

Planning: Person-centred learning

Person-centred learning is a way of working with adults with learning difficulties that puts the individual at the centre of the learning process. The underlying values of respect, self-determination and inclusion are central to this way of working. Learning should be based on individual choices, should be owned by the learner and should be flexible and creative.

This method aims to give the learner the necessary skills to identify, develop and then achieve their goals in life. Practitioners need to support people to identify what they want, what support they need to achieve this and how to get it. Practitioners need to listen to learners, foster self-determination and build on the strengths and interests of the whole person. Individuals may need to be supported in communicating their aspirations and needs by an advocate or specialist communicator.

Some people with learning disabilities will have a person-centred plan, negotiated with social services, with support from family and friends. This plan will identify the educational input needed to achieve the individual's aims and aspirations. People with learning difficulties who do not have a person-centred plan will need to have a person-centred *learning* plan developed by learning providers which captures these aims and aspirations in an educational setting.

There are five crucial stages in the planning and assessment process which include:

1. getting to know the individual
2. negotiating long-term and short-term goals
3. developing learning programmes, activities and resources
4. evidencing achievement and reviewing progress
5. identifying successes and planning next steps

[Designing a learner-centred curriculum for 16-24 year olds with learning difficulties for further details.](#)

<p>These key messages are based on 'Person Centred Approaches and Adults with Learning Difficulties'. The purpose of the guidance is to support practitioners in developing individualised programmes of learning, within the context of the Skills for Life curriculum, for adults working at Pre-Entry and Entry Levels 1, 2 and 3 and who experience learning difficulties.</p>
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[Person-centred approaches and adults with learning difficulties \(Ref: PAALD\)](#)