

## Eligibility Criteria: Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities (CTPLD).

### Factsheet

#### Introduction

This factsheet has been written to outline the eligibility criteria for North Somerset Councils Adult Social Services and Housing Community Team for People with Learning Disabilities (CTPLD). It should be noted that access [to the NHS Community Learning Disabilities Team, provided by Sirona Care and Health](#), is determined differently.

The factsheet also provides definitions for the terms learning disabilities, learning difficulties, and autism spectrum disorder. These definitions are often used by the CTPLD to determine eligibility for their support. These definitions should be considered by any professional before referring a person for support from the CTPLD.

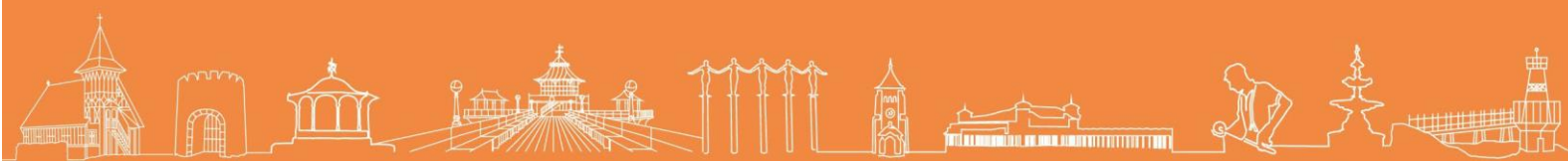
#### Eligibility Criteria for the CTPLD team

The CTPLD considers the care and support needs of people with learning disabilities where social care statutory duties must be met. The CTPLD team cannot provide NHS services nor facilitate access to clinical and/or therapeutic interventions. The NHS Community Learning Disabilities Team, provided by Sirona Health Care, will consider the health needs of people with learning disabilities, and can facilitate access to NHS service, clinical and/or therapeutic interventions.

A person with a 'learning disability' may be deemed as eligible for support from the CTPLD, if they meet all three of the following criteria:

1. Have a significantly reduced ability to understand new or more complex information or to learn new skills. A person's I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient) is not the only defining factor, but those with an I.Q. below 70 would be considered for the purpose of this definition.
2. Have a significantly reduced ability to cope independently, i.e., they have impaired personal and social skills (for example: with communication, self-care, daily living skills, use of community resources, health and safety, leisure, or work).
3. A learning disability was diagnosed before adulthood (18 yrs) with a lasting effect on a person's development.

Referrals to the CTPLD should include evidence of a person's diagnosis of learning disability (i.e. medical evidence, educational statement).



### **People who do not meet the eligibility criteria for support from the CTPLD team.**

1. People with an acquired injury, that occurred post 18 years of age, leading to the loss of the ability to understand new or more complex information or to learn new skills (e.g. victims of road traffic accidents).
2. People who are of average or above average intelligence, with social/communication disorders
3. People with a specific learning difficulty which is more broadly defined in Education legislation (e.g. Dyslexia).
4. People with a primary disorder and support needs that are related to alcohol and drug misuse, sensory impairment, psychiatric illness, or physical impairment.
5. People who experience difficulties because of environmental and/or emotional circumstances/experience (e.g., emotional trauma, abuse, limited educational opportunities). People in these situations may be subject to further clinical assessment / opinion.
6. Needs that can best be met by other services.

### **What if I can't find the evidence that a person has a learning disability?**

Where there are difficulties in evidencing a diagnosis of a learning disability, as set out in the eligibility criteria, the CTPLD can be contacted directly to discuss the person and their support needs on a case-by-case basis. Where appropriate the CTPLD can, offer advice, suggest reasonable adjustments that can be made by other teams to support the person, and/or offer joint working to establish the person's social care needs. These decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

On occasion a person's needs may not fit neatly with any team. In such cases the heads of service will seek agreement which service is best placed to support the person.

### **What is a learning disability?**

In [Valuing People \(2001\)](#) a learning disability is defined as the presence of

- A significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills (impaired intelligence), with;
  - reduced ability to cope independently (impaired social functioning);
  - which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development
- (Department of Health 2001).

[Learning disabilities are diagnosed along a continuum](#) (mild, moderate, severe, or profound). In all cases a learning disability is lifelong.

This definition is referred to in the CTPLD eligibility criteria. People with a mild learning disability do not always have needs that require specialist CTPLD support.

The CTPLD are always willing to support assessment of individuals with mild learning disabilities to ensure that they are correctly receiving the right targeted services.

It is important to note that some people also use the internationally and diagnostically recognised term of intellectual disability to refer to what the Department of Health (2001) define as a learning disability.

### **What is a learning difficulty?**

The term learning disability is not to be confused with a [learning difficulty](#). A learning difficulty is a condition which creates an obstacle to a specific form of learning but does not present a significantly reduced ability to learn new skills, understand complex information or cope independently. Examples include dyslexia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyspraxia, and dyscalculia.

It is important to note that a person with a learning disability may also have one or more learning difficulties, but a person with a learning difficulty, or multiple learning difficulties, does not necessarily have a learning disability.

### **What is autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?**

[Autism spectrum disorder, usually called autism, is neither a learning disability nor a learning difficulty](#). Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder, which might affect the way a person interacts with others in social situations, how they communicate with others, and how they experience the world around them.

[In the past](#), autism was broken down into several different diagnoses, including: Asperger's Syndrome, autistic disorder, Kanner's Syndrome, childhood autism, atypical autism, Pervasive Development Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). Because these diagnoses all had the characteristics of autism, they were removed and replaced with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

[Autism and learning disabilities can occur together. You can also have one without the other](#). Please see our [Autism Strategy](#) for more information regarding support for autistic people.

### **Feedback**

If you are unhappy about any action or decision in relation to the CTPLD team, you should initially talk to the person you normally deal with. If you are unable to resolve your complaint in this way, you can contact:

#### **Complaints Manager,**

Adult Social Services and Housing,  
Town Hall,  
Walliscote Grove Road,  
Weston super Mare,

BS23 1UJ

**Telephone:** 01275 882171

**Email:** [complaints.manager@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:complaints.manager@n-somerset.gov.uk)

### **Accessibility**

All North Somerset Council documents can also be made available in large print, audio, and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files. Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English. Please email [adultspolicy@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:adultspolicy@n-somerset.gov.uk) or ring 01934 888 888.

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