

# Useful information and resources

This fact sheet has been prepared to accompany a series of fact sheets for frontline staff supporting people with learning disabilities who find themselves within the criminal justice system. It highlights some of the more practical guides and resources that are of use to those supporting people with learning disabilities. The other fact sheets in this series are:

- How to spot signs that a person has a learning disability
- Finding out about other services that may help
- Communication
- Making information easier to read
- Making appointments
- Making decisions

## Criminal justice system

Department of Health (2011). **Positive practice positive outcomes.** A Practical handbook for staff working with people with learning disabilities. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/positive-practice-positive-outcomes-a-handbook-for-professionals-in-the-criminal-justice-system-working-with-offenders-with-a-learning-disability>

National Autistic Society (2011). **Autism: a guide for criminal justice professionals.** <http://www.autism.org.uk/working-with/criminal-justice/autism-a-guide-for-criminal-justice-professionals.aspx>

Together for Mental Wellbeing (2010). **A common sense approach to working with defendants and offenders with mental health problems.** On pages 19-21 it includes information on learning disabilities, learning difficulties and autism. <http://www.together-uk.org/uploads/acommonsenseapproach.pdf>

Task and finish group (2013). **Access to Justice: A Guidebook supporting the responsive and appropriate management of adults with a learning disability in the criminal justice system in Wales.** <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/888/Published%20version%20-%20Access%20to%20Justice.pdf>

The Scottish Government (2011). **People with learning disabilities and the criminal justice system.** <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/346993/0115487.pdf>

Mencap/ICAN/Nacro – **Raising your game.** The project worked with young people who have a learning disability and/or communication difficulties, and who are at risk of or involved in offending behaviour. There are a number of resources available for use. <https://www.mencap.org.uk/raising-your-game/resources>

**KeyRing.** KeyRing offer easy read information, training and run a range of projects in this area, all of which are on their website. <http://www.keyring.org/cjs>

**LDD Navigator:** Learning Difficulties and Disabilities in the Justice System. This is a website with a wide range of resources for practitioners around identifying learning disabilities or difficulties along with information on how to support their clients who present with them. <http://www.lddnavigator.org.uk/>



## Support when at court

Prison Reform Trust and Rethink Mental Illness (2013). **Mental health and learning Disabilities in the criminal courts: Information for magistrates, district judges and court staff.** This resource helps members of the judiciary to recognise when further information about an individual defendant might be necessary, how to get that information, and how to use it to inform their decision making.

[http://www.mhldcc.org.uk/media/493/RMI\\_PRT\\_MHLDCC\\_Sept2013.pdf](http://www.mhldcc.org.uk/media/493/RMI_PRT_MHLDCC_Sept2013.pdf)

**The Advocate's Gateway.** The Advocate's Gateway provides access to practical guidance on vulnerable witnesses and defendants. They have produced a range of toolkits including:

Planning to question someone with an autism spectrum disorder including Asperger syndrome

Planning to question someone with a learning disability

Planning to question someone with 'hidden' disabilities: specific language impairment, dyslexia and other related specific learning difficulties.

<http://www.theadvocatesgateway.org/toolkits>

Mencap/ICAN/Nacro – **Raising your game.** DVD 'Getting ready for court'.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u48WKYod\\_1Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u48WKYod_1Y)

## For people in custody

Prison Reform Trust 2008 – **No-one knows:**

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/ProjectsResearch/Learningdisabilitiesanddifficulties>

Prison Reform Trust 2008. **Prisoners voices: Experiences of the CJS by prisoners with LD.**

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/No%20One%20Knows%20report-2.pdf>

## Communication

Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. **The Box.** The Box is a training programme that gives staff in the criminal justice sector the skills required to work with people who have communication difficulties.

<http://www.theboxtraining.com/>

**Sentence Trouble.** Is a website with a focus on communication needs and offers examples, advice and resources for young people with communication difficulties that offend.

<http://www.sentencetrouble.info/>

## For people coming out of prison

Nacro (2010) – **Resettling prisoners with mental health and learning disabilities.** This good practice guide is for all those who have any part to play in the care and resettlement of the special needs of this large part of the prison population.

<http://www.nacro.org.uk/data/files/resettling-prisoners-mh-needs-10-948.pdf>

This is part of a series of fact sheets for people working in the criminal justice system. They are how to spot signs that a person has a learning disability; finding out about other services that may help; communication; making information easier to read; making appointments; making decisions; useful information and resources. To download these or for more information see: <http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/our-work/rights-equality/criminal-justice-system/>



foundation for  
people with  
learning disabilities

[www.learningdisabilities.org.uk](http://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk)