'Into the Mainstream'
A Day Opportunities Strategy for People with a Learning Disability

Kirklees Learning Disability Partnership Board
February 2010
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1. Introduction

‘Into the Mainstream’ day opportunities strategy for people with learning disabilities has been guided by the principles and objectives set out in recent government strategies: Valuing People 2001; Valuing People Now 2009 and Putting People First 2008. We recognise it is really important that people with a learning disability have the same opportunities to live an ordinary life, fully involved in the community alongside everyone else as equal citizens. Since the launch of the national Valuing People strategy in 2001 significant progress has been made in Kirklees to improve services for people with a learning disability, however further work is required. Valuing People Now 2009 sets out the priorities for the next three years, employment needs to be seen as a realistic option and considered first before looking at other options that include day opportunities. We need to change people’s perceptions of learning disabled people and raise the expectations of learning disabled people, carers and potential employers to seriously consider employment as a possible option.

The day opportunities strategy addresses some of the barriers people with a learning disability face to be included as full members of the community; change can only take place if all agencies work in partnership to breakdown the barriers. Our aim is to ensure a range of high quality services are available that enable learning disabled people to access and engage in the wider community. We need to ensure the wider community understand the needs of people with a learning disability and their right to be equal citizens. We also need to provide accessible information about the opportunities available and support people with learning disabilities and carers to identify what is best for them.

The day opportunities strategy identifies the approach the Council and its Health Service partners will be taking regarding the future development of day opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Kirklees over the next five years. It provides a clear statement of our intentions to support people with a learning disability to maximise their choices, develop skills and promote independence, enabling people with a learning disability to have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to their local community.

The Learning Disabilities Partnership Board will oversee the implementation of the day opportunities strategy working closely with the Day Opportunities Sub Group. The board will monitor the progress made each year in the development of day opportunities for people with a learning disability to ensure they are person centred and offer opportunities in all aspects of community life.

Day time opportunities help people with a learning disability to have a fulfilling life. Day opportunities are important for several reasons: they provide people with the opportunity to take part in various interests and activities; make friends; develop relationships; new skills and enable people to make a positive contribution to the community. An inclusive approach is required that enables learning disabled people to ‘get a life’ as valued and equal members of the community.

Day opportunities also provide support to carers, so that they too can also lead fulfilling lives outside the caring role. The strategy also addresses the needs of learning disabled people from ethnic communities and people with complex needs, ensuring needs are met via an inclusive approach. Our aim is to make people with a learning disability feel more valued, independent and offer greater choice and control, ensuring people feel included in their local communities as equal citizens.

Keith Smith & Nicola Cromack
Co Chairs of the Learning Disability Partnership Board
2. Where are we now – the big picture?

2.1 National priorities
There are a number of key national policy documents that we have taken account of during the development of this day opportunities strategy. These include:

2.1.1 \(^1\) Valuing People 2001 (DOH) was the first policy that signalled a new approach to the delivery of care. “It provided a vision for the lives of people with learning disabilities and their families based on the four principles of rights, independence, choice and inclusion.” One of the government objectives in the strategy was “To enable people with learning disabilities to lead full and purposeful lives within their community and to develop a range of friendships, activities and relationships.”

To meet these objectives key actions were identified. One of the key actions was a “Five year programme to modernise day services by 2006.” “Modernising day services will involve developing and strengthening links with local supported employment schemes, and with providers of further and community education and training for disabled people.” This led to the closure of large day opportunity provision to be replaced by smaller community based services. Another key action: “Leisure plans to incorporate the needs of people with learning disabilities,” this was to ensure people with a learning disability could access ordinary leisure activities alongside the wider community. Valuing People provided a set of clear messages: “We can no longer tolerate services which leave people isolated and marginalised. Good quality public services should offer new opportunities for people with learning disabilities to lead full and productive lives as valued members of their local communities.”

2.1.2 \(^2\) Having a Good Day? 2007 (SCIE) the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) published a ‘knowledge review’ of community based day activities. The review of policy and practice highlighted: work; education; training; volunteering; participating in leisure; arts; hobbies and socialising as essential elements of successful day opportunity services. It goes onto say irrespective of the support people need; activities need to have a purpose, be undertaken in ordinary places, doing things members of the community would do and ensure friendships, connections and a sense of belonging develop in the process.

The review also identified a range of barriers that stopped people achieving these outcomes and identified the following key conditions for change to support real improvements:

- partnership with people and their families
- leadership
- cultural change
- person centred planning with and for people
- individualised funding and direct payments
- ‘smart’ commissioning
- staff development
- community capacity building
- good information
- diversion and move on

The review identified progress had been made with services moving away from large segregated day opportunity services into smaller integrated community based provision but very few people with a learning disability had moved into paid employment.

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\(^1\) Valuing People – A new strategy for the 21st century 2001.
2.1.3 Valuing People Now 2009 (DOH) sets out a clear three year strategy supported by a detailed delivery plan, the focus of the strategy is to make it a reality. The strategy recognises real progress has been made since Valuing People 2001 but acknowledges there is still a lot to do. Valuing People Now “take forward the implementation of the policy set out in Valuing People in this wider developing social policy context.” In contrast to Valuing People, Valuing People Now does not focus on day opportunity services but a broader perspective which encompasses work, education and getting a life. One of the policy objectives: “All people and their families to have a fulfilling life of their own, beyond services, that includes opportunities to work, study, and enjoy leisure and social activities. This includes supporting more people with learning disabilities into paid work, including those with more complex needs.” A Kirklees employment strategy for people with a learning disability has been completed which sets out our strategic direction and will sit alongside the day opportunities strategy. One of the Valuing People Now – delivery plan priorities for 2009-10 is “to increase employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities.”

“People with learning disabilities want to lead ordinary lives and do the things that most people take for granted. They want to study at college, get a job, have relationships and friendships, and enjoy leisure and social activities. Many people need support to do these things”. To achieve this Valuing People Now makes several recommendations:

• “Work in close partnership with families as well as other services and link into broader community developments through Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs)”
• “Think beyond nine-to-five working days and include evenings and weekends”
• “Invest in making community-based facilities and settings that are accessible for all”
• “Develop a clear de-commissioning strategy that shows how money will be drawn down from traditional services and re-invested in wider opportunities”

To achieve the ambitious agenda set out in Valuing People Now, people with a learning disability need to be seen as equal citizens and supported to enact their rights and fulfil their potential, achieve their ambitions and become more independent. The ‘Into the Mainstream’ day opportunities strategy sets out how this will be achieved.

2.1.4 Valuing Employment Now 2009 (DOH) “is based on the Government’s belief that all people with learning disabilities, like all other people, can and should have the chance to work.” and “sets out the Government’s goal to radically increase the number of people with moderate and severe learning disabilities in employment by 2025.” The strategy aims to radically improve employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities. The strategy sets out a series of overarching principles:

• “The Government is committed to achieving equality for all disabled people by 2025, as set out in Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People, this includes the chance for all disabled people to get a job.”
• “The strategy focuses on people with moderate and severe learning disabilities, because they have benefited least from previous initiatives.”
• “By ‘work’, we mean real jobs in the open labour market that are paid the prevailing wage, or self-employment. We do not mean volunteering or work experience, unless this is part of a genuine pathway to real work. This is about doing a good job that the employer and the employee value.”

Achieving the ambitious agenda in Valuing Employment Now is a long term goal. The Kirklees employment strategy for people with a learning disability focuses on supporting people preparing for paid employment, supporting people to gain paid employment and

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3 Valuing People Now – A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009.
supporting people in paid employment. There is a clear need to develop a day opportunities strategy that includes work related activities and volunteering opportunities that enables people to gain the skills needed to potentially move into paid employment, alongside community based social and leisure opportunities. Together they will offer the widest range of choices for people with a learning disability in Kirklees.

