Green Light Toolkit

Updated May 2022

What this is about

Mental health services do not always provide good services for people with learning disabilities or autistic people.

We wrote The Green Light Toolkit to help services think about what they are doing, and what they can do better.

We put The Green Light Toolkit on the internet so it is easy to find and use.

How to use the Green Light Toolkit

There are questionnaires aimed at different people.

There is an easy read questionnaire.

- choose the questionnaire that is best for you
- answer the questions
Green Light Toolkit Summary

• talk about what needs to be done to make things better
• make a plan to change things

What good looks like

The Government want mental health services to be good for autistic people and people with learning disabilities.

We want inspectors who visit services to talk about this.

We talked to people about how to make mental health services better for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

People said that mental health services are good at making things better if they:

• are person centred
• welcome families
• make plans and check things are getting done
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What needs to change</th>
<th>Bosses in the NHS say mental health services need to change so people with learning disabilities and autistic people can access them.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It helps if there is someone in the service who leads on making these changes.</td>
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<td>We call them Green Light Champions.</td>
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<td>If everyone relies on the Champion, good ways of working can stop if they leave.</td>
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<td>So it’s important the Champion helps other staff to do things well.</td>
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Mental health staff need:

- the right skills to support people with learning disabilities and autistic people.
- training
- to look for ways to make services better

It helps if there is an action plan.

Actions need to be:

- clear
- things that can be done.

People need to be told when things go well.

Good teams:

- support their Green Light Champion
<table>
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<tr>
<th>People with learning disabilities and autistic people should train mental health staff.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is important to have Easy Read information in patient areas so people can use it.</td>
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<td><strong>Staff need to:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• sit down and explain complicated things</td>
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<tr>
<td>• listen to what people with learning disabilities and autistic people are saying.</td>
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<td>Some people need an advocate.</td>
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It is important to have meetings to talk about what can be done to make things better.

**Meetings should be:**

- helpful and interesting
- everyone should have a voice.

**Buildings should be:**

- calm and relaxing places.

**It is important to:**

- share good things that are happening, so people know why they need to change
- get help to use good ideas locally
- remember what works in one place may need changing for it to work somewhere else
- give people time to make things better
### What helps make change happen

It helps if:

- the service is used to trying new things
- staff can see why the change should happen
- everyone makes a plan and sticks to it
- the plan includes fixing any difficulties that may come up

The people who pay for the mental health service should make sure it is right for people with learning disabilities and autistic people.

They can stop paying money to the service until changes have been made.

- have someone to talk to about how to make change happen