

CABINET

Report subject	Learning Disability Big Plan 2026–2031
Meeting date	2 September 2026
Status	Public
Executive summary	This report seeks approval for the publication and delivery of the Learning Disability Big Plan 2026–2031, which sets out the shared priorities for supporting people with a learning disability in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to live fulfilled lives. The Plan has been developed through the Learning Disability Partnership Board, in partnership with people with lived experience, families, carers, providers, voluntary sector organisations, BCP Council and NHS Dorset. It reflects the Council's commitment to co-production, person-centred support and the duties set out in the Care Act 2014. The Big Plan has been shaped through extensive engagement and consultation. Engagement events in 2024 involved over 150 people, followed by formal consultation between February and March 2026, which received 97 responses across online and paper formats. Feedback was broadly supportive of the Plan and its vision, while highlighting the need for clearer communication, more joined-up services, earlier support, greater consistency and a stronger focus on delivery and real-life impact. The final Plan is structured around seven Big Aims: Where I Live; Staying Healthy; Having a Good Life; Right Care and Support; Keeping Safe; Becoming an Adult; and Support for My Family. These aims focus on improving housing choice, health outcomes, community inclusion, personalised care and support, safety, transition into adulthood and support for families and carers. Delivery will be overseen by the Learning Disability Partnership Board, with action groups responsible for progressing the agreed priorities and reporting progress quarterly. Further work is required to confirm the delivery arrangements for Right Care and Support and Having a Good Life, including whether dedicated groups are needed or whether actions can be embedded within existing governance structures. Cabinet is asked to approve the Learning Disability Big Plan for publication and delivery, enabling continued co-production with local people, families and partners and supporting a clearer framework for improving outcomes for people with a learning disability across BCP.

Recommendations	RECOMMENDED that Cabinet approve the Learning Disability Big Plan for future publication and delivery against the priorities set within.
Reason for recommendations	To co-produce services with people with lived experience and carers, ensuring people with a learning disability in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole are supported to live fulfilled lives.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor David Brown – Health and Wellbeing
Corporate Director / Directors	Laura Ambler, Corporate Director for Wellbeing Zena Dighton, Interim Director of Adult Social Care Commissioning
Report Authors	Siobain Hann – Head of Strategic Commissioning Disabilities
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Recommendation

1. Background

- 1.1 BCP Council is committed to working with people with a learning disability and autistic people to ensure their voices inform local priorities and that services support people to live fulfilled lives within their communities.
- 1.2 Learning Disability Partnership Boards were established following the Government's *Valuing People* White Paper (2001), supporting local authorities to work in partnership with people with learning disabilities, families and carers.
- 1.3 Following Local Government Reorganisation in 2019, the Bournemouth and Poole Partnership Boards and advocacy groups merged to form the BCP Learning Disability Partnership Board and People First Forum.
- 1.4 The LDPB is co-chaired by BCP Adult Social Care and People First Forum.
- 1.5 The LD Big Plan was first developed for 2012–2015 and reviewed in 2018 to run until 2024. The LDPB Board later agreed to extend the strategy to 2025 to allow time to co-produce the next version.
- 1.6 The previous strategy included an Easy Read principles document and supporting information on data, budgets and performance. This report focuses on the co-produced main strategy for 2026–2031.

2. Co-Production of the Plan

- 2.1 Co-production is central to Adult Social Care Commissioning and supports the Council's duties under the Care Act 2014 by ensuring that services are shaped by people's lived experience and focused on outcomes that matter to them.
- 2.2 The Learning Disability Big Plan (2026–2031) has been developed through the Learning Disability Partnership Board (LDPB), bringing together BCP Council, NHS Dorset and a wide range of partners, including people with lived experience, carers, providers and voluntary sector organisations.
- 2.3 The starting point for the new Plan was engagement in 2024, where people were asked what matters most to them. This feedback, alongside a review of the current Big Plan and learning from other areas, was used to develop the early draft.
- 2.4 Work has then progressed through a structured programme overseen by the Big Plan Project Group, with regular updates and discussions at LDPB. This supported a co-produced approach and kept a strong focus on lived experience.
- 2.5 Engagement took place in stages between 2024 and 2026 to inform, test and refine the Plan.
- 2.6 In 2024, engagement events across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole involved over 150 people, including people with learning disabilities, carers, providers and staff. Feedback informed the seven Big Aims and draft actions.
- 2.7 LDPB meetings were used to review the draft Plan through facilitated discussions with people with lived experience, carers and professionals. Feedback from these sessions was incorporated before public consultation.
- 2.8 The consultation was designed to be accessible and inclusive, using Easy Read, digital and paper formats. The focus was on proposed actions and new areas of work rather than reopening the overall vision.
- 2.9 Formal consultation took place from 17 February to 29 March 2026 through online and paper surveys, promoted through community channels, newsletters, posters, social media and local media.
- 2.10 Consultation feedback was broadly supportive and highlighted the need for clearer communication, more joined-up services, earlier support, consistency and a stronger focus on delivery and practical impact.