2.1.5 **Putting People First 2007 (HM Government)** identifies “A shared vision and commitment to the transformation of Adult Social Care.” Advances in health and public health services means people are living longer; “the numbers of people aged 50 and over with learning disabilities are projected to rise by 53% between 2001 and 2021.” In addition “People have higher expectations of what they need to meet their own particular circumstances, wanting greater control over their lives and the risks they take. They want dignity and respect to be at the heart of any interaction, so that they can access high-quality services and support closer to home at the right time, enabling them and their supporters to maintain or improve their wellbeing and independence rather than relying on intervention at the point of crisis. Social care cannot meet these challenges without radical change in how services are delivered.”

The Putting People First concordat sets out the personalisation of adult social care. “The overall vision is that the state should empower citizens to shape their own lives and the services they receive.” Self assessment and individualised budgets are the cornerstone of the changes. Self assessment puts the person at the heart of the process enabling them to identify what outcomes are important to them in a person centred way. Individual budgets provide people with the opportunity to have greater choice and control over how their needs will be met: “all individuals eligible for publicly-funded adult social care will have a personal budget, a clear, upfront allocation of funding to enable them to make informed choices about how best to meet their needs.”

The new approach will enable people to take all or part of their personal budget as a direct payment. People will be able to create their own menu of support and not be restricted to the existing services; people could choose to employ a personal assistant, purchase support direct from an agency via a direct payment or ask the council to continue paying for the services directly once they have chosen their support package. Implementing the personalisation agenda requires significant cultural, organisational and whole system change over the coming years. The aim of the putting people first strategy is to ensure people have greater choice and control over the support they need to live the lives they want.

2.2 Local priorities for people with a learning disability
Since Valuing People was launched in 2001 Kirklees Council has embarked on a programme of modernising day services for people with learning disabilities. The Learning Disability Partnership Board has played a central role monitoring and guiding the modernisation process and will continue to play a central role ensure the range of services available will meet future need particularly the implementation of ‘Putting People First’ transforming adult social care agenda.

Kirklees Council’s Adult Services has a ‘statutory duty’ to provide services to people who meet the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria and are therefore eligible for support. The Council also provides a range of support services to people who are not eligible; these are provided by Gateway to Care. Services and support to people who are not eligible under

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5 Putting People First – Transforming social care 2007.
the Fair Access to Care criteria are provided via the voluntary sector community services. A significant proportion of the estimated learning disability population in Kirklees is not eligible for support so it is important a range of inclusive community support services are available to ensure their needs are being met.

The Learning Disability Vision document completed in 2008 identified day opportunities as the most important priority for people with a learning disability and carers; 65% of the people consulted stated they wanted more things to do and places to go on an evening and weekend and 98% of people felt they needed support to travel to activities.

**Keeping people safe – everybody’s business**

One of the most important duties that Councils have is Safeguarding – protecting vulnerable adults (and children) from harm or potential harm. We also have a key role in making sure that everyone of us sees safeguarding as our own individual responsibility – it is the duty of us all to make sure that those around us are safe from harm wherever possible.

This isn’t always easy – we have to balance keeping people safe, with helping people to be in control of their own lives and being free to take risks. In the Council, in partnership with other organisations responsible for health and wellbeing in Kirklees, we have founded our adult safeguarding vision on the following principles:

- **Empowerment**: everyone should be in control of their lives and their consent is needed for decisions and actions being taken to protect them.
- **Protection**: it is everybody’s responsibility to take action if they think someone maybe at risk of abuse.
- **Prevention**: stopping abuse from ever taking place is the most important goal – and we all have a role in this.
- **Keeping things in Proportion**: we must try to get the balance right between protection and empowerment
- **Partnership**: making sure that we have really good systems that enable organisations to work well together to help protect people.
- **Accountability**: being transparent and making decisions that are open to scrutiny.

### 2.2.1 Modernisation of Adult Services Learning Disability Day Opportunities

Since the publication of Valuing People in 2001 Adult Services learning disability day opportunity services have been modernising the way day opportunities are provided, they have closed large day care buildings in both North and South Kirklees. Recently Highfields a new ‘state of the art’ community resource centre has opened integrating both health and social care day services into one service in South Kirklees. Several small community bases have been established across both North and South Kirklees and work continues to identify suitable new bases in partnership with other council departments. Enabling people to access local community services and provide opportunities for people to be included in the community as equal citizens, promoting independence and choice remains a primary objective.
In 2007 a major piece of consultation took place regarding the ‘vision’ for Adult Services learning disability day opportunity services; it included discussing the development of the new community resource centre in south Kirklees. The aim of the consultation was to work in partnership with people with a learning disability and carers to ensure services were built round people, rather than people fitted into services, and to ensure meaningful and interesting activities were available. The feedback identified five themes: use of space; style of service delivery; staffing issues; activities and resources and opening times. This information was fed into the modernisation of learning disability day opportunities process and continues to do so. It has been identified further work is needed to integrate health and social care day services in North Kirklees. Adult Services day opportunities programme board are incorporating all the above in the ongoing process of modernising in-house day opportunities. The new learning disability day opportunities strategy will identify the strategic place in the market. Adult Services in-house learning disability day opportunities service will have in the overall day opportunities market.

2.2.2 Independent Sector Day Opportunities Market
A range of providers offering buildings-based day and community based services are available across both north and south Kirklees. Some of these services are funded via direct payments and some via a block contract with Adult Services; in 2009 the block contracted services were tendered. The successful winners of the new block contracts are now able to continue developing and delivering person centred day opportunities that meet the needs of the people who attend. Additional capacity has been identified and built into the contracts to ensure additional service provision is available for future demand; the contracts can also be reduced if people choose to take a direct payment as an alternative.

It is clear that people have raised expectations; people want a more flexible and personalised service provided over a longer period that includes evenings and weekends. The personalisation of adult social care will have a significant impact on the day opportunities market as people with a learning disability and carers identify alternative ways in which to meet the outcomes they have identified. Some will choose to continue receiving a building based day opportunity service, some may choose to employ a personal assistant to access the community and engage in hobbies and interests or use a combination of both. The future challenge to all day opportunity providers is to ensure that the services they provide offer excellent value and offer the type of services people need and will want to access.

2.2.3 The Day Opportunities Sub Group of the Partnership Board
The role of the sub group is to make sure that the ongoing modernisation of day opportunities provides the type of services people want. To ensure they know what people want, the newly formed day opportunities sub group has begun work consulting with learning disabled people who use day opportunity services to assess what is important to them and help shape the future direction of day opportunities. These are just some of the things suggested by people with a learning disability:

Our vision for Day Opportunities…
“To provide a motivating experience which will be a service of choice that develops skills and confidence and opens doors to a wider range of opportunities”
It is clear from the information gathered so far, people want to access a greater range of community activities, particularly ones available on an evening and weekends and live ordinary lives like everyone else. It is really important the views of learning disabled people are feed into the ongoing development of day opportunities. The day opportunities sub group will feed back to the partnership board who have a central role to play in making sure the wishes of people with a learning disability are heard.

