Learning Disabilities

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Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this leaflet was correct at the time of print. However, changes in law may mean that in time some details in this leaflet may be out of date.

Anyone using our services will be treated with dignity at all times and their faith and cultural needs will be accommodated where practically possible.

The Trust is fully compliant with the Data Protection Act and the NHS Code of Conduct

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What is an Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurse?

An experienced Learning Disability Nurse who works within United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust (ULHT) at Lincoln County, Pilgrim and Grantham Hospitals. They work closely with learning disability professionals, hospital staff, social care professionals and carers / parents to improve the journey and outcome of the person with learning disabilities while accessing an acute hospital.

Why do we need Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurse?

It is widely acknowledged people with learning disabilities have not always received the same standard of care and treatment while accessing acute hospitals. Death by Indifference, Health Care for All and Six Lives Report provide evidence of this and support the need for Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurse in each hospital.

People with learning disabilities are at an increased risk of developing complex health problems:

- They are 58 times more likely to die before the age of 50 than the rest of the general population.
- Four times more likely to die of preventable causes.
- 46%-52% will die from respiratory disease compared to 15%-17% of the rest of the general population.
- 14-20% will die from coronary heart disease the second most common cause of death in this group of individuals.
- 46%-25% will die from respiratory disease compared to 15%-17% of the rest of the general population.
- Four times more likely to die of preventable causes.
- They are 25 times more likely to die before the age of 50 than the rest of the general population.

What can Acute Learning Disability Nurses do?

- Support people with learning disabilities and their families during emergencies and hospital admission.
- Provide support, education and advice to people with learning disabilities and their families.
- Support hospital staff to receive and appropriate admission and care.
- Share knowledge and skills to hospital staff on the needs of patients with learning disabilities, for example: Mental Capacity Act / consent, reasonable adjustments, epilepsy, challenging behaviour, mental health, autism and communication.
- Provide training to hospital staff on learning disability awareness.
- Support hospital staff to ensure safe and appropriate admission and discharge.
- Support people with learning disabilities, their families and carers during hospital admission and discharge.
- Support people with learning disabilities, their families and carers in preparing the person for hospital admission and during emergency.

For further information or to make a referral please contact:

- **Pilgrim & Grantham Hospital**
  - Address: Endeavour Park, Ventures House, Lincoln County Hospital, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 9YF
  - Tel: 01522 711600
  - Email: kerry.poberezniuk@nhs.net

- **Lincoln County Hospital**
  - Address: Victoria Park, Greetwell Road, Lincoln, Lincolnshire, LN2 4JZ
  - Tel: 01522 527854
  - Email: karen.seale@nhs.net

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