

Charges

There is no charge for assessment, but you will need to pay for some services. For day services, there are small charges for meals, some activities and for transport (if you need us to arrange this). The amount you pay for short-term residential care and other services like home care will depend on your income and savings.

Independent advice

Some voluntary and private organisations offer advice and advocacy services for people with learning disabilities. Advocacy is where people speak on your behalf or help you speak. Your social worker or care co-ordinator can tell you about these services. Advice on whether you are eligible for Social Security benefits is also available.

Support for Carers

If you care for someone with a learning disability, you will have needs of your own because of the stress and work involved. We can assess your care needs in the same way as we did for the person you care for. We will take these into account when we arrange the care plan for the person you care for. As a result, we may be able to arrange services to help you, for example, regular, short stays for the person you care for. Carers support workers can give advice and information on a wide range of carers' issues, carer support groups and events. They can be contacted on:

01480 415141 for Huntingdonshire or
01354 754350 for Fenland or
01223 712055 for the rest of the county.

Services for people who have a learning disability

A guide for adults

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Services for people who have a learning disability

A guide for adults

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The Cambridgeshire Learning Disability Partnership is a single organisation which includes both Social Care Services and Health professionals. We are committed to providing services which help people who have a learning disability lead full and normal lives. Where possible, we tell people about the facilities they can use and the opportunities for them in the community. We are well aware that caring for a person with a learning disability can be stressful and physically demanding. We try to provide services which help people with learning disabilities, and their carers, to cope with these pressures.

What we mean by “Learning Disability”

We use the term learning disability to describe a variety of conditions which arise from many different causes, and which make learning difficult for some people. It is not an ‘illness’ that can be treated. In some people the disability is hardly noticeable, but other people will need a lot of care and support. With the right kind of help, all people with a learning disability are capable of considerable personal development, and of making their own contribution to society.

How to get help

If you feel that you or someone you know or care for needs help, contact your local Learning Disability Integrated Team by phoning:

Cambridge City Team	Tel: 01223 885770
South Cambridgeshire Team	Tel: 01223 884071
Huntingdonshire Team	Tel: 01480 375556
Fenland Team	Tel: 01354 754365
East Cambridgeshire Team	Tel: 01353 655220

What happens next?

We may be able to offer help and advice straightaway. Or, we may feel that a specialist worker should assess your needs. This is known as a ‘referral’. The worker will discuss your situation with you to find out exactly what your needs are. They might also talk with other people, like your family or doctor. Once there is a clear picture of your needs, the worker will discuss with you which services would help you best. This is known as ‘care planning’.

Because our resources are limited, we can only offer these services to people who need them the most. If you are not eligible to receive our services, we will tell you who else might be able to help you. If you are eligible, we will agree a package of services for you. We will write this down in your care plan and we will give you a copy.

Our Services

We will always try to organise services which:

- support carers;
- give people the skills to be as independent as possible, and encourage the opportunities to use those skills; and
- encourage opportunities in employment and leisure, especially where this involves people more in the community.

Day Services

We run day centres which cater for people who have a wide range of needs. These are specialist services for people who have very high support needs, for older people, for people with autism and people who also have mental-health problems. We also fund places on work experience schemes and sheltered work groups. Where we can, we will help people who want to take part in community education or college courses. We also help to ease some of the pressures on carers and relatives, and provide worthwhile and useful activities for people with learning disabilities.

Short-term residential care

These are short stays in residential settings where relatives and carers can have a break from the pressures that can arise from caring.

Link families

This scheme also provides breaks. People are matched with ‘link’ families in the community and stay with them for short breaks (overnight, or for a few days or more).

Long term care

For some people, a move away from their family will be more appropriate. If this is needed, it is best for people to live in their own homes (alone or in small groups), but with enough support from professional care staff to make sure they are not at risk. This is known as ‘supported living’ and there are many of these schemes across the county. We can also arrange more traditional residential care, to encourage independence and new skills. If people have specialist needs, we may have to pay for them to live in particular, specialist homes.