2.2.4 Voluntary Sector Day Opportunities
Under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria only people with critical and substantial needs will be eligible for Adult Services funding to access the variety of day opportunities available to meet their needs. It is estimated Adult Services provides Fair Access to Care Services eligible support to just over 1,000 people with a learning disability. National prevalence data suggests there are between 8,000 and 10,000 people in Kirklees with a learning disability (between 2 and 2.5% of the Kirklees population). The vast majority of these people are able to lead ordinary lives with the support of family and friends. Some people however do need support and the voluntary sector has a critical role to play in meeting the needs of these people. It is clear further work is needed to identify what services are currently being offered and identify any gaps that need addressing. It is important low level support services are available to this vulnerable client group to ensure they too are able to live ordinary lives as equal citizens in the community and maintain their health and well being.

2.3 What is the level of need?
Using national and local data the following tries to identify the level of expected future need for day services in Kirklees:
2.3.1 National Prevalence Data

The Department of Health estimated that 65,000 children and 145,000 English adults have severe or profound learning disabilities, and 1.2 million have mild or moderate learning disabilities. Suggesting a national prevalence of 2.5% of the population has a learning disability. Emerson and Hatton 2008 “estimated that 985,000 people in England have a learning disability (2% of the general population)” however there are no accurate records kept on the number of people with learning disabilities in England; they suggest the overall population of England will grow by 5% between 2007 and 2017. They go on to argue “that three factors are likely to lead to an increase in the age-specific prevalence rates for adults with learning disabilities in England over the next two decades. These are to: (1) the increase in proportion of younger English adults who belong to South Asian minority ethnic communities; (2) increased survival rates among young people with severe and complex disabilities; (3) reduced mortality among older adults with learning disabilities.” They conclude that “By modelling the effects of these changes and combining these with the effects of general demographic change we estimated modest but sustained growth over the next two decades in both the numbers of people with learning disabilities known to learning disability services (11% over the decade 2001-2011, 14% over the two decades 2001-2021). This evidence supports Kirklees’ experience over the last few years that young people entering adult services have more profound and complex needs, particularly people from South Asian communities. In additional the national growth of an ageing population is being replicated by people with a learning disability, with the associated age related health issues.

Emerson & Hatton 2008 research focussed on the life experiences of people with a learning disability, identifying “Over four in five (83%) of people with learning disabilities of working age were unemployed. The chances of having any paid employment were, however, much greater for people with less severe learning disabilities. 28% of people with mild/moderate learning disabilities had some form of paid employment.” “Just over one in three people (36%) were undertaking some form of education or training. This was markedly higher among people with mild/moderate learning disabilities (36%) and people with severe learning disabilities (38%) than among people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (14%).” “Just over one in three people (39%) attended a day centre. This was markedly higher among people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (66%) and people with severe learning disabilities (49%) than among people with mild/moderate learning disabilities (24%).”

2.3.2 Local Prevalence Data

The Institute of Public Care – Oxford Brookes Institute suggest via the Projected Adult Needs and Service Information system (PANSI) that the number of people with a learning disability in Kirklees will continue to grow over the next 20 years, they estimate there are currently “6,132 learning disabled people aged 18 to 64 and 1,246 aged over 65 in Kirklees in 2009 this will rise to 6,617 aged 18 to 64 and 1,935 aged over 65 by 2030.” They go on to state the “figures are based on an estimate of prevalence across the national population; locally this will produce an over-estimate in communities with a low South Asian community, and an under-estimate in communities with a high South Asian community. Kirklees has a high South Asian community suggesting theses figures may under estimate future growth in Kirklees.

7 People with Learning disabilities in England, Centred for Disability Research, E Emerson & C Hatton, 2008, page i
12 http://www.pansi.org.uk/index.php?&PHPSESSID=7c4pduef9ahb9ds6659ef8lri3&pageNo=388&areaID=8399
The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Kirklees 2009 states “\(^{13}\)There are 1,932 learning disabled people known to Adult Services, of these 1,055 received services from Kirklees Council Adult Services. The localities with the highest number of people with learning disabilities are Huddersfield South (370), Dewsbury & Mirfield (335) and Huddersfield North (272).” Kirklees has “\(^{14}\)159 people aged over 65 with learning disabilities known to Adult Services and a high proportion of younger adults with learning disabilities also had profound and complex physical disabilities and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorder.” It goes on to say “\(^{15}\)over the past few years 2 - 3% increases occurred annually in the number of adults with learning disabilities receiving services. Due to predicted increases in the number of people with a learning disability, commissioners and providers need to ensure that services are available to meet future demand. This includes the likely increase in the demand for Direct Payments and Individual Budgets.” Over the last 12 months learning disability services has seen the number of people receiving direct payments increase significantly to just over 190 people, of which 50% use direct payments to purchase day opportunities.

2.3.3 Summary

Valuing People Now 2009 clearly indicates employment needs to be considered as the first option for everyone with a learning disability. It is clear from both national and local data we will most likely see a continued growth in the number of people with profound and severe learning disabilities alongside an ageing population requesting support from Adult Services. More people with mild/moderate learning disabilities will gain paid employment after leaving education and will not require traditional day services. Some will require support to gain employment and to develop/maintain social networks and to engage in community activities, including support to learn to travel independently.

People with profound and severe learning disabilities face the biggest challenge to gain paid employment. A range of day opportunities giving people the chance to engage in work related activities, that offer people the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the community, develop their skills and self esteem are needed. We have already seen an increase in the number of people taking up direct payments, the personalisation of adult social care will see the number rise significantly over the coming years.

It is clear from the data that we will see an increase in the demand for day opportunity services over the coming years. It is expected the increase in demand will come from, an increase in the number of people with profound and complex needs particularly from the black and minority ethnic communities. There will also be an increase in demands from an ageing population that will need day opportunity services that are flexible and responsive to their changing needs.
3. What do we have in Kirklees?
Currently Kirklees Council Adult Services spends just over £4.7 million pounds per year on social care day opportunity services, providing support to over 500 people in day opportunity services. Kirklees Adult Services day opportunities service has the largest market share.

3.1 Adult Services in–house day opportunity services
The service is divided into North Kirklees and South Kirklees services and currently offers a service to 308 people at a cost of £2.8 million per year operating out of 14 community bases. Chart 2 shows the number of people who access the various services.
3.1.1 South Kirklees Day Opportunities
Currently has seven services operating from six community sites, the following is a summary of the range of services they provide:

Highfields Community Resource Centre – is a brand new state of the art community resource centre in Edgerton, which opened in September 2009 the building is managed by Safer Stronger Communities. The Highfields development brought together Swallow Court social care day opportunities and Lindley special care health led day service as part of the ongoing modernisation of day services in partnership with Kirklees NHS and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Highfields offers a wide range of activities many in the community, based around individuals’ needs and choice, including:

- Swimming, integrated keep fit sessions, massage therapy
- Community events and linking with the other community bases to support friendships
- Support is provided to enable people to access voluntary and work experience placements
- Offers a drop in service for people who don’t attend a community base but need support and advice on how to access other services
- The nursing team work closely with Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapists to ensure that any identified health needs can be met within the new service

Highfields Gardens - was first established in 1998 as an alternative day care activity for adults with learning disabilities with high support needs. The Highfields Garden project was based at Briarcourt Gardens until the end of 2009. Service users take part in various activities, including:

- Producing a range of plants and flowers on its one acre site. Many of the plants produced are used in hanging baskets or in floral arrangements which are made to order and sold to the public
- Provide a gardens maintenance service to 40 older and disabled people living in Central Huddersfield. The service was established in 2005, and is run in partnership with the Huddersfield Deanery Project

Brian Jackson Base – is a new community base in the centre of Huddersfield that supports service users to access a variety of activities in the community, including:

- Swimming sessions, bowling, pottery classes, walking, dancing and keep fit sessions.
- Making and sell greetings cards which are sold at a number of locations around Huddersfield and at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
- Attend computer skills course at the Media Centre
- Supporting the National Trust with conservation work
• Provide a travel training services supporting people to learn to travel independently
• Access the internet cafe in Brian Jackson House

**Honley Base** – is a well established community base close to the village centre. People take part in various activities, including:
• Attend voluntary work placements at the Kirkwood Hospice shop, Trinity Court Older People’s Day Service and Elim Cafe
• Work in partnership with Community Liaison to provide Winter Warmer Soup sessions for the elderly in the area
• Access the local gym for keep fit classes
• Deliver leaflets and regularly use local facilities including the library and swimming baths
• Fund raising, held a sponsored walk for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance, held a MacMillan coffee morning
• Operate a number of recycling projects as well as offering art and craft, baking and IT skills training

![Images of people and community activities](image1.jpg)

**Slaithwaite Base** – is a small community base close to the village centre, people take part in various activities, including:
• Shopping trips, day trips, pub lunches, bowling, walking groups
• Swimming in the local baths, art and craft, dancing, using the local gym
• Conservation work working alongside the National Trust with other voluntary groups
• Rebound therapy sessions
• Opportunities to try other activities people may want to do and be involved in
• Voluntary work within the local community

![Images of community activities](image2.jpg)

**Dalton Base** - currently based at Briarcourt, Lindley waiting to move to a permanent base in the Dalton area in 2010. The base aims to support people in activities of their choice, people take part in various activities, including:
• Accessing local facilities, going food shopping for lunch, attending local community groups
• Volunteering, swimming, hydro therapy, rebound therapy, music sessions
• Visits to the local cinema
• Taster sessions where people try new activities, art and craft, baking sessions, etc
• Bowling, meeting friends from other community bases

![Image of community activities](image3.jpg)

**Fartown Base** - is a new base situated at the Chestnut Centre, people take part in various activities, including:
• Developing and strengthening community links
• Work experience in the Chestnut Centre Café
• Access learning opportunities via education and training course provided at the Chestnut Centre
• Support to develop social skills and the capacity to form new friendships and relationships with a wide range of people from the local community

![Image of community activities](image4.jpg)
3.1.2 North Kirklees Day Opportunities
Currently has six services operating from five community sites which provide a person centred service to each individual. Each of the six bases produces a newsletter which is sent out to family and friends. Everyone has a personal portfolio which they work on with staff support. Included in the portfolios is information about things people enjoy doing as well as things people dislike. The following is a summary of the range of services they provide:

Habib Base - situated in the centre of Dewsbury ideal for all the local amenities, sports centre, library, outdoor market and local shops. The bus and railway stations give access to Leeds and Huddersfield. People take part in various activities, including:

- Beauty days – people experienced a range of different treatments, eg, manicures, pedicures, foot spas, hand waxes and facials facilitated by a local beauty therapist
- Getting involved in the ‘Fresh Start’ community clean up campaign in Thornhill Lees organised by the community rangers
- Getting involved in the production of Grease at Dewsbury College
- Deliver the free press newspaper, building relationships with the local community
- Weekly visits to the local library to choose books and DVDs
- Use the local sports centre for swimming or gym sessions
- Visit to the radio station to see how programmes are made

Empire Base - situated in the Walsh Building in the centre of Dewsbury. The base offers a range of activities chosen by individuals; people take part in various activities, including:

- Attending PALS Community Walking Group
- Volunteer at an Asian Men’s Group
- Attending a Community Art Group
- Organised a “Swap Shop Event” at Dewsbury Town Hall
- Involvement in a local photography competition
- Some people are members of Kirklees Involvement Network (self advocacy group)
- Some people attend the Talking Together Group for people from the black and minority ethnic communities
- Visits to local museums
- Attend regular swimming sessions and visits the library
Heckmondwike Base - situated in a recently built Scout Community Centre close to the centre of Heckmondwike. The base has its own minibus, but public transport is used whenever possible. People choose the activities they like to do and are supported by staff where needed, including:

- Volunteering in a local café
- Swimming at Spenborough swimming pool
- Keen walkers access a number of suitable venues
- Visits to the local fire station
- Visits Bradford Alhambra to watch the pantomime
- Help with hair and make-up
- Shopping trips

Mirfield Base – Currently based in Ravensthorpe, it has the use of a minibus. The base provides a wide range of activities, including:

- Accessing carriage driving lessons in Leeds
- Some people are members of Kirklees Involvement Network (self advocacy group)
- Access the spa pool, swimming pool at the Galpharm stadium and the swimming pool at Dewsbury Sports Centre
- Going out for lunch, visits to the local pub, making new friends, the landlord has built a ramp so one person who uses a wheelchair has easy access
- Accessing weekly art group sessions at Huddersfield library

Batley Base - currently based in Ravensthorpe until a suitable building has been identified in the Batley area. People access activities in their local area, as well as using facilities in Ravensthorpe. The base provides a wide range of activities, including:

- Using Batley snooker hall
- Ten pin bowling
- Litter picking at a Batley school
- Deliver the free press newspaper, building relationships with the local community
- Involvement in a community gardening project with Community Rangers
- Attend aqua aerobic classes
- Visits to the golf driving range
- Gym sessions at Dewsbury sports centre
- Country walking sessions

Cleckheaton Base - situated in a Community Centre some distance from the town centre. The base has developed strong community links with local residents, tenants association, the local church and the local comprehensive and primary schools. The base provides a wide range of activities, including:

- Joining in art lessons at the local sixth form college
- Visits to the local swimming pool
• Ten pin bowling in Huddersfield
• Attend local community social events
• Developed a garden project - improving the grounds of the community centre
• Holding a “Turnsteads in Bloom” community event in 2010
• Organise a local art exhibition
• Attend a local art project
• Attend the local church social group

3.2 Independent sector day opportunity services
There are currently 15 different contracted day services supporting 159 people at a cost of £1.3 million per year to access a wide range of day opportunity services, these include local learning disability specific day opportunities, specialist out of area day opportunities and mainstream day opportunities. Chart 3 below shows the number of people who access the various services.

There are five main block contracted services providing day opportunity services in Kirklees, below is a summary of the services they provide:

3.2.2 Bridgewood Trust Day Opportunities Service
Based in Armitage Bridge, Huddersfield, the service focuses on providing a variety of activities: arts and crafts, photography, cookery, computer skills, shopping, singing, dancing and drumming sessions, making cards and various gifts to sell in the Bridgewood Trust
shop. One project collects old furniture, service users restore and modernise it ready for sale in the shop. The service also provides work opportunities as well as opportunities to get out and about in the community.

3.2.3 Bridgewood Trust Horticultural Services
Based in Edgerton, near Huddersfield, the service is a long established horticultural service. The service sells a wide range of plants that are grown from seed and can be purchased by the public. It also offers an off-site gardening service to individuals and local businesses. The service is planning to modernise the building which will include developing a café.

3.2.4 Mencap in Kirklees – Huddersfield Day Opportunities
Mencap in Kirklees provides day opportunities at Waverley Hall and Crosland Moor they are a long-established service provider. The service was originally set up for older people, however over time this has changed to offer a wider range of activities aimed at people of all ages who enjoy going out and about in the community. New developments include employment training in the Oddjob scheme and the Waverley cyber café. The cyber cafe will also provide drop-in facilities for people who do not attend day services but who may want the opportunity to keep in touch with friends.

3.2.5 Mencap in Kirklees - Branches Day Opportunities Centre
Based near Batley town centre, the service is aimed at the over 40’s, some people have physical disabilities. The service provides a wide range of social and community activities.

