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Introduction

Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to Manchester for our first annual Learning Disability Practice conference.

The focus of the day is improving the health and well-being of people with learning disabilities and we intend to provide you with vital information to enable you the help make this happen.

We recognise how busy everyone working in health and social care is and appreciate the fact that you have taken time out of your normal routine and away from your important work to come here.

The way we can repay you for your attendance today is to enable you to go away at the end of the proceedings with lots of useful new information, a bunch of new contacts and some ideas for ways that you can make a difference in the lives of the people you provide care for.

So we have gathered great speakers and presenters, and we are confident that you will gain something useful from every session.

The day is organised into main hall sessions and four workshops, which everyone will be able to attend.

All of the speakers will be using their unique expertise and experience to provide you with insights that will stay with you.

Please take advantage of the opportunities this conference offers to network and get to know new people - key people in health care will be with us today so please make the most of the chance to engage with them.

We hope you have a successful conference and we will take note of your feedback at the end of the day so that next year’s conference will be even better.

Contents

4–5  Programme Schedule
6–12  Speaker Biographies
13  Reflections
14  Notes
## Programme Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08.30 – 09.25</td>
<td>Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing</td>
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</table>
| 09.25 – 09.30 | **Welcome to the day**  
Chair: Colin Parish, Editor, Learning Disability Practice                                |
| 09.30 – 10.00 | **How will improvements in health and wellbeing be achieved?**  
David Harling, programme lead – Best Care Now Support Team and safety lead for Learning Disability, Nursing Directorate, NHS England |
| 10.00 – 10.15 | **Q & A**  
Chair: Professor Michael Brown, Consultant Editor, Learning Disability Practice                                                   |
| 10.15 – 10.50 | **Plenary Sessions:**  
- **Workshop A** – What parents want?  
  Viv Cooper, chief executive officer, Challenging Behaviour Foundation.  
- **Workshop B** – The Health Equalities Framework (HEF)  
  Crispin Hebron, nurse consultant, 2gether NHS Foundation Trust  
- **Workshop C** – Positive and Safe document, about minimising restraint and maximising Positive behaviour support (PBS)  
  Guy Cross, Mental Health Act approvals manager, policy lead Positive and Safe, Department of Health  
- **Workshop D** – How nurses should influence commissioning  
  David Williams, clinical nurse specialist, Salford and Nigel Johnson, integrated commissioning manager |
| 10.50 – 11.15 | Refreshments and exhibition viewing                                                                                                |
| 11.15 – 11.45 | **Key Note Address: LD and the 5 year plan**  
Jane Cummings, chief nursing officer, NHS England                                                                                 |
| 11.45 – 12.15 | **Achieving outcomes that matter**  
Dr Dominic Slowie, national clinical director for learning disability                                                                   |
| 12.15 – 12.20 | **Q&A**  
Jane Cummings and Dr Dominic Slowie                                                                                               |
| 12.20 – 12.45 | **Plenary Sessions:**  
- **Workshop A** – What parents want?  
  Viv Cooper, chief executive officer, Challenging Behaviour Foundation.  
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12.45 – 13.45</td>
<td>Lunch and exhibition viewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.45 – 14.05</td>
<td><strong>RCN Forum Activities and Video</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael Brown, consultant editor, Learning Disability Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.05 – 14.40</td>
<td><strong>Plenary Sessions:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Workshop A – What parents want?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Viv Cooper, chief executive officer, Challenging Behaviour Foundation.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>15.20 – 15.40</td>
<td>Refreshments and exhibition viewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.40 – 16.00</td>
<td><strong>Expert by Experience!</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Laura Green and Stevie Corrie chaperoned by Lisa Birtles-Smith, clinical lead nurse, Halton Learning Disability Nursing Team, Widnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.00 – 16.15</td>
<td>‘The alternative path to health and wellbeing’ (Tip: It has potholes)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wendy Johnson, matron, Great Western Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.15 – 16.50</td>
<td><strong>Recap of the day, closing comments.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Professor Michael Brown and Colin Parish</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.50</td>
<td><strong>Conference closes</strong></td>
</tr>
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Speakers

Viv Cooper, OBE

Founder of the Challenging Behaviour Foundation

Viv’s son Daniel (29) has severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging.

In 1997 she founded the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, a small national charity providing information and support to professionals and families caring for individuals with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging.

Viv participates in a range of groups and networks at local, regional and national level. The Challenging Behaviour Foundation also works strategically through the Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group, which Viv Chairs.

Professor Michael Brown

Nurse consultant, NHS Lothian & Professor of health & social care research, Edinburgh Napier University & chair of the RCN Learning Disability Nursing Forum

He is a health sciences graduate from Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, and holds a Master’s degree in policy and politics from the University of Edinburgh. He undertook a post-graduate teaching certificate and PhD at Edinburgh Napier University, and is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He has published in the nursing literature on a range of issues relating to the care and treatment of people with learning disabilities.

