

Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership Newsletter March 2025

VoiceAbility



**Networking
Co-producing future services
Health and Social Care**





Peter and NCASC conference

I got to go to the National Children and Adult Social Care conference in Liverpool with Kerry.

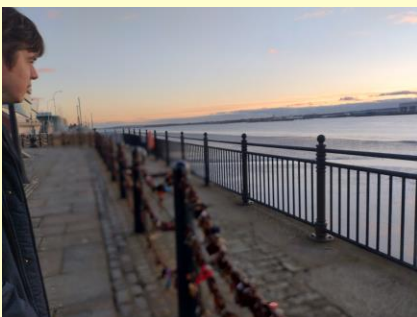


There were different workshops on each day.

The first one we attended was about direct payments. It was interesting to hear from people who use them to help them live the lives they want to live.



I enjoyed this workshop the slides had useful information, and I got to find out what direct payments were about and how they can be used for some sorts of support.





The final workshop was about co-production, led by Think Local Act Personal. Their slides were good, and they shared some useful information.



We heard from Issac a TLAP speaker, his talk was inspiring.



I spoke to him at the end and let him know how much I enjoyed the workshop. We shared email addresses as Issac said he would like to work together with VoiceAbility around co-production soon.



Overall, it was a very positive experience, came away from the conference with new knowledge and did some networking too and gained some new contacts.



My name is **Rosemarie Thompson** I have Autism and ADHD and Dyslexia and Juvenile Pocket Arthritis Symptoms

This is my **Max card**, it gets you into different attractions and lots of places around the UK, you can get one carer free per card



<https://mymaxcard.co.uk/>



CEA card

This is a card that if you are disabled means that you can get a free ticket for someone to go to the cinema with you, like a carer.



There is a cost of £6 a year to renew your card.

<https://www.ceacard.co.uk/>

Disables Person, Railcard

If you live in the UK are disabled and travel on trains you can get disabled person's Railcard which will save you a 1/3 , or someone accompanying you, off your ticket price.

<https://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk/>





COFFEE MORNING

AT BOUNDARY STREET HUB
Thursday 10th April - 10am - 12pm

RAFFLE AND CLOTHES SALE

Everyone's Welcome
Boundary Street Hub,
Boundary street,
LN58PF



PROJECT VIBES
PRESENTS

SUMMER Vibes

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE
7PM - 10.30PM

£7 **SUNCASTLE, SKEGNESS** **LIVE DJ**

AGE: 18+ CARERS GO FREE
FULLY LICENSED BAR

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL PLEASE CALL: 01205 632800 **CountyCare**



Thistles MARKET GARDEN
Grow Bloom Thrive

OPEN DAY

Thursday 19 June
10am-2pm

Station Road
Sutterton
Boston PE20 2JX

Raffle
Plant sales
Sheep petting
Music + disco

BBQ
Tombola
Refreshments
Cake stall

Grantham Day Ops Live Life to the full!

Easter Coffee Morning

Thursday 3rd April 2025
The Ballroom, The Guildhall
Grantham
10-12




Why not follow our adventures on facebook



Pelican Trust
Creating Opportunities

Wednesday 9th April 2025
10am—middy

20-22 Crofton Road, Allenby Estate, Lincoln, LN3 4NL
Tel: 01522 513 533

Join us for our Easter/ Spring Coffee Morning - tea, coffee, easter bonnets, games, cake and tombola, !

All proceeds go to the Pelican Trust User Group Fund

Changes to benefits in the governments green paper: March 2025



The UK Government has said that it wants to make lots of changes to benefits.

Benefits are things some people can apply for to give them money to help to pay for things like personal care, housing, and getting out and about. Benefits also help with the extra costs some people with a learning disability have.

The benefit changes are in the governments [green paper](#) called 'Pathways to work: Reforming benefits and support to get Britain working'.



The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is thinking about changing:

- Personal Independence Payment (PIP)
- Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit (UC).



They will also look at changing Access to Work (AtW).

This is money from the DWP which helps disabled people stay in work.



These changes would affect people with a learning disability who live in England and Wales.

Northern Ireland will probably start thinking about making benefit changes next year.



What are the changes to benefits?

The government want to change who can get PIP.

They want to raise the amount of points that anyone wanting to claim PIP need to get in their assessment for the daily living part of PIP.

The PIP assessment is when a health professional like a doctor, checks your PIP claim form. Most assessments include a meeting with the health professional. [Find out more about PIP assessments.](#)



They also want to get rid of the Work Capability Assessment so people can try to work, and they don't have to worry about how it will change their benefits.