3.2.6 Ponderosa Therapeutic Day Opportunities Centre
Based at Ponderosa Therapeutic Rural Farm near Heckmondwike, the service offers a wide range of work based activities which include: working in a greenhouse cultivating plants, making hanging baskets, an outdoor based gardening team, cardboard recycling, working in a wormery, working on the Ponderosa Animal Farm and the Eggs R Uz poultry project along with an arts and crafts workshop. The service is provided to people with physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health issues, stroke victims and anyone who feels they would benefit from the experience. One of the aims of the service is to encourage life skills and independence and give people the confidence to gain or return to paid employment.

3.2.7 Valeo/Caretech Day Opportunity Services
Based in Deighton, near Huddersfield, the service caters for individuals with complex needs, challenging behaviour and autism. A variety of activities are available including independent living skills such as meal preparation and budgetary management. Activities are based around the individual’s interests and packages of support are put in place to support this. Group activities that are currently available are arts and crafts, sensory sessions and regular excursions and outings.

3.3 Health day opportunity services
The following is a summary of the day opportunity services Kirklees NHS commission in partnership with Kirklees Council to meet the needs of learning disabled people with profound and complex needs:

3.3.1 Highfields Community Resource Centre
The Centre is an inclusive integrated health and social care day opportunities service. It is part of the strategic plan to modernise day opportunities in partnership with Kirklees NHS and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust. Highfields offers the first integrated health and social care day opportunities service in Kirklees, it enables people with the most profound and complex needs to be included in mainstream service provision.
3.3.2 Community Access Centre
Based in Ravensthorpe, the service offers a nursing led day opportunity service for people with profound and complex needs. The Community Access Centre offers a range of meaningful social and therapeutic services both within the centre and the local community. The team offers nursing support and assessment to meet individual’s health needs. The nursing team work closely with the Community Learning Disability Team, physiotherapists and occupational therapists to ensure that any identified health needs can be met.

3.3.3 Oxfield Court Day Centre
Based in Dalton, near Huddersfield the service offers a nursing led day opportunity service for people with profound and complex needs, including health issues. It provides a range of meaningful activities to interest and stimulate. People who access the service are supported to develop skills in choice making, individual communication, independence building and positive self image, enabling participation and involvement in the community. The nurse lead service aims to provide quality interventions, promote physical well being, health promotion and develop or maintain fine/ gross motor skills of individuals. The service has numerous links with various specialist services to promote holistic well-being.

3.4 Direct payments
Currently there are 193 people with a learning disability receiving direct payments. Chart 4 shows what people spend their funding on. Of the 193 people, 61 people spend a total of £609,000 of their direct payment on day opportunities, in addition 33 people spending their direct payment on personal assistants or social/leisure opportunities or to access the community.

![Chart 4]

Over the last 18 months there has been a significant growth in day opportunity services provided to people with a learning disability via a direct payment. These services are not commissioned by Adult Services; they are care providers who have started to develop services as an alternative to the range of services commissioned by Adult Services. Putting People First – the personalisation of care services enables the market to develop in this way. Care providers are able to develop services, responding to customers (learning disabled people receiving a direct payment) needs. Customers are now able to shape the market, purchasing care services themselves via a direct payment from the care provider. The following is a summary of the range of services currently on offer.
3.4.1 Ambitions 4 Kirklees
Based in Ravensthorpe, near Dewsbury it is a community interest organisation set up in 2008. Their mission is to “empower and build the skills for work and independent living of young people and adults with learning difficulties and disabilities through practical experiences and supported work placements within their own local community and culture.” The service offers individualised programmes, assembling a menu of opportunities best suited to their needs and potential that builds a path towards their goals. They provide a placement programme through which people are supported to access work settings in their own local community either as employees or as a volunteer.

3.4.2 ACTIVE - Day and Evening Opportunities
ACTIVE offer a range of community and building based activities, including computing, woodwork and metalwork, baking classes, pool, table football, art, drumming and percussion sessions, plus a whole range of social activities. They provide daily outings including swimming, gym, bowling, cinema, parks, etc. At the Bradley base, they offer accredited ASDAN training courses where students can build on existing abilities, to improve literacy, numeracy, personal, social and independence skills and gain accredited qualifications. Active also have an allotment in Fartown growing vegetables, flowers and herbs and hold twice weekly social evenings at The Gas Club and are planning to develop further the range of day opportunities provided in Kirklees. Services are provided during daytime, evening and weekend for adults with learning and/ or physical disabilities, including autism, complex health needs and sensory impairments. A person-centred approach is adopted to enable clients to positively manage risks and engage in the activities of their choice. ACTIVE tailor services by carefully listening to clients, their families and other professionals, thus enabling people to take control of their lives.

3.4.3 Mencap in Kirklees – Arena Day Opportunities Service
The Arena project is based in Batley and the Arena II service is based in Crosland Moor, near Huddersfield. The Arena services are for younger more able people who do not want to attend traditional day services. Transport is not provided to these services so people must be able to get themselves to the services. Direct payments can be used to purchase this service if people choose to do so.
4. Where we want to be?

4.1 The aim of the day opportunities strategy

4.1.1 The aim of the strategy is to guide and direct the future development of day opportunities based on national priorities and local need, the day opportunities sub group of the partnership will support the process in partnership with people with a learning disability, carers and families. The following are key elements that need to be included in the ongoing development of day opportunities:

- Promote independence, develop skills and abilities that build confidence and enable people
- Promote greater community inclusion, participation and citizenship
- Offer people more choice and control
- Continue developing person centred approaches
- Develop services that focus on meeting individual’s identified outcomes
- Develop community buildings; improve community inclusion and a better understanding of the needs of people with a learning disability

If we can implement the above we will create the right environment for:

I become more independent

I have more choice and control

I am happy and have a meaningful life

I am and feel part of my community

I am able to make a positive contribution to my community

I am able to achieve my goals

4.2 Gaps in provision

4.2.1 Greater Variety of Times Day Opportunities are Available

Feedback from the consultation that has taken place with service users from Adult Services in-house day services and the day opportunities sub group of the Partnership Board has identified the need to expand opening times. The expansion of opening times needs to include longer opening times during the day, evenings and weekends. The
recent growth in the direct payment day service market supports these finds as care providers have begun to offer services on an evening and weekends.

4.2.2 Social Enterprises
“Social enterprises are businesses trading for social and environmental purposes. Many commercial businesses would consider themselves to have social objectives, but social enterprises are distinctive because their social and/or environmental purpose is absolutely central to what they do - their profits are reinvested to sustain and further their mission for positive change.” Further research is needed into the benefits of creating social enterprises within Kirklees; they offer an opportunity that enables people with a learning disability to be a central part of a social enterprise organisation. We need to consider how we can support people with a learning disability, families and organisations who want to develop their own ‘Social enterprise’. “Social enterprises tackle a wide range of social and environmental issues and operate in all parts of the economy. By using business solutions to achieve public good, it is believed that social enterprises have a distinct and valuable role to play in helping create a strong, sustainable and socially inclusive economy”. In 2008 Ambitions 4 Kirklees became the first community interest company in Kirklees for people with a learning disability. Community interest companies “are designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good”. Developing local solutions to meet people’s needs that offer greater choice and put people in control of how their needs are met, need to be encouraged. We need to support the development of social enterprises which may be one option.

4.2.3 Out of Area Day Opportunity Services
Some people with complex needs currently have to go outside Kirklees to have their daytime needs met, this may be by choice. Only a very small number of people access out of area day opportunities, their needs are complex and the cost of providing a service significant. There is a clear need working with our health partners to identify the rationale behind the provision of out of area day opportunity services. We need review the use of out of area services and make a commitment to offer everyone using out of area services an alternative within Kirklees. To do this we will need to develop the specialist day opportunity market in Kirklees.

4.2.4 Support to Develop and Maintain Relationships
As traditional large day service provisions are replaced by small community based services; people who have built up relationships over the years will need support to maintain them. Young people entering adult life also need the opportunity to develop relationships within the community not just with other learning disabled people. In developing smaller community based services we need to ensure people have the opportunity to develop friendships (not just with other learning disabled people) enabling a network of friendships to develop ensuring people are not socially isolated. Lots of social events take place on evenings and weekends, without carers and family support and without accessible facilities people with a learning disability will continue to be excluded. As we identify people’s interests, hobbies and raise aspirations we need to make sure ‘circles of support’ are in place, together with accessible disabled friendly services to empower learning disabled people to really become equal citizens in the community alongside everyone else.

4.2.5 Greater Range of Day Opportunities Services
The Putting People First – personalisation of care services has highlighted the growth in the number of new day opportunity services that have been developed over the last 18

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16 http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/pages/frequently-asked-questions.html
17 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_interest_company
18 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_interest_company
months. As the personalisation of care services develops it is clear there is a need to develop a greater range of smaller, more localised services, creating a more fragmented day opportunity market to meet the increasingly different, broader and more complex range of needs of the learning disabled population within Kirklees.

4.3 Issues for consideration

4.3.1 Future Growth – Changing Needs of the Current People Accessing Day Opportunities
Both national and local prevalence data identifies a growth in the number of people with a learning disability who will need support from Adult Services in the coming years. There are two main areas of growth; young people with profound and complex needs entering adulthood, particularly from the South Asian communities, and an ageing population with age related health issues. Day opportunity services will continue to have an important role to play in meeting peoples’ identified outcomes. One of the challenges will be to make sure day opportunity buildings and the wider community facilities are able to meet the physical needs of an ageing population and the increased number of people with profound and complex physical needs. The statutory duties set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and The Disability Equality Duty 2006 will help ensure an inclusive approach continues to be taken by all key agencies at a strategic level.

4.3.2 Putting People First– the Transformation of Adult Social Care
Direct payments have over the last eight years provided people with the opportunity to have greater choice and control over how their needs are met. ‘The Putting People First’ agenda and the introduction of individual budgets will further increase the choice and control people have over the services they receive. Adult Services are undertaking a whole system approach to implementing the ‘Putting People First’ agenda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Ambition - Transformation in Kirklees will:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enable people to maximise their independence, exercise control over their lives and have choices on how best their care needs are met.</strong></td>
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Personalisation in Kirklees will be based on whole system reform, and we are clear that our ambition for personalised adult social care will not simply be achieved by promoting Individualised Budgets. Individualised Budgets will be one facet to our approach. We need to consider how we deliver personalisation irrespective of how, where, and by whom people may choose to have their social care outcomes and needs met. It’s based on an assumption that there are broadly three levels of service or intervention:

- Fair Access to Care eligible
- Targeted prevention and well being
- Universal services (housing, health, education, leisure, community capacity, information and access)

(Quote from Adult Services Transformation Programme 2009)

During 2009 the number of people receiving a direct payment has increased by 61%, clearly people are taking control of how their needs are met, and this has led to a growth in the independent day opportunities market. Providers have begun developing services to meet the specific needs of individual people who choose to access a direct payment to purchase care direct. Care providers have begun developing relationships with individuals, shaping services to meet individual’s needs. The new approach will create a more competitive, customer focussed and flexible market place.
The role of Adult Services, its NHS partners and the way services are commissioned will change from controlling the market to shaping the market; however it is important to note the responsibility for the quality of service and value for money along with the duty of care will remain with Kirklees Adult Services.

4.3.3 Travel Training
Recognising learning disabled people’s abilities and ‘gifts’ is the cornerstone for changing peoples attitudes and values. There is a clear need to promote and develop people’s independence, particularly around getting out and about in the community. Being able to travel independently will open up a whole range of new opportunities for people. Developing a travel training programme will not only promote independence, it will help contribute to the green agenda and make economic sense. The modernisation of day opportunities has seen the development of smaller community based services; the next step is to make sure everyone with the potential to travel independently or with minimal support is given the opportunity to do so.

4.3.4 People from the Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities
There is a clear need to ensure the right culturally appropriate services are in place, particularly for the increasing number of people with profound and complex needs from the South Asian communities. Kirklees Partnership has a clear community cohesion vision; it sets out a vision of an integrated and cohesive community based on three foundations:
- People from different backgrounds having similar life opportunities
- People knowing their rights and responsibilities
- People trusting one another and trusting local institutions to act fairly
To achieve community cohesion and ensure services are appropriate to meet the needs of the various ethnic communities in Kirklees we need to have a very clear understanding of them and mutual respect for everyone as equal citizens.

4.3.5 People with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
Not all people with autism have a learning disability, however a significant number do. Currently only a limited amount of information is available regarding the numbers of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Kirklees and across the country. The recent passing of the Autism Bill in the House of Lords means that from April 2010 every local authority will have a duty to identify and collate information about people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. 2010 will see the publication of the first ever national Autism Strategy. The Department of Health published good practice guidance for Local Authority and Primary Care Trust commissioners in April 2009, the guidance aims to bring existing information and good practice to the attention of commissioners so that they may enable, empower and promote independence and meaningful choices for adults with Autistic Spectrum Conditions." Together the guidance and national Autism Strategy will form the foundations to support the action needed to address the needs of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Currently some people in Kirklees access Autistic Spectrum Disorder services in a neighbouring authority, there is a clear need to identify and review the current range of specialist day opportunities provided in Kirklees.

4.3.6 People with Profound and Complex Needs
The advance in medical intervention means more people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) are entering adulthood. Working closely with our Health Service partners the integration of health and social care day services has begun with the opening of Highfields Community Centre. Valuing People Now 2009 clearly states The

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19 Services for adults with autistic spectrum conditions (ASC): Good practice advice for primary care trust and local authority commissioners, Department of Health, 2009
20 Valuing People Now – A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009 page 35
vision for people with more complex needs is the same as for everyone: inclusion and participation in all areas of community life, including living independently and having paid work.” It goes on to suggest “if services develop communication and accessibility for … people [with the most complex needs] they are probably getting it right for most people with learning disabilities.” Clearly there is a lot more work needed to integrate people with profound and complex needs into mainstream services, we need to build on the foundations of the work already done. One of the future challenges will be ensuring staff have the right skills to meet the needs of people with profound and complex needs.

4.3.7 People with Low Support Needs
Some people with a learning disability are not eligible for Adult Services support under the Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) criteria. Information and advice on eligibility is available to everyone via the Gateway to Care offices in Huddersfield, Dewsbury, Batley and Cleckheaton. The Kirklees transformation programme identifies three levels of service or intervention: Fair Access to Care eligible, targeted prevention and wellbeing, and universal services (housing, health, education, leisure, community capacity, information and access.) If you are not able to work or work part-time there are a range of social and leisure activities available provided by the voluntary sector, these include drama, music, dance and social clubs. One way people with a learning disability who are not eligible for Adult Services funding are supported is via Gateway Workers, they provide short term support to help you identify ways to keep you fit and active, and part of the community. There is a clear need to ensure a range of services for people with a learning disability are provided to maintain a person’s wellbeing, reduce social isolation and support them to be equal citizens accessing community services alongside everyone else.

