

Learning Disability Nurses in Liaison Psychiatry

Adding Value to Patient Care

Natalie Cheung, Angela Worthy and Catherine Crawford

What we do?

We promote individuality, independence, rights, choice and social inclusion of people with learning disability and highlight their strengths and abilities at all times, whilst encouraging others to do the same; we facilitate the active participation of families and carers in what we do.

Our Challenges

We recognise that people with a learning disability are in general at greater risk of inequalities in many aspects of their life including physical health, mental health, employment, housing, identity, socially.

Even More Challenges

We know that people with learning disability on average die younger than those of the general population (as do people with serious mental illness). We are very aware that people with learning disability face barriers to health and social care, are at increased risk of socioeconomic disadvantage, often display behaviours that exclude them further from leading a fulfilling life and accessing the appropriate services.



Partnership Working

We recognise that whilst there are clear differences in the branches of nursing (Mental Health and Learning Disability), there are also key transferrable skills, knowledge and experiences in our backgrounds that lend itself to fulfilling the role within a MH field, especially when considering parity of esteem – a large part of Learning Disability nursing involves ensuring the health needs of people with Learning Disability are met equally by promoting access, developing skills and independence, making reasonable adjustments and education.

Did you know?

The NMC does not place boundaries on the roles of nurses in relation to the parts of the register (other than for midwifery) but stresses that nurses must always be aware of the limits of their ability and role boundaries, acknowledge their professional limitations and are accountable for the decisions they make about their ability to practice safely.

What we can offer

Positive Behavior Support (PBS)
Developing and implementing challenging behaviour pathways.
Discharge planning for more complex patients.
Recovery – we acknowledge in people with a learning disability it is not about recovering from a condition or illness, it is lifelong.
We support service users to reach their goals, to work alongside families/carers in meeting their needs, to safeguard from harm and promote independence through recognising strengths, building on these and developing new skills to, whilst also meeting the whole-person needs.

And there is more!

Enhanced communication and interpersonal – skills and experience in adapting communication styles and methods to suit the individual, aide the assessment and develop therapeutic relationships as well as finding out what works with the patients and sharing this with the wider care team in the hospital.

making a

difference

together