[Find out more about the Work Capabity Assessment.](#)



They are doing a consultation on how to change Access to Work to support more people into work.

A consultation is when they ask people what they think about their plans.



When will the changes to benefits happen?

It is important to know that changes to benefits are not happening straight away.



In March 2025, the DWP will share an Easy Read to explain the changes to benefits they want to make.



From March 2025 to June 2025, you will have 12 weeks to tell the government what you think about their ideas and how they would affect you.



In Autumn 2025, the government will make a final decision about benefit changes.



From 2026, changes to PIP will start to happen.

Some changes will take longer to happen, for example government will not get rid of the Work Capability Assessment until 2028.



Tell us what you think

We want to know what you think about these ideas.

To tell us what you think please [sign up to be a Policy Shaper](#).



What to do if you are worried about benefits changing?

Changes to benefits can make people with a learning disability and their families worried.

If you need support, you can [visit our Wellbeing page](#).

Or contact [the Learning Disability Helpline](#).



This Easy Read was first published 20/03/2025.

Last updated 20/03/2025.

Local Elections Thursday 1st May 2025

What is voting?



People with a learning disability have as much right to vote as anyone else.

This guide explains what voting is and who can vote



When a group of people vote, it is called an election.

There are different elections in the UK that we can vote in.



We vote for someone to represent us and make decisions for us.

They make important decisions that can affect people's lives.



For example, the government makes important decisions that can change:

- education services
- how people with a learning disability get support
- how people with a learning disability get healthcare



Local councils make decisions about lots of issues like:

- how often your rubbish is collected
- improving the roads in your area
- making local sports facilities better



You might also hear local councils called local government or local authorities.

The people who represent you in local councils are called councillors.



Different councillors will have different ideas about the best way to run local services.



Who can vote?

To vote in the 2024 General Election, you must:



- be registered to vote
- be 18 or over on the day of the election (called the 'polling day')
- be a British, Irish or qualifying Commonwealth citizen
- live at an address in the UK or living abroad and registered as an overseas voter
- not be legally excluded from voting



You have to be registered if you want to vote.

You can find out more about [how to register to vote on the My Vote My Voice website.](#)

You have until Friday 11th April 2025 to register to vote.

Registering to vote



This easy read is about registering to vote .

It tells you how to register and what information you will need to register.



Before you can vote, you need to register.

If you are not registered to vote you will not be able to vote in an election.



You can register to vote on the government 's website at www.gov.uk/register tovote.



Information you will need to register to vote

You will be asked:



- Which part of the UK do you live in or do you live in another country?



- What is your nationality? This is usually the country you were born in.



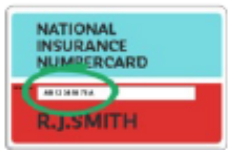
- What is your date of birth?



- What is your full name?



- Have you ever changed your name?



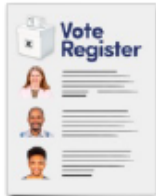
- What is your national insurance number?



- What is your address?



- Do you live at a second address?



- Do you want your name to appear publicly on the electoral register?

This means that a charity or business can see your information and could use it to contact you or to try and sell you things.

You will still be able to vote if you say 'no' to this.

Things to remember

1. You need to register to vote every time you move home.



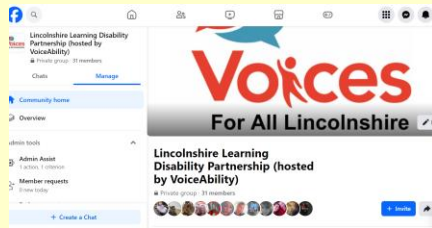
2. You need to register to vote again if you change your name or surname.



This Easy Read has been adapted from Registering to Vote easy read made with The Electoral Commission. You can [see the original version](#) here.

This Easy Read was first published on the Mencap website on 12 June 2024.

Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership, Facebook.



[Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership \(hosted by VoiceAbility\) | Facebook](#)

Our Facebook group for Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership.

Please click the link above and share with anyone who may be interested in sharing information and linking up with different groups for people with a learning disability in Lincolnshire.

Click the link below to view the website:

www.voiceability.org/speakoutlincs

- To get involved with Lincolnshire Learning Disability Partnership
- Find out information
- Share information
- Be added to our contact list

Please email Kerry:

kerry.Gibson@voiceability.org