4.3.8 Engage with the Community and Mainstream Services
To support and enable people with a learning disability to become equal citizens there is a need to ensure the wider community and businesses understand their needs. Valuing People Now 2009 states “Many people with learning disabilities find it difficult to use local mainstream services such as leisure centres, sports facilities, libraries, cinemas, restaurants and shopping centres. This may be about inaccessible facilities, but it is also about lack of accessible information or signposting, unwelcoming attitudes or, in some cases, lack of appropriate support for those who cannot travel or participate without it.” It goes on to state “Public services need to be mindful of their Disability Equality Duty and proactive in providing information about their facilities or programmes that is easy to understand.” The Learning Disability Partnership Board needs to champion the legal rights of people with a learning disability across the Council and its partners to ensure leisure and social activities are accessible.

4.3.9 Summary
We need to find local community solutions to the way needs are met; any solutions need to be identified in partnership with people with a learning disability, carers and families. The challenging national agenda of change and the estimated growth in the number of young people alongside an ageing learning disabled population means we have to ensure the resources available are used efficiently. Services need to meet individuals’ needs and promote independence not dependence. To do this we need to recognise people’s abilities, not disabilities, we need to recognise everyone with a learning disability can make a positive contribution to the community. The responsibility for change belongs to everyone involved in the process, if people with a learning disability are to be equal citizens we all need to work together to make it happen.

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21 Valuing People Now – A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009 page 34
22 Valuing People Now – A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009 page 105
23 Valuing People Now – A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009 page 105
5. A detailed model of what is needed

5.1 Our ambition for day opportunities in Kirklees

Our aim is to create a greater range of day opportunities in people’s local communities; that includes leisure activities, social opportunities, volunteering opportunities and access to learning and skills development based on individual need. This will be achieved by working in partnership, increasing meaningful community engagement to facilitate social inclusion, well being, personal fulfilment and enable people with learning disabilities to become valued equal citizens.

We need to:

- Consider work related opportunities first and promote people’s aspirations to consider work as an achievable option.
- Develop partnerships with Volunteering Services to increase the range of work related opportunities.
- Work in partnership with people with a learning disability and carers to shape and develop services to meet people’s individual needs, including opening times.
- Use person centred approaches to identify each individual’s personal outcomes at the start of the process and then work together to achieve them.
- Continue the modernisation of Adult Services Day Opportunities Services, working with Health Service partners integrating health and social care services to provide a more inclusive service for people with profound and complex needs.
- Create a greater range of day opportunities in Kirklees, giving people greater choice and ensuring they meet everyone’s needs, including developing specialist services.
- Develop a more flexible range of day opportunities through greater use of community facilities and mainstream services enabling people to move out of learning disabled specific buildings based services.
- Work with Leisure Services to ensure they consider and are able to meet the needs of the learning disabled population.
- Engage effectively with BME communities to develop culturally sensitive day opportunities services that overcome any cultural barriers to inclusion.
- Provide opportunities to develop and learn new skills; learn to travel independently, giving people the skills needed and the potential to make a positive contribution to the community and potentially gain employment.
- Identify local demand for specialist day opportunities services, ie, people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- Work in partnership with key partner agencies via the Learning Disability Partnership Board to co-ordinate and implement the strategy.
- Develop clear, easy to understand accessible information about the range of day opportunities available in Kirklees.
- Ensure social networks can be developed and maintained, providing support to help minimising social isolation and promote independence.
5.2 What will day opportunities look like in the future?

5.2.1 The Personalisation of Adult Services
Over the next three years there will be a significant change in the way day opportunities are commissioned. Personal budgets will enable individuals to purchase the support they need for themselves directly influencing the way the day opportunities market develops. Putting People First – the personalisation of social care will enable people to have greater choice and control over how their needs are met. People will be given the opportunity to take control via an ‘indicative budget’ which will enable them to purchase a package of care themselves, tailored to meet their individual needs. Alternatively Adult Services will undertake this task if people don’t want to purchase their own care package.

We have already begun to see an increase in the number of people with a learning disability beginning to take control and start to purchase care services for themselves. People are moving away from learning disabled specific building based services, this will continue. People with a learning disability want to be part of mainstream community life, particularly young people entering adulthood; they want to lead ordinary lives, doing the same thing as everyone else, including getting a job and engaging in community life. The personalisation of social care enables people to identify the outcomes they wish to achieve; personal budgets will enable people to buy the support they need to achieve them.

The challenge to day opportunity providers will be to make sure the services they provide are the type of services people with a learning disability and families will want to purchase. The day opportunities market will also need to ensure the services on offer represent excellent value to the customer, which increasingly will be people with a learning disability and their families.

5.2.2 Current Day Opportunities Market 2010
The current day opportunities social care market provides support to 528 people at a cost of £4.7 million. Chart 5 below shows a breakdown of the current day opportunities market expenditure.

![Day Opportunities Market 2010 Chart]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contracted Day Opportunities</th>
<th>Direct Payments</th>
<th>Adult Service Provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£2.8 million per year</td>
<td>£1.3 million per year</td>
<td>£609,000 per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting 308 people</td>
<td>Supporting 159 people</td>
<td>Supporting 61 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.3 Expected Day Opportunities Market 2013
The number of people eligible for social care day opportunity services will increase to around 580 people and with an expected budget of around £5 million to meet those needs. Chart 6 below shows a breakdown of the day opportunities market expenditure in three years time.
The above is based on a 3%+ growth rate in the number of people requesting support from Adult Services over the last few years. It is clear from both national and local data we will continue to see a growth in the number of people eligible for services, particularly people with profound, multiple and severe learning disabilities alongside an ageing population whose needs will change and increase. One of the challenges will be to ensure value for money is achieved in the provision of all day opportunities.

The provision of day opportunities will change in line with government policy. Valuing People Now and Valuing Employment Now clearly states people with a learning disability should be supported to engage in work related opportunities including paid employment. An employment strategy is already in place and work to achieve this has already begun. One of the aims of the day opportunities strategy is to support people to develop the skills and confidence to move out of day opportunity services into work.

5.2.4 Adult Services In-House Provision
Adult Services in-house services in partnership with Kirklees NHS and South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust will focus on meeting the needs of people with more complex and profound disabilities. Demand in this section of the market is expected to grow. The funding responsibility for meeting the social and health needs of people with profound and complex needs sits with both the local authority and Kirklees NHS. The foundations of a strong and effective partnership have been established. The ongoing modernisation of Adult Services integrated day opportunities provision will ensure excellent cost effective services can be delivered. Services will continue to be developed on a locality basis; ensuring services are delivered close to peoples homes. People with more complex and profound needs will still be able to opt for a direct payment if they so wish. People with low level needs will be supported to explore different ways in which their needs can be met.

5.2.5 Contracted Day Opportunities
The current range of contracted services is one way in which the needs of people who do not wish to purchase care services for themselves are met, Adult Services purchase the care on their behalf. The contracts have additional capacity built into them if demand increases. The contracts can also be reduced, if more people than expected choose to purchase care services for themselves. It is expected that the contracted section of the market will stay the same. Contract services may need to be changed if it is identified they are not meeting people’s needs. Contracted day opportunity providers are also able to
market themselves directly to individual customers who choose to take a direct payment, giving them the opportunity to develop and increase the services they provide.

5.2.6 **Personal Budgets**
Over the last 12 months there has been a significant rise in the number of people receiving direct payments. Some use the direct payment to employ a personal assistant to support and enable them to access mainstream community services and activities of their choice as part of the agreed outcome identified in the support plan. Some use the direct payment to purchase a day opportunity service. Over the last 18 months there have been new care providers enter the market setting up services to meet those needs and the raised expectations of some people. It is expected the rise in the number of people choosing to take control and purchase care services for themselves will continue to rise and we will see the biggest change in this section of the market.

