

The role of the Social Worker and people with learning disabilities

Information Sheet

Introduction



We spoke to people with a learning disability about the role of the social worker.



We did telephone interviews with them and we sent out surveys.



We also spoke to them face to face.



They told us it would be helpful to have information about the role of the social worker.



We have made this information sheet for people with learning disabilities and their families.



When can this information sheet be used?



The information can be shared with a person and their family before a visit from a social worker.



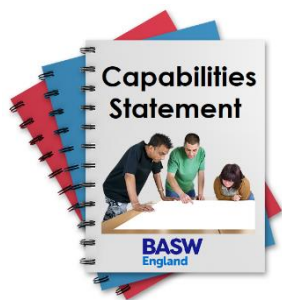
It can also be used together during a visit with a social worker.



People with a learning disability and their families could also use the information after a visit with a social worker.



This sheet helps to check social workers are providing good support to people with learning disabilities.



It will help to make sure social workers are following the *Capabilities Statement* and are:



- Developing relationships with people and their families



- Helping people to live the life they choose



- Recognising people's strengths and abilities



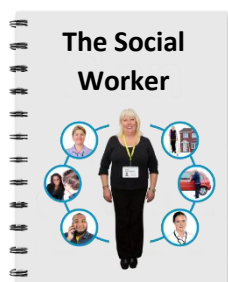
- Respecting people's human rights



- Working together with people, their families and services



What do social workers do?



Here is a list of things that social workers do:



- Find out the best way to communicate with you



- Listen to you



- Explain what your rights are



- Support you and include you in decisions about your life



- Help you and your family to make a support plan



- Provide support to your family



- Get to know you as a person, what you like to do and what skills you have



- Help you to speak up and to make sure your voice is heard



- Explain how to get the support you are entitled to



- Believe that people with learning disabilities are good at lots of different things



- To work together with others to get better access to services



- Work to stop abuse



What do social workers not do?



- Make a medical diagnosis of a learning disability



- Focus just on your learning disability



- Label you and focus on what you can't do



- Treat you differently to other people



- Ignore your past experiences



- Ignore abuse



- Make decisions for you



- Listen to everyone else apart from you



- Ignore the people who are important to you



- Take away your freedom



- Tell you what to do