



# The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability



## A Registered Nurse – Learning Disability

Is a member of the nursing profession who has a specialised and important role in the lives of people with learning disability. The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability supports the physical, mental, emotional, psychological, educational, spiritual and social needs of a person with learning disability, from early years to the end of life.



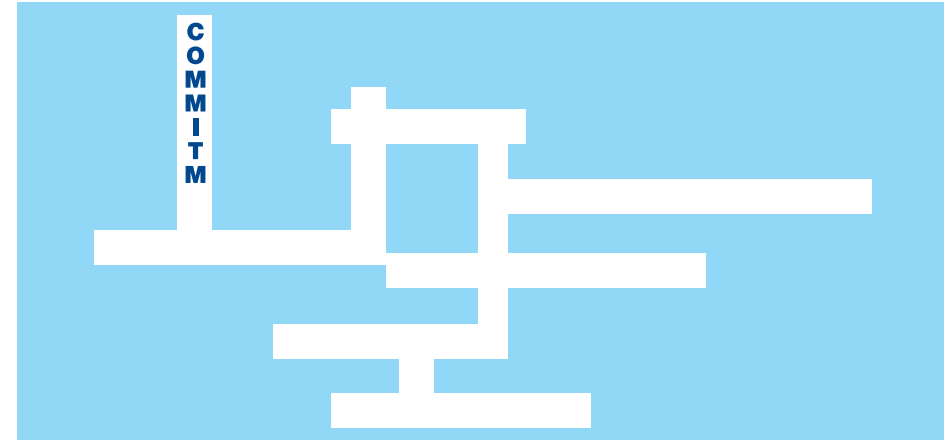
## Professionalism and the Registered Nurse - Learning Disability

All registered nurses and midwives must act in line with the values and behaviours set out by their professional body, the Nursing and Midwifery Council in "The Code: professional standards of practice and behaviour for nurses and midwives" (2015). The Code contains a series of statements that taken together signify what good nursing practice looks like.

The Code sets out these statements under four themes:

- Prioritise People
- Practise Effectively
- Preserve Safety
- Promote Professionalism and Trust

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is committed to the embodiment of these behaviours, values and standards of practice. The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is competent, compassionate, caring, courageous, committed, and communicates with people with learning disability using a variety of methods, suitable to their individual needs.



The Registered Nurse Learning Disability works with people with learning disability in a diverse range of roles. This could include: neurodevelopmental assessment, diagnosis and intervention; nursing a person with complex physical needs; comprehensive mental health assessment and treatment; and, the provision of guidance and support. All of this will enable a child, young person or adult with learning disability to flourish and live a fulfilling life with the same rights, access to healthcare, and opportunities as everyone.

A key and essential role of the Registered Nurse Learning Disability is in the provision of care and interventions that promote, sustain and maintain biological, psychological, and social well-being. In line with public health policy, the registered nurse learning disability focuses on early intervention and systemic health improvement approaches.

The particular knowledge, skills and experiences of the Registered Nurse - Learning Disability are transferable across the wide range of health and social care services used by the person with learning disability. This includes roles within management structures and nurse development functions. The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is also an important member of teams outside of traditional health and social care settings and services, for example, education and university posts, and policy development and advisory roles.

## The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is: **COMPETENT**

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability:

- has an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the health needs of the person with learning disability;
- recognises that the person could have additional and competing physical, emotional, social, and educational needs, due to the nature of their learning disability;
- can support people who present with a range of complex physical and mental health needs, and who may experience a range of complex behaviours;
- assesses, plans, implements and evaluates individualised care using a biopsychosocial model, undertaking specialised assessments where required;
- delivers a variety of evidence based clinical interventions, using a range of evidence based resources and tools.

## The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is: **COMPASSIONATE**

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability:

- sees the person and their likes, dislikes, wishes, personality and strengths first;
- has a real desire to always promote the rights of the people with learning disability;
- always considers others who are important in the person's life;
- is kind, patient and understanding;
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## The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is: **CARING**

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability:

- provides family centred care;
- works in partnership with the person and those who are involved with them, to co-produce care and support plans that build on and retain strengths

## The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability is: **COMMITTED**

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability:

- empowers and supports the person to achieve their full potential;
- ensures the person is assisted to understand their care and support needs and never makes assumptions around the person's capacity or level of understanding;
- is committed to person centred care, and works in partnership with the person, their family, other professionals, agencies and the wider community;
- promotes independence and supports the person to independently improve their wellbeing.

