Easy Read

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Gogledd Cymru **Gyda'n Gilydd**
North Wales **Together**

Gwasanaethau ddi-dor i bobl ag Anableddau Dysgu
Seamless services for people with Learning Disabilities

Having a Learning Disability Assessment

An Easy Read Leaflet

This document was written by
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Introduction

This is an easy read document.
But you may still need support to read it.

Ask someone you know to help you.

Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand.

You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 12.**

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When we say "we" we are talking about the people who work in learning disability Health & Social Care services in North Wales.

We all worked together to make this leaflet.

This leaflet will help explain how we decide who has a learning disability.

A **learning disability** affects your ability to think, understand and reason. It can make it difficult to do everyday activities, like household tasks, socialising or managing money. A learning disability affects someone for their whole life.

People with a **learning disability** tend to take longer to learn. They may need support to develop new skills, understand complicated information and interact with other people.

mencap
The voice of learning disability

The Mencap website has more easy read information about what a learning disability is.

It also tells you why a learning difficulty is different to a learning disability.

Click in this link to find more information.

https://www.mencap.org.uk/learning-disability- explained/what-learning-disability

"Do you have a learning disability?"

We will ask this question when you ask the Community Learning Disability team if they can help you.

This might be when things are changing in your life.

You might be leaving school or college.

Or you might just need some extra help.

We will ask you some more questions to see if you need help from our service because you might have a learning disability.

These questions will help us to know if we can help you or not help you.

Before we can decide if you have a learning disability we need to know 3 things.

1. When did you start having difficulties doing things?
2. What things do you find hard to do everyday?
3. We might need to find out what your **IQ** is.

1. When did your difficulties start?

   People with learning disabilities often start having difficulties when they are young children.

2. What things do you find hard to do everyday?

   This could be:

   - Finding it hard to understand things.
   - Finding it hard to do some things.
   - You might find it hard to talk to others.

3. We might need to find out what your IQ is.

   People with learning disabilities will have an IQ under 70

The 6 Step Assessment

We will need some information about you.

We call this an **assessment.**

There are 6 steps in the assessment.
Not everyone will have to do every step.

If we think you have a learning disability before we reach step 6 we will stop the assessment.

Step 1

We will ask if you agree to be assessed.

If you do not have **capacity**, a **best interest decision** will need to be made.

Step 2

You will be asked about any exams you did in school or college.

People with learning disabilities might find exams hard.

You will be asked if you have ever had a job.

People with learning disabilities might find some types of work hard to do.

Step 3

Did your learning disability start when you were a child?

To find this out, we ask you and the people who know you well some questions.

Some of the people we will talk to are:

- Your doctors, nurses and health staff
- People who work for social services like a social worker.
- Your parents or carers
- Your school or people who knew you in school.
- Look at your **IDP**

Step 4

If we are still not sure if you have a learning disability we will ask someone to do a **questionnaire** with you.

This questionnaire will ask questions about the everyday things that you might find hard to do.

We will ask a professional like a nurse, social worker, **occupational therapist** or **assistant psychologist** to do the questionnaire with you.

What does the questionnaire tell us?

The questionnaire will show us the things you find hard to do.

We will stop the assessment after we have done the questionnaire if we have enough information.

Step 5
If the questionnaire tells us you find things harder to do than other people, we might do an **IQ assessment.**

An **IQ assessment** is when we ask you to answer 25 to 50 questions.

Some of the questions have a choice of answers for you to pick from.

It takes one to two hours to finish.

Step 6
Once we have done steps 1 to 5 we will tell you if we think you have a learning disability or not.

The person who tells you this is called a **Psychologist.**

If you do not have a learning disability then the learning disability team will not be able to help you, but there may be other support services that could help you.

If you do have a learning disability then the learning disability team will be able to help you.

What happens in the future?

If you did this assessment when you were a young person under the age of 25 then we might ask you to do the test again when you are older.

We sometimes do the assessment again to see if you still have a learning disability.

If you were not feeling well when the assessment was done, we might need to do it again when you are feeling better.

When people have been using drugs and alcohol, this can have an effect on the assessment. We sometimes have to do the assessment again when people have been using drugs or alcohol.

How to Appeal

If you are not happy with the decision you are given you can appeal.

To appeal you can contact

The learning disabilities team manager

or

The concerns team on :

Email: ConcernsTeam.bcu@Wales.nhs.uk

Telephone: 03000 851234

Hard Words

We

We mean the people who work in the learning disability services health & social care services in North Wales.

Summary

Summary is when a big document is made shorter. It does not have all the information in a summary just enough so you know what the big document is about.

IQ

IQ is short for Intelligence Quotient. It is a standard score that shows how good someone is at thinking and solving problems.
It tells us how well they can use facts and logic to answer questions.

IQ Assessment

An IQ assessment is when we ask you to answer 25 to 50 questions. The questions all have a choice of answers for you to pick from. It takes one to two hours to finish.
The test will work out how well someone can use logic and information to answer questions or make predictions.

Capacity

Means you are able to understand information and make decisions about your life.

Mental Capacity Act

A small number of people cannot make any decisions. Being unable to make a decision is called "lacking capacity".

Hard Words

The Mental Capacity Act is about making sure that people have the support they need to make as many decisions as possible.

Assessment

An assessment is when local authority and other services like health talk to you and look at how your care and support needs can be met.

Best Interest Decision

If someone has been assessed as lacking capacity, a decision needs to be made in their best interests. The person making that decision has to think about the wishes and feelings of that person. They also have to take into account their values and beliefs and make the decision that person would have made for themselves if they had capacity.

IDP

Children and Young people 0-25 with additional learning needs (ALN) will have an Individual Development Plan (IDP). The IDP is a legal document which describes a child or young person's additional learning needs, the support they need, and the outcomes they would like to achieve.

Occupational therapist

Occupational therapists work with people of all ages and can look at all aspects of daily life in your home, school or workplace. They look at activities you find difficult and see if there's another way you can do them.

Hard Words

Questionnaire

Is a way of finding out information from people by asking questions and recording their answers.

Psychologist / Assistant Psychologist

Psychologists are trained people who can:

- help you talk about your problems
- help you understand your feelings.

They may sometimes ask you to do paper and pencil tests to find out more about you.

Appeal

An appeal is the process of asking for a decision to be reviewed again when you think it is wrong.

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