

Adult Learning Disability Services

Swansea Bay University Health Board provides specialist adult learning disability services across the geographical area covered by Swansea Bay, Cwm Taff Morgannwg and Cardiff and Vale University Health Boards, a combined population of around 1.2 million people. As such we plan and provide services commissioned by Cardiff and Vale and Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHBs for their populations and work in partnership with seven local authorities.

Organisationally the overall responsibility in Swansea Bay for the delivery and quality of Learning Disability services provided by the NHS sits in the executive portfolio of our Chief Operating Officer. Oversight at Board level is provided through our Vice Chair.

Partnerships are essential to achieving positive outcomes for people with a Learning Disability with addressing health inequalities not being the sole responsibility of the Health Service and we are committed partners with local authorities in the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.

Services are operationally managed within the Mental Health and Learning Disability Service Group of the Health Board with a specific Division focussed on Learning Disability Services.

The following information describes the services delivered across Swansea Bay, Cardiff & Vale and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Boards.

Community Teams

There are 7 Community Learning Disability Teams:-

Swansea	RCT South
Neath	Cardiff
Bridgend	Vale of Glamorgan
RCT North	

The community teams are multi-disciplinary including Psychology, Community Learning Disability Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Psychiatry. Access to specialist dietetics and Arts Therapies is available in some areas.

The Community teams provide a single point of access to local Health support from team members and act as conduit for referral to the Specialist Behavioural Services, Specialist Residential Units and the Acute Admissions Units. The community teams deliver services across a range of settings including service user homes, local authority care provision, day services, educational settings and third sector social care provision.

The teams work in an integrated way, coordinated within a multi-disciplinary framework, operate Monday to Friday 9am-5pm and aim provide high quality, evidence-based services.

In addition to the CLDTs there are three specialist community teams, additional specialist nurse roles, Acute Admission Units and Specialist Residential Services as set out below.

Facing The Challenge (FTC)– Neath and Swansea.

A peripatetic specialist team supporting Children's Services caring for children and young people with learning disabilities whose behaviour could be described as challenging. Facing the Challenge deliver positive behaviour support (PBS) person centred functional behavioural assessment and intervention.

The team work intensively with children and young people as well as with their parents and carers, offering group interventions for families and siblings. Facing the challenge works to understand the communicative intent of behaviours that challenge and develop evidence based, person centred interventions that seek to increase quality of life and teach skills to support the young person's ability to engage in meaningful ways and develop to their full potential.

Specialist Behaviour Team (SBT) Across Swansea Bay footprint

The specialist behaviour team deliver person centred, evidence based positive behaviour support (PBS) to adults. The team works intensively to seek to understand communicative function of challenging behaviour through individualised functional assessment and PBS intervention in partnership with the community learning disability teams.

PBS plans are developed to increase the person's quality of life, teach skills and reduce restrictive practice. The team support MDT behavioural assessment in specialist residential settings and work closely with the AAU's to reduce length of stay and increase positive outcomes for the person. They also support social care partners and families to maintain community placements reducing unnecessary admissions to in patient facilities.

The team are also responsible for delivery of psychology into the specialist residential services.

Learning Disability Intensive Support Team (LDIST) Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend

A team of nurses and support workers who provide prompt, short-term, intensive support to adults with learning disabilities who are experiencing episodes of mental and/or physical ill health that require extra support in addition to the community learning disabilities teams (CLDT) or acute learning disabilities liaison nurses. Working in conjunction with CLDT's, LDIST takes the service to the service user e.g. in their home, day service, as well as acute hospitals and are able to work with the service users across a variety of settings. LDIST enhances continuity of care and increases access to service support for the most in need by providing a 7-day service inclusive of weekends and bank holidays 9am-5pm and out of hours on week days 8am- 8pm,.

LDIST prevent crisis by using PBS and other support models to support service users experiencing an acute change in mental and/or physical health needs in community settings reducing the occurrence of; diagnostic overshadowing, risk of placement breakdown and unnecessary admissions to AAU's. LDIST can also provide input into acute hospitals facilitating reasonable adjustments thus reducing health inequalities. LDIST enable the reduction of bed days for those admitted to AAU's or acute hospitals by supporting & expediting safe discharge with on going support post discharge.

Acute Liaison Nurses

There are currently 7 Registered Learning Disability Nurses working in the District General Hospitals across the 3 health board areas. The service aims to improve the experiences of people with a learning disability in secondary care settings. This is done in a variety of ways including training of hospital staff, role modelling positive approaches, advising on reasonable adjustments, helping individuals and hospitals to plan for complex admissions and discharges providing a crucial link between secondary care and community teams.

Specialist Epilepsy Nurses

Two specialist epilepsy nurses work across all areas. They play an important role in passing on skills and knowledge to others and providing direct clinical intervention to those with the most complex needs. They work alongside Consultant Psychiatrists and also provide nurse led care.

Specialist Residential Services

Specialist residential services (SRS's) were established in the early 90's to facilitate the closure of Learning Disability institutions such as Ely and Hensol Hospitals.

The Tier Three Specialist Residential services comprise of seven, five bedded bungalows located in different communities across the Health areas of SBUHB, Cwm Taf, and Cardiff and the Vale. These were set up with the intention of accommodating service users with continuing health care needs. Since the establishment of the units, there have been very few discharges to social care placements. There was a perception that these settings were established as homes for life after the closure of the institutions and there has not been a clear plan for moving people on. We know that there are people who could be safely discharged to social care placements. This is being reviewed within the modernising learning disability services work.

The Units are registered as hospitals, and are nurse led, with dedicated support from Psychiatry (one Registered Clinician per unit) and Psychology input from the Specialist Behavioural Service. The range of clinical presentations for the resident population include severe challenging behaviours with co-morbidities such as Autism/Autistic Spectrum Condition, Adult ADHD, a range of Mental Health problems and a small cohort who present with a history of high risk behaviours thus requiring high levels of supervision and support from trained and experienced staff.

Referral to these units can be made by NHS professionals. All individuals referred will have been fully assessed as meeting the criteria for NHS Continuing Health Care under the All Wales Framework.

The residential units for individuals with behaviours that challenge are;

Residential units for people with behaviours that challenge in SBUHB

Unit name	Based	Number of beds
Lletty Newydd	Cardiff (Whitchurch)	5
Ty Garth Newydd	Tonteg	5
Meadow Court	Tonyrefail	5
Dan Y Bont	Bridgend	5
Dan Y Deri	Swansea	5
Swn Yr Afon	Seven Sisters	5
Bryn Afon	Ferndale	5

In addition, Laurels and Briary unit meets the needs of people with profound and multiple Learning Disabilities, respite and step down from Tier 4 provision.

Unit for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Unit name	Based	Number of beds
Laurels and Briary	Cardiff (Ely)	7 plus 2 respite

Acute Admission Units (AAU)

Acute admission units provide in-patient assessment and treatment for adults with learning disabilities who require specialist, hospital based assessment and intervention and operate within the PBS framework. All individuals admitted to the units can expect a standardised approach to their assessment and treatment.

Bed numbers by AAU

Unit name	Based	Number of beds
Rowan House	Cardiff (Ely)	8
Hafod Y Wennol	Llantrisant (Hensol)	6
LLwyneryr	Swansea (Morrison)	8

Hafod Y Wennol offers a specialist assessment function for people with highly complex needs.