

People with learning difficulties

Mr L's story

Mr L moved into a training flat for people with learning difficulties from a supported living scheme outside Hackney. **The training flat helps people develop their living skills.** He worked with our specialist occupational therapy team and his support workers, practising previously unfamiliar daily activities. Mr L learned to cook for himself, clean and iron and is very proud of his many achievements. He can prepare healthy, balanced meals without relying on support workers for help and he lost weight after attending the Reach weight management group where he learned about healthy diet and exercise. Mr L now enjoys daily walks and is keen to sign up to a local gym. The Able to Travel Bus days **helped to build Mr L's confidence** so he now can travel to visit friends and his favourite barber shop in his former neighbourhood. Mr L is now bidding for a flat through the council's Choice based letting scheme and is looking forward to not having to share his home with others anymore.



Learning difficulties in Hackney

There are around 3,943 adults with learning difficulties living in Hackney. Of these it is estimated about 842 have moderate or severe learning difficulties. People with learning difficulties experience more ill health and disease including high rates of obesity, heart disease, mental ill health, sensory and breathing problems and physical impairments. Last year we provided social care and support to 483 adults with learning difficulties. A further 211 people get help exclusively from the health service. Many adults with learning difficulties receive help to live independently in their own accommodation.



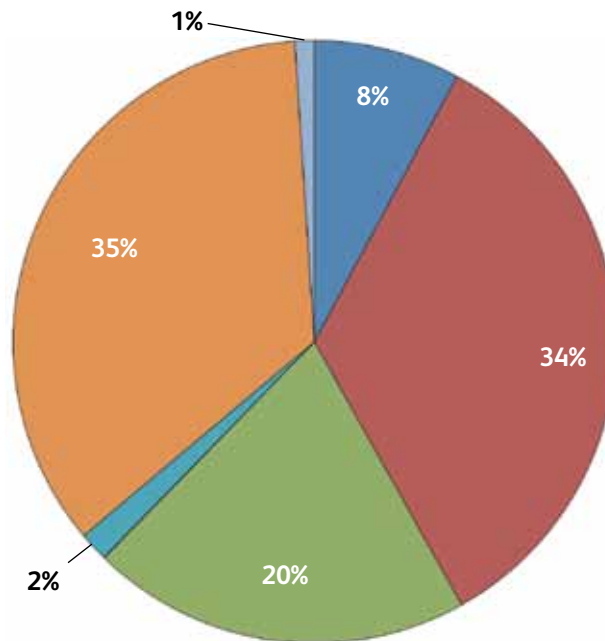
“Just because I have a learning difficulty, I shouldn't be treated like an idiot or called names”

What we spent in 2012-13

We spent a total of £19.2 million on services for 483 adults with learning difficulties last year. Part of the money supported 112 carers of adults with learning difficulties, including services such as home care to give carers a break.

Key

- **£1.5m (8 %)** home care for 117 people, most receive around 17.5 hours of care per week
- **£6.5m (34 %)** supported housing schemes, tenancies for 176 adults where personal care support is provided
- **£3.9m (20 %)** day care, 191 people
- **£0.4m (2 %)** placement scheme, 73 people
- **£6.7m (35 %)** residential homes, 136 people (includes respite)
- **£0.2m (1 %)** nursing homes, 2 people



In the above chart, we have not included 43 people who received professional support from our social workers, mainly for advocacy. These costs are paid out of staff costs as shown in the [Overview fact sheet](#).

Some people received more than one service

Plans

Our major plan for 2013-14 is merging council and health services for people with learning difficulties into a single service, which will mean people's social care and health needs can be met in a seamless way. Below we have summarised what we did in 2012-13 and what we plan to do in 2013-14.

What you wanted...	Examples of what we did and what we plan to do
Help for carers to have a break and support for them in their caring role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Supported 112 carers of people with learning difficulties
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We will select organisations to co-ordinate and manage a new network of carers services including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advice ○ Carers assessments ○ Arranging direct payments ○ Carers cards <p>Read more about carers service online</p>

What you wanted...	Examples of what we did and what we plan to do
<p>More control and choice over services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than doubled number of adults with learning difficulties receiving self directed support from 36 % (159) in 2011-12 to 89 % (338) in 2012-13 • We reviewed our day services, including Trowbridge, and found they were no longer good value and people wanted a wider range of activities. Our review which used findings from an online survey (2011) and consultation with key stakeholders (2012) showed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ People want more choice, variety and flexibility in what is offered ◦ People want us to protect the most vulnerable people ◦ Day care attendance is reducing ◦ More people are using direct payments to organise their own care • Over the next three years, day services will change: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Our four day care centres will close, subject to finding a suitable site ◦ A new purpose built resource centre will open in 2015-16 for people with the highest levels of need ◦ A range of existing and new community based day activities will be available for service users who will not be attending the Resource Centre ◦ People living in 24 hour staffed accommodation will generally have their day activities provided through their accommodation providers supported by the activity co-ordinators • We will engage with a range of stakeholders including existing users and their carers <p>Read the cabinet report on changes to day services</p>
<p>Help for people with learning difficulties to become more independent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully established our new Hackney One Team (HOT) which supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ 30 people in paid employment ◦ 15 people in work experience placements ◦ 29 people in voluntary work to attend vocational and life skills courses at north London colleges ◦ Supported 60 people to progress to college and take courses • Continue to develop new partnerships and work with colleges to develop courses • Helped eight people become more independent by moving them from residential homes to a supported living scheme • Invest in new preventative services for those people who have moderate levels of need, but are not eligible for social care support. Services or support will delay or reduce the need for more intensive help including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Managing finances and housing ◦ Taking medication and treatment ◦ Health and wellbeing ◦ Volunteering and befriending

What you told us in March and April 2013

We received lots of useful comments and feedback about our services when we consulted people with learning difficulties on what should go into the local account between March and April 2013. Below we have summarised what you said you wanted, what we are doing and other plans to improve services.

What you said you wanted...	Examples of what we are already doing	Examples of what we plan to do in 2013-14 and beyond
More easy read information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ordered easy read booklets and letters covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> personalisation assessments reviews eligibility for services how resources are allocated outcome focused support plans appeals Provided 2011-12 Local Account in easy read format using images 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will make these available to people with learning difficulties in 2013-14 including on Hackney iCare Use Disability BackUp language code for next local account
To feel safe in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2012-13 we helped 80 people gain confidence using public transport by taking part in travel training - 15 more than last year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013-14 we will continue the travel training and plan to help more than 100 people
Access to self advocacy and speak up forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We fund advocacy and self advocacy for people with learning difficulties in different ways (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to fund advocacy and self advocacy forums during 2013-14

Advocacy for people with learning difficulties

Often people with learning difficulties find it hard to get their views heard.


Advocacy and self advocacy play an important part in making sure the views of people with learning difficulties are taken into account when planning services.

Hackney Council funds advocacy and self advocacy for people with learning difficulties in

different ways including:

- Hackney Self Advocacy forum and Speak Up groups run by [POhWER](#)
- The Big Do – an annual participation event for people with learning difficulties
- [Advocacy for All](#) – a new advocacy network which includes advocacy delivered by Hackney Mencap
- [Voiceability](#) – an Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy service

Contact details and how to get a printed copy

 If you would like to receive a printed copy of a fact sheet or one in another language or alternative format, call **020 8356 3980**.

If you want to contact Adult Social Care to get help or find out more about the services available, call **020 8356 6262** or visit www.hackneyicare.org.uk