

Community ingredients work – presentation for the Learning Disability Senate

2nd March 2026

Emily Williams, Senior Programme Manager,
Community Development team

Recap from September 2025: Community Development Team 'top 5' priorities

- Enabling people with a learning disability and autistic people to have a home, through our capital budget, and our work with other national organisations
- Making sure people don't stay in mental health hospitals too long, and that there is support when people are stuck
- Helping each area to make sure they have a Dynamic Support Register in place and they carry out Care Education and Treatment Reviews (C(E)TRs)
- Working with the Local Government Authority and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) to support people to live good lives, with lowest levels of restriction in the community
- **Making sure there are the accessible and high-quality prevention-focused services in the community so that people and their families and carers are well supported in their local area and only go into mental health hospital when they really need to – getting ready for changes to the Mental Health Act**



Work to support implementation of the Mental Health Act

C(E)TRs and DSRs

Community Readiness

Support for people to leave hospital

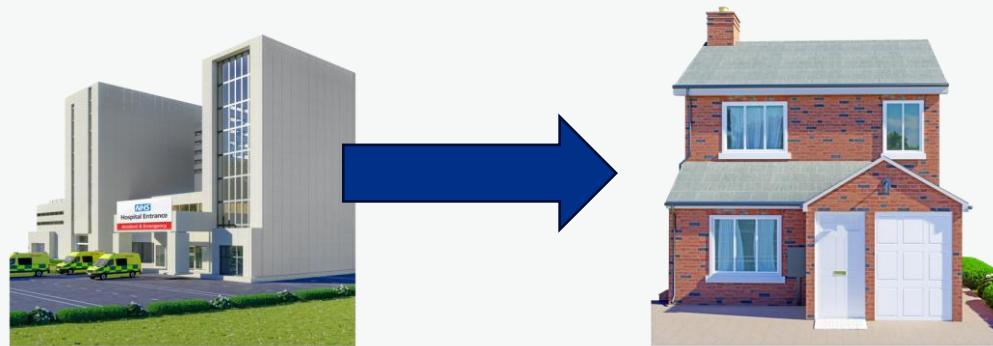
Phase 1: Community Ingredients (existing policy, research and guidance)

Community Ingredients (Phase 1)

Neighbourhood 'Ingredients' for autistic children, young people and adults, and those with a learning disability, to live good lives in their communities



- In 2025 we engaged with c.300 people as part of the 'Community Ingredients' work to support the Mental Health Act reform.
- The work is to help local areas to think about what good community support looks like to help people have good lives and only use mental health hospital care when required. It was broader than the model service specification.
- The content of Phase 1 has been agreed and is in our publications process to outline, at a high level, what services and support should be in place in the community for autistic people and people with a learning disability, bringing together **existing** policy and **known** expected good practice. The format for this work has changed.
- The work has been shared with people and is here: [PRN02155 - Supporting autistic people and people with a learning disability to live well in their communities_ December 2025 - Learning Disability and Autism - Community Development Team - Futures](#)



Examples of things included in the Phase 1 guidance

Neighbourhood
'Ingredients' for autistic
children, young people
and adults, and those
with a learning disability,
to live good lives in their
communities



- **Health and wellbeing** – such as annual health checks, reasonable adjustments, medicines optimisation, ‘waiting well’, diagnostic service, keyworking, planned mental health services, enhanced / intensive support including crisis support
- **Education and training** – such as access to health-offered interventions at school or for schools, support through special educational needs and disability (SEND) support in school or via an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for some children and young people, support for young people and adults to develop vocational skills and access employment opportunities
- **Home and living well** – including disabled facilities grants, advocacy services, information and advice services such as the local offer, high quality community care and support including short breaks, support to reduce the likelihood of offending or reoffending, opportunities to co-design and plan services.

Phase 2: Community Ingredients (specific NHS policy/ infrastructure work)

Phase 2: Community Ingredients (specific NHS policy/ infrastructure work) – work to date



- During our engagement with people, we heard some feedback that we can look to incorporate into our work nationally, for example, more training and support around C(E)TRs and DSRs



- There were also some specific areas of NHS community infrastructure that people told us they would like to see either additional, or updated, guidance and resources about, at a more detailed level than Phase 1.



Transforming Care

Model Service Specifications:
Supporting implementation of the service model

2 Model service specification: Enhanced/Intensive Support

Population Needs
Scope, Functions and Outcomes
Applicable Service Standards
Applicable quality requirements and CQUIN goals

3 Model service specification: Community-based Forensic Support

Population Needs
Scope, Functions and Outcomes
Applicable Service Standards
Applicable quality requirements and CQUIN goals

4 Model service specification: Acute Learning Disability Inpatient Services

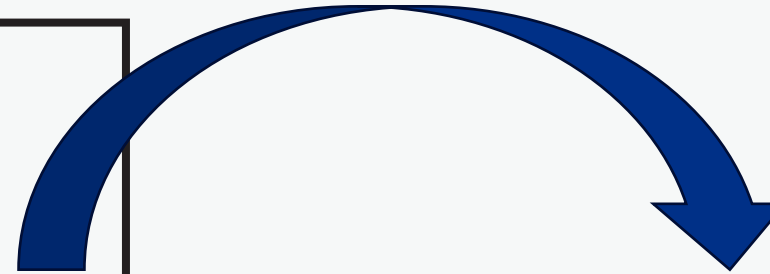
Population Needs
Scope, Functions and Outcomes
Applicable Service Standards
Applicable quality requirements and CQUIN goals

Annex A: Case studies, delivery of Enhanced/Intensive Support functions

Ealing Intensive Therapeutic Short Break Service
Southwark Enhanced Intervention Service
Gloucestershire Additional Support Services

Annex B: Case studies, delivery of Community-based Forensic Support functions

Avon Forensic Community Learning Disabilities Team
Secure Outreach Transitions Team (Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys)



- Enhanced/ intensive support for autistic adults (including crisis)
- Enhanced/ intensive support for children, young people and adults with a learning disability (including crisis)
- Accommodation-based alternatives to hospital
- Community based forensic support

(Case studies for each of the above)

- [National guidance to support integrated care boards to commission acute mental health inpatient services for adults with a learning disability and autistic adults](#)

Phase 2: Community Ingredients (specific NHS policy/ infrastructure work) – work to date



- To deliver this work we collated feedback and intelligence in a number of ways including:

- Phase 1 workshops / engagement sessions
- Scoping existing services and teams
- Existing research and policy documents
- Site visits
- Existing forums such as the IST network, CBF/ Mencap family day, regional leads meetings
- Working groups for each workstream in phase 2
- Collating case studies

- **We are now seeking feedback on the draft document. If you'd like to comment, please email us and we will share the document and an MS form. Comments close on March 15th 2026.**
- We will then be editing the document and aiming to enter our publications process.

Thank you!