Professional qualifications
PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE, RNLD, RGN, FHEA
Colin Parish

Editor, Learning Disability Practice

Colin Parish is the editor of Learning Disability Practice and Mental Health Practice since.

He started his nursing career in 1977 when he trained as a general nurse in Greenwich, south London, and as a mental health nurse in Bexley, Kent.

He worked in various community nursing roles in London throughout the 1980s before becoming a lecturer and later a senior lecturer in nursing at Middlesex University, where he worked for ten years, specialising in teaching communication skills.

In 1999 he moved into publishing, working in various roles on the RCNi weekly Nursing Standard magazine. He has been in his current role since 2009.

Crispin Hebron

Non-medical consultant

Crispin is a non-medical consultant at a mental health and learning disability foundation trust. He is a qualified nurse and social worker who has previously worked in the NHS and the third sector in a range of nursing, project and management roles.

He contributed as an investigator to the Confidential Inquiry into Premature Deaths in People with Learning Disabilities (CIPOLD), which was run by the Norah Fry research centre at Bristol University and published in 2013.

He has a degree in nursing and social work, and a master’s degree in leadership and organisation of public services.

He has published various articles and book chapters focussing on health issues and the delivery of effective services for people with learning disabilities.

Professional qualifications
MSc. Leadership and Organisation of Public Services.
Dominic Slowie
National clinical director for learning disability, NHS England

Dominic’s role is to work with NHS England to provide clinical leadership and support to deliver improved health outcomes across the five domains of the NHS Outcomes Framework, set out in objectives within the secretary of state’s mandate.

Dominic established and chaired the North East and Cumbria Learning Disability Network. He is a GP by clinical background and continues his clinical work three sessions a week.

He is the father of three children, the eldest of whom has a profound learning disability and complex health problems.

Guy Cross
Civil servant, Department of Health

Guy initially trained as a solicitor before joining the Department of Health as a civil servant 19 years ago. In that time he has worked in a number of roles including workforce development, organisational development and, most recently, mental health. His current portfolio includes responsibility for Mental Health Act approvals and implementation of the Positive and Safe programme.
David Harling
Registered nurse

David is a registered learning disability nurse and a registered mental health nurse. He has a master’s degree and is currently undertaking a PhD.

His substantive post is the national safety lead for learning disability and in the past he has been a nurse consultant in learning disability, strategic health authority regional clinical lead, service manager, clinical nurse specialist, charge nurse, staff nurse and residential care officer. He is currently seconded in the role as programme lead for the Best Care Now Support Team, prior to which, he led the Improving Lives team, both within NHS England.

He is a non-medical prescriber and holds diplomas in cognitive behavioural therapy and applied behavioural analysis.

David has more than 25 years’ experience in the field of learning disability and mental health. He has published work at a regional and national level, and has served in an advisory capacity on a range of national policy and strategic developments, including with Department of Health, the Kings Fund, Valuing People Support Team, the Royal Colleges of Nursing and Psychiatry, and the Challenging Behaviour Foundation.

During his career David has received a number of awards including the Florence Nightingale International Travel Scholarship, the Nursing Standard Royal College of Nursing learning disability nurse of the year award, the NIMHE national positive practice award, Foundation of Nursing Studies national innovation in practice award and was selected to present to MP’s at the House of Commons on learning disability nursing.

David is passionate about improving services and his driving ambition is to ensure people with learning disabilities and autism, their families and carers are more widely recognised for their contributions as ‘experts’ in helping to grow and shape services.

Jane Cummings
Chief nursing officer for England

Jane Cummings has been chief nursing officer (CNO) for England and the professional lead for nursing and midwifery in England since June 2012. She launched the Compassion in Practice strategy and the values of the 6Cs in December that year.

Since April 2014, Jane has been the senior responsible officer for learning disability at NHS England and she is also the executive lead for patient safety and patient experience.

Before joining NHS England Jane was chief nurse at NHS North of England. This followed her role at NHS North West where she was the lead director for several functions, including chief nurse, as well as quality, performance, Quality, Innovation, Improvement and Prevention (QIPP) and commissioning.

Jane was the nursing advisor for emergency care in the CNO’s office before becoming the national lead for emergency care in February 2004, with responsibility for improving waiting times and delivering the four-hour 98% target in emergency departments. In January 2005, she was appointed as the national implementation director for ‘Choice’ and ‘Choose and Book’. Jane also worked with the Royal College of Nursing to develop the role of nurses, and improve the experience and care of patients requiring urgent and emergency care.

Jane specialised as an emergency care nurse before moving into management.

She is a trustee of the Over the Wall Children’s Charity and volunteers as a nurse at the children’s camps. She is also a board trustee for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Jane was awarded a Doctorate by Edge Hill University in 2012.
Speakers

Nigel Johnson
Integrated commissioner, NHS Salford

Nigel is an integrated commissioning manager at NHS Salford Clinical Commissioning Group.

