



Partnership Board

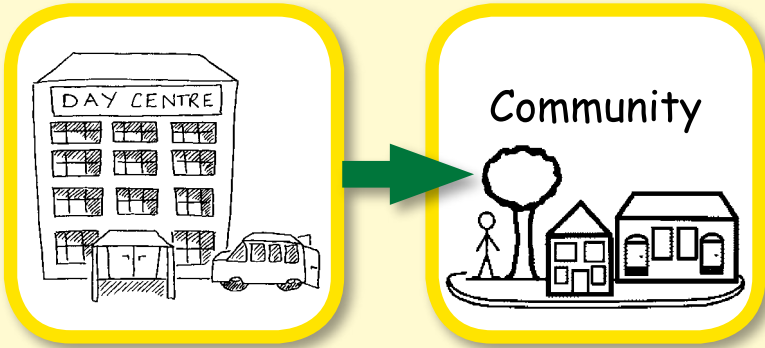


Leicestershire  
County Council



# Community Opportunities

for People with  
a Learning Disability



Promoting  
independence

changing  
lives

# What is Community Opportunities

Community Opportunities is the new name for day services.

## Why have we changed the name?



When we say the word **day services** we think of:

- Going to a big building with lots of other people with a learning disability
- Using separate transport to get there
- Only being open Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm.

We want to stop thinking about just getting a service, only in the day time.

We want to make sure that people can choose to do things in the evenings and weekends.



We want to provide less activities in buildings just for people with learning disabilities BUT to offer more choices and opportunities to do more in the community.



The Partnership Board for Leicestershire agreed that the name should be changed to help us all to think differently.

# Why are day services changing?



In 2001 the Government wrote a national report on how to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities, their families and carers. This was called Valuing People.



Since then we have been working towards making day services better. We have a Partnership Board sub group to lead on this work. The Partnership Board makes sure all day services change in line with Valuing People.



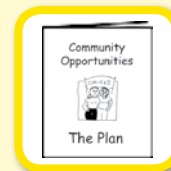
A lot of other good changes have already happened to our day services. Large 'Day Centres' have either closed or become part of the local community and people in the community access the service also. Smaller bases closer to where people live have been set up like Blaby, Wigston, Loughborough, Shepshed and Syston.



We now need to continue to make more good changes.



We have spent a lot of time listening to lots of people with learning disabilities and family carers. We have been asking them what is good about their service and what needs to change to make them better.



Their views have helped in putting together the next strategy. A strategy is a plan on what needs to happen.

# What does 'Community Opportunities' mean?

The main things that we want to happen are:



## Person Centred Planning for everyone

This means using every opportunity to work out what is important to individuals now and in the future.

Then to use this information to tell the service how it needs to develop - We will make sure staff are well trained and that everybody using the service has a person centred review every year.



## More services available in the evenings and at weekends

The idea is not to increase the amount of support that people have but to make this support available at different times.

An example is that a person might go out in the evening rather than during the day, if this fits in with their plan:

- The roles of workers in the Community Opportunities Services have changed so we are able to build on the process of offering support at different times.



## Supporting People to be as independent as possible

Without meaning to we often make people more dependent on support than they need.

The more we can support people to do things for themselves the easier it is for them to make choices and to keep themselves safe:

- We will build on the work to support people to gain skills;
- we will work with individuals and their carers to identify and address risks;
- we will build on ways that give people good background support which gives them confidence to do more without the need for direct support all of the time.



## For people not to be separated from their wider community

There needs to be more opportunities for people to be included and to do activities like everybody else in the right places:



- We will continue the work of getting people out into the community;
- We will make the buildings we use more inclusive to people in the community but at the same time supporting people to remain safe.



## To have more choices to volunteer and to do paid work

More and more people are already doing work but we need to make sure that everybody has the opportunity to think about work:

- We will ensure that all young people are supported to think about doing work when they leave school;
- We will make sure that people are supported to know about their choices for work and develop their skills.



## Increasing Choice by giving people control over the money available to support them

Money is already allocated to each person that use Community Opportunities Services but is not yet easily available if people want to use their pot of money differently:



- We will work towards making sure that we know how much money any individual would be entitled to and tell people what this is;
- We will look at ways of making the money available if people want to use this differently.

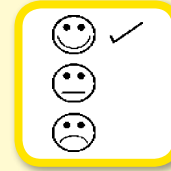


## Working with others to get the best outcomes with the money available

One of the things that works really well is building up relationships with other organisations such as volunteer bureaux, libraries, religious groups and colleges but also many community groups.

We will keep looking at ways which we can bring our resources together or give and take in ways that open up new opportunities for people without the need to find lots of new money.

## Community Opportunities now has a charter



A **charter** tells people what they can expect from their service and how the services can help you do more.

The charter says we will:

1. Listen to what you want to do
2. Provide services that meets the needs
3. Work together to find new ways of making your service better
4. Help you to do more for yourself
5. Support you to use the services and activities in the community

## We are committed to keeping you informed about your service



This is your service and we want you to be involved.

Staff at your Community Opportunities base will talk to you more about how Community Opportunities can keep on supporting you.



Staff will also tell you about groups that you can get involved with to have your say.

If you have any questions then talk to your manager or contact Caroline Blankley on



0116 225 5225



or email [caroline.blankley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.blankley@leics.gov.uk)

If you would like this information on tape, in Braille or in another language, please telephone



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