

Learning Disability or Learning Difficulty?

At the Peoples Choice Group we work with adults who have a “reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities, for example household tasks, socialising or managing money - which affects someone for their whole life.”

This is the Mencap description for someone with a ‘learning disability’. The education system and NHS use the same term. They all use the term ‘learning difficulty’ to mean people who have conditions like dyslexia but no impairment to their general intelligence. Some people think calling this condition a learning difficulty not a disability makes it sound like it’s not difficult to live with and gives the wrong impression.

We have chosen to use the term ‘learning difficulty’ because our members said they liked it better. And because we believe in the social model of disability. We focus on peoples abilities not disabilities. We agree that **“It is the negative attitudes, the inflexible organisational procedures, the inaccessible information and the barriers in the built environment that restrict the lives of ‘disabled people’.**

Some people might need more help to understand things and live their everyday lives. But if they do not choose to call themselves ‘disabled’ then neither do we.

We have tried to explain this to avoid confusion and so we reach the right people with our services.

Jackie & Ali