

# Learning Disability

## Safeguarding

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### Version Control Sheet

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### Version History

Version	Date	Summary of changes
V1	17 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	Initial draft
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### Change Control

Any requested changes to this document should be emailed to:

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## 1. Purpose and Aim

This policy has been developed to provide information and detail practice requirements regarding the management of Service Users who are accommodated with Serco who have a learning disability. The purpose of this advice is to:

- Provide a clear process to follow when a Service User has a learning disability;
- Outline the reporting requirements;
- Reduce the level of uncertainty and stress for staff in managing service users who has a learning disability.

## 2. Summary

### Definition of a **learning disability**:

A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities – for example household tasks, socialising or managing money – which affects someone for their whole life.

People with a learning disability tend to take longer to learn and may need support to develop new skills, understand complicated information and interact with other people. There are different types of learning disability, which can be mild, moderate, severe or profound. In all cases a learning disability is lifelong.

It can be difficult to diagnose a mild learning disability as the individual will often mix well with others and will be able to cope with most everyday tasks. However, they may need support in other areas of their life such as filling out forms.

People with a severe learning disability or profound and multiple learning disability (PMLD), will need more care and support with areas such as mobility, personal care and communication. People with a moderate learning disability may also need support in these areas, but not definitely.

### **Learning disability support**

The level of support someone needs depends on the individual. For example, someone with a mild learning disability may only need support with things like getting a job. However, someone with a severe or profound learning disability may need fulltime care and support with every aspect of their life – they may also have physical disabilities.

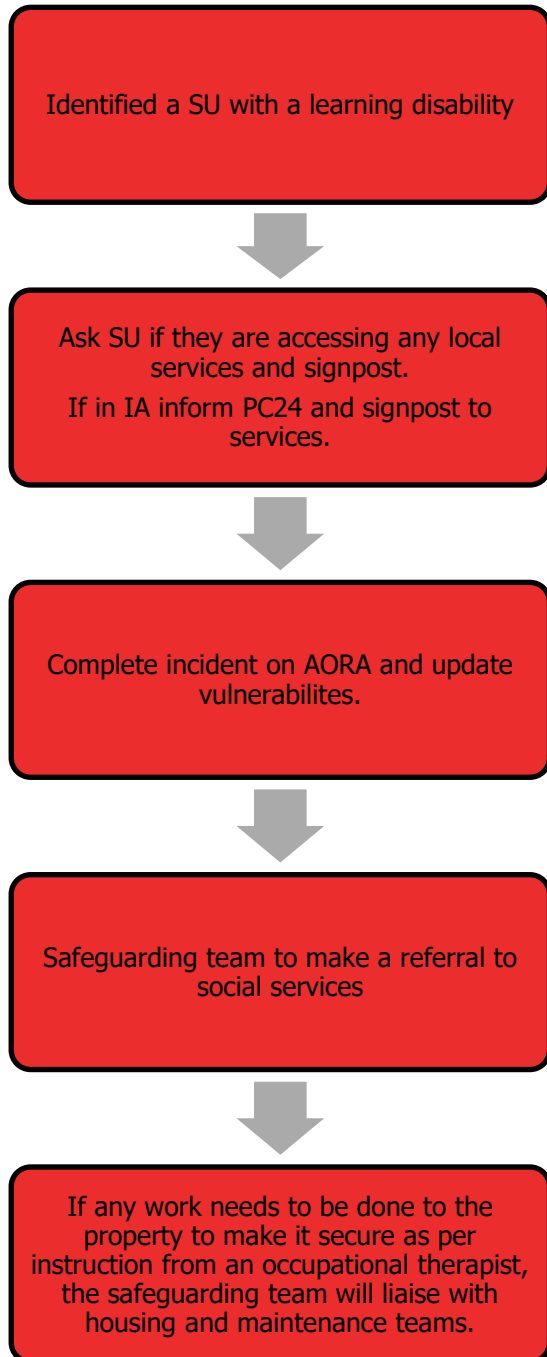
People with certain specific conditions can have a learning disability too. For example, people with Down's syndrome and some people with autism have a learning disability.

### Definition of **learning difficulty**:

A learning difficulty is different from a learning disability as a learning difficulty does not affect general intellect. There are many different types of learning difficulty, some of the more well-known are dyslexia, attention deficit-hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), dyspraxia and dyscalculia. A person can have one, or a combination.

As with learning disability, they can also exist on a scale. A person might have a mild learning disability or a severe learning disability. The same is true of learning difficulties.

### 3. Process



If someone is concerned about a SU's welfare they should tell the Safeguarding Manager, Housing Officer and Field Operations Manager. For further guidance around Safeguarding please see the Safeguarding Policy.

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#### 4. What information to record

We need to record:

- Name
- NASS/Port Ref
- Address
- The details of the learning disability
- Details of referrals already made
- Details of any contacts for other stakeholders involved.

#### 5. Contact Details

The following people must always be made aware:

- Housing Officer of the property
- Field Operations Manager
- Safeguarding Team –
- Home Office -
- Home Office Safeguarding Hub
  - NW –
  - MEE –

In the appendix you will find national and regional agencies that you can sign post or refer Service Users to.

The Safeguarding Team will be responsible for making the referrals during normal working hours, support from the Housing Officer may be needed. If anything, urgent is needed out of hours the on-call Housing Officer should complete.

#### 6. Confidentiality

Information should only be shared with people who need to know. This includes the above contacts and any relevant external stakeholders i.e. social services. If there is a request for information regarding a case that they have not previously been in contact about or we have not referred to them you must advise that they contact.

Refer to

#### 7. Appendix

##### **National**

Mencap- 02074540454

National Autistic Society- 02078332299

British Institute of Learning Disability- 01562723010

Liveability- 020 7452 2110

Learning Disability England-03001110444

Leonard Cheshire- 01295 673760

HFT- 0117 906 1700

**Regional**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Birmingham	
Blackburn with Darwen	
Bolton	
Bury	
Cheshire East	
Cheshire West	
Coventry	
Derby	
Dudley	
Halton	
Knowsley	
Lancashire County Council	
Leicester	
Liverpool	
Manchester	
Norfolk	
Nottingham	
Oldham	
Peterborough	
Rochdale	
Salford	
Sandwell	
Sefton	
St Helens	
Stockport	
Stoke	
Suffolk	
Tameside	
Trafford	
Walsall	
Warrington	
Wigan	
Wirral	
Wolverhampton	