

OXFORDSHIRE JOINT HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 January 2026

Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 - 2035

Report by Karen Fuller, Director Adult Social Care

Purpose of Paper

This paper provides an update to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) on the adults Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 – 2035.

Executive Summary

1. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan is a 10-year strategy for adults, including the transition into adulthood. The Plan focuses on four key themes and four cross-cutting areas. Planned reviews and refresh at regular intervals will ensure its effectiveness and adaptability, with any necessary revisions applied based on needs and demands at that time.
2. Developed through extensive engagement and consultation with people with a learning disability, families, carers and strategic partners, the Plan aims to reduce inequalities, prioritise people's health and wellbeing, and embed the principles of the Oxfordshire Way across integrated health and social care systems by delivering services differently to meet local needs.
3. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan (Annex 1) has been co-designed with people with lived experience, their families and carers, and strategic partners. The dynamic work plans (Annex 2) have been co-produced. The Learning Disability Improvement Board has oversight of the Plan and the progress of the dynamic work plans.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan on the 26 June 2025, with acknowledgement that further amendments may be made following public consultation. The plan will be further presented to Cabinet on 27th January 2026 for information and update on the progress prior to its launch on the same day.

Overview of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 - 2035

5. The estimated population of people living in Oxfordshire in 2025 who are aged 18 years and over is 621,700 with a projected increase to 688,400 by 2035. Of this population it is estimated that there are 14,688 people with a learning

disability, with this number projected to increase over the next 10 years to 16,160 people by 2035 ([Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information System](#) and [Projecting Older People Population Information System](#)).

6. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan is for adults, including the transition into adulthood. The 10-year plan will undergo comprehensive reviews to ensure its effectiveness and adaptability at years 3, 5, and 7, applying any revisions required based on needs and demands at that time.
7. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan is structured to be an easier to read document to ensure it is inclusive amongst the Learning Disability community. It has been co-designed with people with lived experience, their families and carers, voluntary sector organisations, support providers, health, and social care. The dynamic work plans have been co-produced.
8. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan encompasses topics identified by individuals with learning disabilities as most important to their lives across four key themes:
 - Theme One Having a Good Life: Has a focus on people living a good life with daytime and evening opportunities, work and employment, and advocacy.
 - Theme Two Health and Wellbeing: Has a focus on people being able to live well, maintaining health and wellbeing, health inequalities, and links to the Learning Disability Physical Health Strategy.
 - Theme Three Having a Place to Live: Has a focus on housing options, support providers, and people knowing their rights and having choices related to this theme.
 - Theme Four Homes not Hospitals: Has a focus on support in the community and having systems in place to help avoid admissions to hospital under the Mental Health Act or with discharge planning.

There are four cross-cutting areas threaded throughout the key themes: life changes and transitions, workforce, assistive technology / technology enabled care, and equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI).

9. Each key theme has a sub-group which is linked with the Learning Disability Improvement Board. The sub-groups have been instrumental in developing the key themes within the Plan and shaping the evolving dynamic work plans which sit alongside it. Membership includes experts by experience, organisations, and professionals.
10. Key aspects within Theme 2 Health and Wellbeing, and Theme 4 Homes not Hospital, align with the 10-year NHS Plan and Neighbourhood Health. The Plan supports integrated care pathways and community-based initiatives. Some elements are also incorporated within the other two themes where areas interlink, especially when physical health, mental health, and housing overlap. Building strong relationships, taking part in meaningful activities and opportunities to enjoy life can also support people's mental wellbeing.

11. The overarching vision for delivering Adult Social Care in Oxfordshire, the Oxfordshire Way, is embedded throughout the Plan emphasising strengths-based and asset-based approaches to support people to live well within their communities. It focuses on working in partnership with others to build resilient communities and neighbourhoods, and people remaining fit and healthy for as long as possible.
12. The Plan's Theme Two Health and Wellbeing, links to the Learning Disability Physical Health Strategy (Annex 3) overseen by Oxford Health NHS Trust Learning Disability Team. Representatives from the council including Commissioning, Adult Social Care and Public Health attend quarterly meetings for the strategy, along with other strategic partners. The strategy consists of six key streams including topics identified from learning from lives and deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR) reports. Some of the key areas and outcomes are reflected within Theme Two's dynamic work plan.
13. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan works alongside key frameworks and guidance including the 10-year NHS Long Term Plan 2025, which sets out ambitions for improving health outcomes and reducing health inequalities for people with a learning disability. It also draws on the principles of Building the Right Support, focusing on community-based support and reducing reliance on inpatient care.
14. The Plan aims to strengthen local health outcomes by aligning areas with elements of the national NHS priorities including Core20PLUS5 (adults), annual health check uptake plan, and learning from LeDeR reports and outcomes. Work across system partners and voluntary sector partners can help support with enhancing access to health services including mental health, screening programmes, and reasonable adjustments. These elements are included within Theme Two Health and Wellbeing, and Theme Four Homes not Hospitals, with an aim to support people with a learning disability to benefit from prevention, early intervention, community-based support, and improved health equity.

Engagement and Consultation for the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan

15. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan has been developed through engagement and consultation with people with lived experience as well as their families, carers and voluntary sector organisations supporting them.
16. A variety of methods were used for engagement (Annex 4), including Sharing Your Story forms, open focus groups, and a 'World Café' style engagement event. Key topics discussed at the Open Focus Groups and the Learning Disability Plan World Café Event were identified by people with a learning disability and covered: my support, my home, my health and wellbeing, my activities and having fun, and my relationships.
 - Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN) hosted the Learning Disability Plan World Café Event in Didcot on the 26 November 2024. The

event brought together families, professionals, and people with learning disabilities to discuss priorities and share experiences.

