge to the ubiquitous social experiences of people with Learning Disabilities, Autistic people and their families have. Marvin Rees is behind this.

We are soon to hear about our Changing Futures bid: work which will bring together disparate parts of our system to work more effectively together to support people with complex needs.

We are working across BNSSG through the Healthier Together programme on Learning Disabilities and Autism.

Work will include the following.

An audit of the situation 'as is', with a strong 'lived experience' approach, to actively develop working relationships with people with Learning Disabilities, Autistic people, their families and support organisations in order to co-produce plans.

A systemic approach to complex needs through Changing Futures.