5.2.7 **Summary**
The role of the commissioner will change from commissioning the majority of day opportunity services to that of shaping the market. There will be a need to ensure the local day opportunities market is more dynamic, offering a wider range of high quality day opportunities to meet everyone’s needs. The key aim of providing people with greater choice and control will enable people to develop more varied and creative packages of care to meet their identified outcomes.

Promoting people’s independence and developing more opportunities for people to make a positive contribution to their community will continue. The potential of social enterprises will be explored as a way to develop work related opportunities for people with a learning disability.

It is expected people will opt for a greater mixture of day opportunity services, moving away from going to just one day opportunity service. The trend of people accessing mainstream activities will continue to grow, in particular accessing activities outside of the traditional Monday to Friday daytime building based service. It is expected drop-in type services and social networking services will develop, which tap into mainstream community activities and facilities.

To meet the changing needs and additional demand a greater range of more diverse services are clearly needed. Achieving best value will be an essential element of the development any new day opportunity service, particularly in the current financial climate. Giving people personal budgets will stimulate the day opportunities market, creating a more diverse cost competitive marketplace enabling innovative and cost efficient day opportunity services to develop and grow based on peoples needs.
5.3 Putting the strategy into practice
The strategy sets out the strategic direction over the next three years and beyond regarding how we want day opportunities provision for people with learning disabilities to change. We will work with key partners and providers to review and develop services to meet people’s needs.

The day opportunities strategy’s key objectives will be monitored by the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, the Day Opportunities Sub Group and Adult Services Senior Management Team. Project management support will be available to support the implementation of the strategy as and when required.

To achieve the implementation of the strategy commissioners will work closely with providers to develop existing provision and direct the development of new services that will shape the future of the day opportunities market.

Over the next three years we want to help change the lives for people with learning disabilities in Kirklees, so they can choose how they live their lives and who supports them and enable them to achieve their goals in life with our support.

5.4 Time line model and outcome focussed action plan of ‘what is needed’.
The time line diagram identifies and summarises the key areas of work and activities that are proposed over the next three years to achieve the changes highlighted in the current day opportunities service model and the one we aim to have in place in 2013.
5.4.1 A detailed model of what is needed

**Current model of Service 2010**
- Semi integrated in-house profound and complex needs health and social care day opportunity services
- Limited range of services, some people access out of area day opportunities
- Adult Services in-house day opportunity services are the biggest market provider.
- Day opportunity services are available Monday to Friday only
- Limited use of person centred support plans
- Limited use of public transport and travel training that promotes peoples independence
- Limited accessible information about and access to mainstream services.

**Desired Model of Service 2013**
- Fully integrated in-house profound and complex needs health and social care day opportunity services.
- A greater range and variety of day opportunities are available including voluntary sector services for people not eligible via the FACS criteria.
- Adult Services in-house day opportunity services have less than 50% of the market.
- Day opportunity services are available on a weekend and evenings.
- Everyone has a person centred support plan.
- Every day opportunity service provider has a green travel plan which utilises public transport whenever possible.
- Better accessible information about and access to mainstream services.

**Commissioning / Service Activity**

1. Integrate Adult Services social care day opportunity services with health partner services
2. Work in partnership with day opportunity providers to shape the market to meet future need
3. Continue the modernisation of Adult Services in-house day opportunity services providing integrated health and social care for people with more complex needs
4. Develop a travel training strategy that promotes peoples independence and utilises public transport
5. Carry out consultation with people with a learning disability and carers regarding the expansion of opening times for day opportunity services which includes longer days, evenings and weekend openings
6. Develop a person centred planning strategy to support the further development of person centred approached across all day opportunities.
7. Review and expand the number of current day opportunity providers, to ensure everyone’s needs can be met within the Kirklees area.
8. Work with the voluntary sector to create more day opportunities.

**Facts & Figures / Performance & Targets**

**2010**
- The integration of health and social care day opportunity services is completed.
- Review of out of area day opportunity is completed.

**2011**
- 20% of day opportunities will be purchased via personal budgets.
- Easy read accessible information is available detailing the range of day opportunity services on offer.
- A service to support and maintain social networks is established.

**2012**
- Every day opportunity service has a green travel plan.
- Every day opportunity service provider uses person centred approaches and support plans.
- One new day opportunity provider is established.

**2013**
- 30% of all day opportunities will be purchased via personal budgets.
- Day opportunity providers offer services over longer periods during the days, evening and weekends.
5.5 The day opportunities universal offer
This diagram highlights the universal range of services needed to meet everyone’s needs.

A range of specialist day opportunity services to meet the needs of all people with profound and complex needs and behaviours that challenge.

Critical Needs are met...
via health and social care
FACS eligible criteria

Inclusive health and social care day services available.

Opportunity to be included in the local community and make a positive contribution to community life.

Opportunities to engage in hobbies and get out and about in the community.

Opportunities to learn new skills and become more independent.

Opportunities to take part in hobbies, arts & crafts, and engage in sporting activities, keep fit.

Opportunities to volunteer and contribute to your community.

Opportunities to learn to travel independently.

Opportunities to be supported to prepare for and look for paid work.

Opportunities to engage in social activities, ten pin bowling, shopping, the movies.

Opportunities to join local hiking, fishing, walking, social clubs.

Opportunities to keep active meet friends and socialise.

Levels of support needed

A comprehensive range of options to choose from
6. Appendix

6.1 Appendix 1 – Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOH</td>
<td>Department of Health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Direct Payment</strong></td>
<td>Cash alternative to local authority care services to be used to purchase care and support e.g. personal assistant by the person in need of services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fair Access to Care Services (FACS) Criteria</strong></td>
<td>The system by which the local authority identifies if someone is eligible for Adult Services social care funding/support.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HM Government</strong></td>
<td>Her Majesty's Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indicative Budget</strong></td>
<td>An initial sum of money allocated against an assessment of social care needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Disability Partnership Board</strong></td>
<td>Group of learning disabled people, carers, service providers, senior staff from council services and health service partners who oversee the implementation of Government policies and the local 'Vision' for people with a learning disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Local Strategic Partnership</strong></td>
<td>A board of key people from public and statutory services in one council region brought together to improve the provision of services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local Area Agreement</strong></td>
<td>Government set of targets given to all local authorities to measure the success of the services provided by each local authority.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>National and local prevalence</strong></td>
<td>The collection and analysis of information on people with a learning disability in Kirklees and around the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Budget</strong></td>
<td>An amount of money allocated to an individual to meet their care needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Putting People First</strong></td>
<td>Government strategy to transform the way local authorities provide adult social care services.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Valuing People Now</strong></td>
<td>Government strategy for the next three years for people with a learning disability.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Valuing Employment Now</strong></td>
<td>Government strategy to enable people with a learning disability to gain paid employment.</td>
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6.2 Appendix 2 - Useful websites

**Valuing People - A new strategy for the 21st century 2001**  
www.valuingpeople.gov.uk - Information about Valuing People.

**Having a Good Day – Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) 2007**  

**Valuing People Now - A new three year strategy for people with a learning disability 2009**  
www.valuingpeople.gov.uk - Information about Valuing People Now.

**Valuing Employment Now – Real jobs for people with learning disabilities 2009 (DOH)**  

**Putting People First 2007 (HM Government)**  

**Valuing People Support Team (VPST) 2006** - www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/index.jsp – Information about the regional Valuing People Support Team.