



# Capturing the voices of learning disability nurses and people who use services

An independent engagement initiative  
led by the  
Foundation of Nursing Studies

Written by  
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## Easy Read Summary



## **Celebrate Me: Capturing the voices of learning disability nurses and people who use services**

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“Learning disability nurses and people who experience their support say they are highly skilled, motivated, cost-effective and valued person-centred professionals. Wherever they work they improve outcomes, reducing the impact of health inequalities and improving people’s lives ”

Celebrate Me is an initiative commissioned by the then Chief Nurse for NHS England, Professor Jane Cummings, and subsequently supported by Health Education England (London Region) to raise the profile of the unique and important contribution that learning disability nurses make across health and social care.

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# Easy Read Summary

## Introduction

The Foundation of Nursing Studies, a respected UK charity, worked for a year with learning disability nurses and people with a learning disability.

Celebrate Me is a book that shows the reasons for that work and what we found out from it.

This is an Easy Read summary of Celebrate Me showing the reasons for that work and what we found out from it.



The 2 main aims of this work were:

- **to talk to learning disability nurses** and ask them about what they do to help people with a learning disability
- **to talk people with a learning disability** and their families and carers to ask about their experiences of using healthcare services and how learning disability nurses can help them

What we think about  
learning disability nursing....

✓ THEY HAVE  
GOOD KNOWLEDGE

✓ THEY HELP US  
KNOW OUR RIGHTS

✓ THEY EXPLAIN  
THINGS (GIVE ME  
TIME)

THEY TRY TO MAKE  
US FEEL AT EASE ✓



We wanted to work with lots of different people from across the country, **nurses, families, people with learning disabilities, carers:**

### How we met people

We used different ways to meet and talk to people:

- We used **Twitter**. Twitter is a way to have an internet conversation
- We used **surveys**. A survey is a list of questions
- We **met people at a university** in Wolverhampton
- We **met nurses working in a learning disability hospital**



### The things we found out

- It is important to **remember and celebrate what is good about learning disability nursing**
- Learning disability nurses **are person-centred** – they look at the whole person, what they can do, what they need help to do
- Learning disability nurses **treat everyone as equal** and take time to get to know people
- They think about **the whole of a person's life** – health, happiness, housing, friends, family, not just illness
- Learning disability nurses **speak for people**
- Learning disability nurses **help people do more** by having more opportunities and being healthier
- Learning disability nurses are the best people to help people with learning disabilities because **they have a lot of knowledge and skills**
- They can **explain** without using medical language and long words
- They **understand** what will happen at the hospital or doctors
- They help people live longer and be healthy
- They can help with every aspect of your life

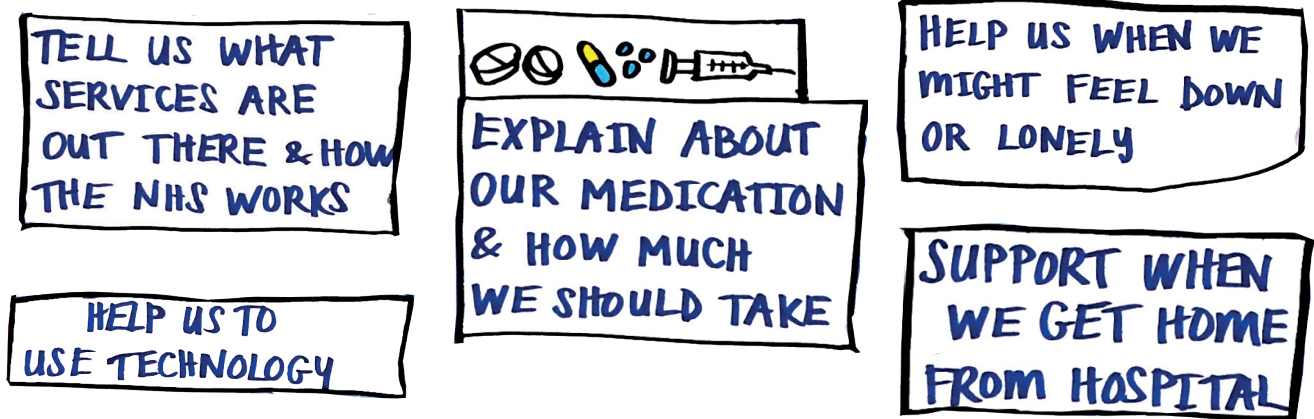


LEARNING DISABILITY  
NURSES UNDERSTAND  
LEARNING DISABILITY

## Things to think about for the future

- It's hard to know who is a learning disability nurse and what they do
- Everyone should know more about learning disabilities

## LEARNING DISABILITY NURSES



## From the authors of Celebrate Me

Each day I smile and say **I am proud to say I am a learning disability nurse.** It's time to celebrate our passion, drive and strength to support the lives of people with a learning disability and their families.

People using services say '**use us**', '**we are experts**'; they want to support the nurses and help people to understand what is like to have a learning disability. We need to **involve them and their families** in shaping future services.

Giselle Cope and Dr Theresa Shaw



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