

# Working with people with Learning Disabilities

one day course

**Learning disability** is a label which is convenient for certain purposes, but people with learning disabilities are always people first. We define and classify learning disability in many different ways – but all of these are, of course, open to interpretation.

Support for people with learning disabilities has moved away from the medical model to a social model based on inclusion and integration – being a “valued member of society”. So how can we support the people we work with to lead active and fulfilling lives? How do we work with people to overcome the barriers that might stop this happening?

This workshop will answer some of the questions frequently asked about working with people with learning disabilities. It is based on a mixture of sound theory and current models of good practice; above all, it provides an intensely practical way of looking at the main issues in the world of learning disability.

## Who is this course for?

The programme is aimed at anyone working with people with learning disabilities of any kind, who wants to understand more about this group, enhance their practice, and increase their confidence.

## What the course covers

- What do we really mean when we use the phrase “Learning Disability”?
- Associated conditions
- A brief history of learning disability, including social awareness and models of disability
- What causes learning disability
- Clear communication and active listening
- Encouraging independence in the people we work with
- The barriers people with learning disabilities face in society
- Legislation and policy; “labelling” the people we work with – the Safeguarding agenda, the Equality Act, the Mental Capacity Act
- What will you do differently at work, as a result of attending this course?

**Timetable** (may be subject to amendment)

- Session 1** Introductions  
Learning Disability quiz.  
What do we mean by the term 'Learning Disability'  
History of learning disability in the UK, including video footage and current legislation  
Different types of learning disability  
Associated conditions
- Session 2** Causes of different types of learning disabilities  
Diagnosis and misdiagnosis  
Issues around trauma and attachment theory
- Session 3** What is communication? How do we communicate?  
Barriers to communication  
Models of disability  
Barriers in society
- Session 4** Working with people with Learning disabilities  
Change the way you work  
Recap