After studying economics he worked in the retail sector before changing career to work in an adult training centre for people with learning disabilities in the mid-1980s.

After a number of roles in community work and training in the 1990s he became a development officer and then commissioner in charge of Trafford resettlement programme for people from long stay hospitals Calderstones, The Royal Albert and Cranage Hall.

His team, including ‘a relentlessly sensible community nurse’ bequeathed to Trafford a stock of fully accessible bungalows in a determination to future-proof the move of 70 people to the leafy borough.

Now he is responsible for the much-discussed integrated learning disability service in Salford.

Nigel remains convinced of the need to use person-centred approaches to focus the skills and knowledge of the professions involved in a way that supports the human aspirations of people within the context of a social model of disability.

Wendy Johnson
Matron, Great Western Hospital

Wendy is a matron at the Great Western hospital. She is also the carer of her grown-up daughter who has learning difficulties and is on the autistic spectrum – their exploits are features in the Learning Disability Practice column ‘Planet Rachael’.

She began her nursing career with the Royal Air Force in the hope of being posted to some exotic location involving palm trees and nights on the beach, but she never made it further than Oxfordshire. Her NHS career started in 2000 since when she has worked in medicine, surgery, cardiology high dependency and older persons care.

She is currently the matron-level trust lead for safeguarding, mental health, dementia and learning disabilities, and is matron for an older persons care ward. She has a professional interest in teaching and is an associate lecturer at Oxford Brookes University.

In her spare time Wendy enjoys creative writing, trail running with her two Labradors Alfie and Henry, Elizabethan History, theatre and cinema.
Laura Green

I have been running my own business Serendipity for the last five years. Serendipity is a retail business selling fashion accessories and jewellery. My strap line is 'Fashion for passion.' Serendipity is a community interest company meaning any profit I make I can use to help other people with additional needs in the community. I have recently been on the BBC news. They filmed me working on my business with my personal assistants to show other people that it is possible to work when you have additional needs.

I have also worked for an organisation called Halton Speak Out since 2006. This is a self advocacy group supporting people with additional needs to have their own voice. Halton Speak Out supported me to set up my own business.

Another big part of my life is the ELLA Performance Group. I have recently played the part of Nancy in Oliver and am currently working on my new role as Smee in our new production of Peter Pan. ELLA is an inclusive group that encourages everyone to reach their potential through performance and give the message that people with disabilities can achieve and lead a productive life and should be fully included in their communities.

Outside of all this, I like to meet with my friends for a glass of wine (or two!) and a meal to relax and catch up with them.

Stevie Corry

I am 35 years old. I live in Runcorn I have a dog called biscuit. I was born with a rare condition called Cystinosis, which affects most of the organs in my body but mainly the kidneys.

I have to go on Dialysis three times a week for four hours each time. Dialysis does the job of your kidneys it gets rid of all the toxins from your body and blood.

It also takes off excess fluid that I retain. I am only allowed to drink one litre of fluid a day but I try not to let this condition run my life.

In my spare time I like to go out with my friends and have girly night at my house.

I have great support from my friends and family.

I also volunteer at a local primary school where I help the children with their reading and writing, which I really enjoy.

I attend the Ella performance group once a week where I do a variety of different activities including dance, drama, and singing; this has really helped me with my self-confidence.

I work with Halton Speak Out on the people’s cabinet. This covers lots of different things that people may need help with including health, friendships and relationships, keeping safe, housing and personalisation. It is a very rewarding job.
Dave Williams
Clinical nurse specialist, Salford Learning Disability

Dave Williams has been a clinical nurse specialist at Salford Learning Disability Service since 2009.

He completed his learning disability nurse training in 2001 and has a diploma in social work, and since qualifying, he has worked in community teams and supported living services.

Dave has been the chair of the influential Northwest Positive Behaviour Network since 2008 and he is also chair of the Northwest Learning Disability Nurse network.

In January 2015 Dave was appointed to the RCN Learning Disability Forum steering committee. He sits on the Winterbourne Assurance Board (previously the Joint Improvement Board), and is also the Bubb report steering group.

Since August 2014 he has been a member of national challenging behaviour strategy group steering group.

Lisa Birtles-Smith
Learning disability clinical lead

I qualified as a Learning Disability Nurse in 1995. I have had numerous roles working with people with a learning disability in various environments. I led on transition in Halton and, through the systems and processes devised, outcomes for young people improved. I implemented all children in need meetings as person-centred reviews and Halton was one of a small number of areas that were graded highly by the Transition Support Programme.

I have co-produced an accessible weight management programme for people with a learning disability. I provide training to individuals with a learning disability, carers, families plus professionals such as orthoptists and GPs.

I am the clinical lead nurse managing a community learning disability nursing team and the learning disability clinical lead for Halton clinical commissioning group. I am committed to person-centred approaches which empower people with a learning disability to make choices and take control of all aspects of their lives.
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