## The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability has: **Excellent COMMUNICATION Skills**

The Registered Nurse - Learning Disability:

- is skilled and proficient at engaging with the people who have a range of communication needs;
- provides and advocates for the provision of reasonable adjustments in order to support the person in decision making processes about their life, their care and treatment, and their support;
- is creative in using different methods of communication to promote health and wellbeing and to empower the person to live a healthy and fulfilling life.



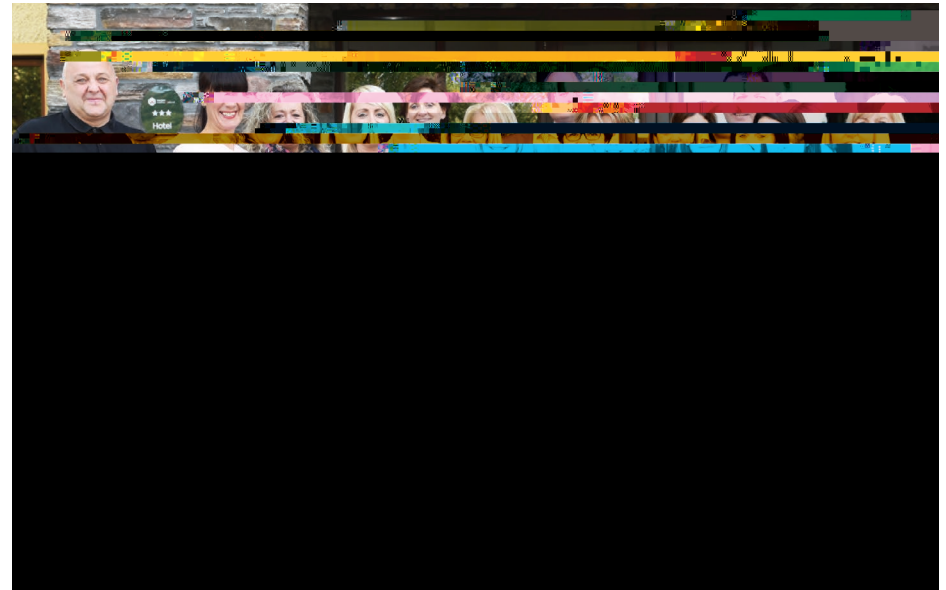
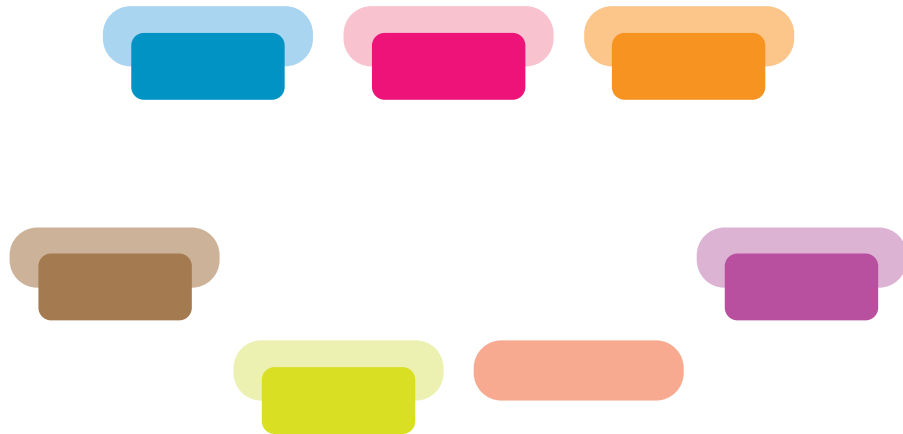
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"Skills, knowledge & expertise across the lifespan"



Sarah McCain, Learning Disability Nurse of the Year 2017



Network event 26th September 2017 - Members and Speakers

With thanks to Leah Kelly for the design of our logo



Royal College  
of Surgeons