2.11 There were 97 consultation responses: 41 online and 56 paper. Respondents included people with learning disabilities, carers, family members, providers and voluntary sector organisations.

2.12 The consultation confirmed support for the vision and aims, while emphasising the need for visible progress and accessible communication about delivery.

Key cross-cutting themes included:

- Need for better joined-up services and earlier support
- Inconsistent experiences across services
- Importance of clear, accessible, non-jargon information
- Desire for real choice and independence, balanced with support needs
- Significant reliance on families and carers to coordinate support, particularly where services are difficult to navigate
- Strong emphasis on co-production continuing beyond strategy development.

3. Strategic Delivery and Governance

3.1 Further work is required to confirm delivery arrangements for Big Aim 3, Having a Good Life, and Big Aim 4, Right Care and Support. Options include establishing dedicated action groups or embedding actions within existing governance arrangements.

4. Summary of legal implications

4.1 The Council holds statutory responsibility for Adult Social Care functions, including the roles of Director of Adult Social Services and Principal Social Worker.

4.2 The Care Act 2014 requires the Council to promote wellbeing, safeguard adults with care and support needs, support choice and control, and ensure effective, sustainable and value-for-money care and support services.

4.3 Continued co-production will support the Council to discharge these duties effectively and strengthen its approach to quality, safeguarding, personalisation and market shaping.

5. Summary of financial implications

5.1 Delivery of the Plan will be managed within the relevant service and team budgets.

6. Summary of human resources implications

6.1 Relevant Human Resources processes will be followed where delivery requires recruitment, workforce changes or additional staffing arrangements.

7. Summary of sustainability impact

7.1 There are no sustainability implications within this report.

8. Summary of health implications

8.1 NHS Dorset is a key partner in delivering health-related actions within the Big Plan, including through joint commissioning and the Health Action Group.

8.2 Regionalisation of ICB arrangements may affect local delivery structures and will require further agreement on how health-related actions are progressed.

8.3 Further discussion will take place through the review of the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Steering Group and the wider governance review.

9. Summary of equality implications

9.1 Equality Impact Assessment was completed on the co-production and future delivery of the strategy.

9.2 It noted that The Big Plan – Learning Disabilities Strategy demonstrates a clear commitment to inclusive engagement, co-production and improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities across Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

9.3 Consultation activity was designed to be accessible and representative, with involvement from people with lived experience, carers, advocates, providers, Adult Social Care and NHS partners.

9.4 The review identified positive equality impacts through its focus on lived experience, accessibility and community-informed priorities. However, gaps remain in demographic data collection and targeted engagement across some protected characteristics.

9.5 Strengthening monitoring, widening reach to under-represented groups and maintaining inclusive communication methods will be important to ensure the updated strategy reflects the diverse needs of local people and supports fair, equitable participation.

10. Summary of risk assessment

10.1 The principal delivery risk relates to capacity across people with lived experience, carers and statutory partners to support additional action groups. The LDPB currently has five of the seven action groups in place.

10.2 Options include establishing a dedicated Right Care and Support action group and embedding Having a Good Life actions within existing governance arrangements.

10.3 Regionalisation of the ICB-chaired Health Action Group may also affect local delivery. This will be addressed through further governance discussions with NHS Dorset and wider partners.

11. Recommendations

11.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the formal publication and delivery of the Learning Disability Big Plan 2026–2031.

Background Papers:

Big Aims High Level Delivery Plan (**Appendix 1**)

Learning Disability Big Plan (**Appendix 2**)