- The Live Well Commissioning Team visited Community Support Services during engagement and consultation and met with people with a learning disability and staff to discuss key areas of importance for them and hear people's stories and experiences.
- My Life My Choice Self-Advocacy groups shared their views and feedback during the engagement and consultation stage of the draft Plan.

17. Consultation on the draft Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan took place in June and July 2025 (Annex 4). Feedback received during the consultation period was reviewed with the sub-groups, and the content of the Plan and dynamic work plans were revised where agreed.

Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 – 2035

18. The views, experiences and stories shared by people with a learning disability, their families and carers during the engagement phase have shaped the development of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan. This ensures that people's voices are included and heard throughout.
19. The topics discussed during the varied and comprehensive engagement activities influenced the development and priorities of each of the four key themes. This ensured a focus on what people felt was good now, what good looks like, and what needs to change.
20. One of the key areas discussed during engagement was My Health, and people with a learning disability and families/carers shared their stories and experience. These views and experiences have been incorporated within Theme Two Health and Wellbeing, and this information helped shape the key priorities for what needs to change and the subsequent dynamic work plan to help achieve these.
21. Throughout the views shared there was a strong emphasis on working together and people with a learning disability being able to be fully involved in their care, as well as in designing and delivering joint training and workshops.
22. Some of the different health and wellbeing initiatives happening in Oxfordshire were shared as part of people's stories and incorporated within Theme Two. This included My Life My Choice's Health and Happiness project, and the annual Have a Go Festival run by Oxford Health Learning Disability Service alongside the charity Active Oxfordshire where people with a learning disability can try new sports activities. Both initiatives focusing on enhancing people's health and wellbeing.
23. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan is set up in sections so that it can be easily navigated. Alongside the Key Themes, there is a section which includes information about the strategy, the vision, the Oxfordshire Way and Learning Disabilities. The last section of the Plan looks at the Oxfordshire population, different key areas of data, and a resources section.

24. Although each theme has specific areas of focus, there are some elements which interlink and crossover. The sub-groups for each theme take into account where elements crossover and this information is shared and reviewed as part of the regular updates produced for the Learning Disability Improvement Board.

Ongoing Oversight of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 – 2035

25. The Learning Disability Improvement Board will have oversight of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan and will review the progress of the dynamic work plans.
26. The sub-groups for each of the Themes will continue to work together on the dynamic work plans. Information and progress updates will be delivered to the Learning Disability Improvement Board.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

27. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan will help Oxfordshire County Council achieve priorities of the council's Strategic Plan:
- Tackling inequalities in Oxfordshire and Marmot Place
 - Embedding the Oxfordshire Way
 - Prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents
 - Support carers and the social care system

Financial Implications

28. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Comments checked by:

Stephen Rowles, Strategic Finance Business Partner,
Stephen.rowles@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

29. Oxfordshire County Council has a general responsibility when exercising its functions under the Care Act 2014 in respect of an individual, to promote that individual's 'well-being', as defined by Section 1 of the Act.
30. In doing so the local authority must have regard to a number of general principles set out in S1(3) of the Act which includes for example, the importance of beginning with the assumption that the individual is best placed to judge his or her well-being. By encouraging engagement in its consultation and the development of its Learning Disability Plan, Oxfordshire County Council is endeavouring to ensure that the recipients of services are able to contribute to decision making in a meaningful way.

31. The Act further requires that the authority meets the assessed eligible needs of those with care and support needs in its area, in the way that best promotes that individual's well-being and prevents or reduces the need for care and support. It is anticipated that the development of this strategy will ensure that the Council meets those statutory responsibilities an effective, person-centred way.

Comments checked by:

Janice White, Head of Law and Legal Business Partner, ASC & Litigation
Janice.White@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Equality & Inclusion Implications

32. An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been completed for the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 – 2035 and approved by the Deputy Director for Joint Commissioning HESC. Annual review of the EIA has been set as a minimum, to be carried out to ensure that the Plan continues to promote inclusivity and ensures equality is considered in all parts of life for people with a learning disability.

Risk Management

33. Sub-groups established for the different themes in the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan representing experts by experience, organisations, support providers, and other professionals will continue to be involved in the delivery of the Plan. The groups contribute to identifying and managing any risks associated with the implementation of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan and dynamic work plans to ensure its successful delivery.
34. The Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan will be a standing agenda item for the Learning Disability Improvement Board. Risk management will be covered as part of the updates provided to the Learning Disability Improvement Board and escalations will be made as appropriate where needed.

Consultations

35. A Data Protection Impact Assessment was carried out prior to the engagement stage of the Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan and this was reviewed in December 2025.
36. The council's Engagement and Consultation Team have been involved with the planning of the engagement and consultation phases of the Plan.
37. The draft Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan has been presented to different governance boards, including the Health and Wellbeing Board on 26 June 2025.

Karen Fuller
Director of Adult Social Care

Annexes List: Annex 1 - Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan 2025 – 2035

Annex 2 – Oxfordshire Learning Disability Plan – Dynamic
Workplans Years 1 and 2

Annex 3 – Learning Disability Physical Health Strategy –
Oxford Health

Annex 4 – Engagement and Consultation (data)

Background papers: Nil.

Contact Officer: Sharon Paterson, Commissioning Manager Live Well
sharon.paterson@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Bhavna Taank, Head of Joint Commissioning - Live Well
bhavna.taank@oxfordshire.gov.uk

January 2026