Learning Disabilities
Liaison Nurse Adult Services

Your hospital care

Working in partnership with
Gateshead Primary Care Trust
South Tyneside Primary Care Trust
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust
My name is Dawn Thompson

If you need my help call me on:

Telephone: 0191 451 6294
Monday to friday 8.30am to 5.00pm

Mobile: 0798 358 7219
Monday to friday 8:30am to 5:00pm
What is my job?

I am a nurse trained to help people with learning disabilities.

This means I can help hospital staff to understand the needs of patients with learning disabilities.

How can I help you?

If you know you are coming into hospital, I can help you and hospital staff prepare.

• I can arrange for someone to come with you to your first appointment, this is called a Pre-Assessment visit. It is important for the staff to talk to you about your health and how you are feeling.

• I can arrange a visit to the ward or the department where you can meet the staff who will be caring for you.
• I can make sure you have a ‘My Health Record’ booklet to bring into hospital which tells the hospital staff important things about you

Things like:

How you take your medication

How you eat and drink
How can I help if you are in hospital?

If you need extra support I can visit you on the ward and work with staff and carers to make you feel safe and well looked after.

If you are having an operation or tests I can give you easy read picture leaflets to help you understand.

You may be asked to make choices about your treatment.

I can talk with you, your family and staff to understand if you are able to make those choices - this is called capacity. You may need support to help you to do this.
I can help if you find it hard to say how you are feeling:

This maybe when:

- You have a pain
- You are unhappy
- You want to ask a question

Going home - sometimes called discharge:

There will be a meeting on your ward to plan for when you go home, so that staff who support you in the community understand how to look after you.

I can help you understand what treatment you have had in hospital and help you understand about any new medication you may need to take.
Other ways I can help staff:

- Training for autism, challenging behaviour or anything else that may affect people with a learning disability

- I work with hospital managers to make sure that the needs of people with learning disabilities are included in all care systems

Who can ask me for my help if you have a learning disability?

- You
- Parents, carers and friends
- Any Healthcare Professional – in the Hospital or Community.
- Social Worker, ‘Your Voice Counts’, Carers Centres.
For further information contact:
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Thank you to the members of the South Tyneside Health Focus Group and Gateshead Health Group for their help in producing this booklet.