

RCN Foundation Learning Disability Nursing Programme

*Inclusive Health - enhancing the lives
of individuals with learning disabilities*



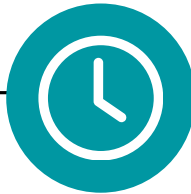
Purpose

Learning disability nursing is a key priority at the RCN Foundation. In 2019 we funded a scoping review at the University of West London to identify learning disability nursing interventions and their impact on the health of people with a lived experience of a learning disability. The findings from the scoping review and a co-production approach involving key stakeholders and including those with lived experience of a learning disability, underpins the RCN Foundation Learning Disability Nursing Programme.



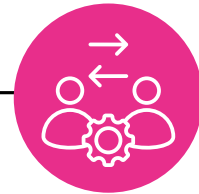
Aims

To reduce health inequality and enhance health related quality of life outcomes for people with lived experience of a learning disability.



Duration

The programme will last for a duration of 4 years and will begin in October 2023.



Research

There will be a total of 9 research studies during the programme with some being bespoke to specific countries.



An MSc Advanced Practice Learning Disability Scholarship will be available for those working in social care or across social care and the NHS.



Each research project will involve co-production to include the voice of people with lived experience of a learning disability.



Programme Overview

2024



London School of Economics: Rapid review of the economic impact of RNLD

The aim of the study is to provide high quality evidence to enable key stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the economic impact of learning disability nurses and thus to continue to invest in learning disability nursing in the UK.

Whilst LSE found that there is no financial evidence to support the impact of the RNLD workforce, they did identify nine intervention categories across multiple health domains.

LSE strongly advised that there are real economic consequences of not addressing these issues and that ultimately, more research is needed to evidence the economic impact of RNLD's.

Study end date: December 2024

Budget: £20,080

Education grants programme

Education grant fund partnership for five RNLD where statutory funding is not available, to undertake an MSc Advanced Practice: Learning Disability.

Commenced 2024.

Budget: £80,000

2025



University of Wolverhampton: Evaluate the impact of the RNLD's contribution to reducing health inequality and premature death for people with lived experience of a learning disability

The aim of the study is to provide evidence to enable key stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding of the economic impact of learning disability nurses and continue to invest in this area of nursing.

The research found that whilst learning disability nurses are good at articulating what they do, better understanding is needed across wider multi-disciplinary teams and the public. An output of the research is a myth busting tool to support with this.

Study end date: March 2025

Budget: £36,894.44

Keele University: The development of a co-designed tool to assist people with lived experience of a learning disability to access urgent and emergency care in times of ill health

This would be based upon an analysis of the experiences of those accessing services, learning from these and their suggestions to enhance access, along with the impact of the RNLD within these services on health inequality and health related outcome for those with an LD.

To research will seek to co-design a tool to assist people with lived experience of a learning disability to access urgent and emergency care in times of ill health.

Study end date: July 2025

Budget: £28,983

2026



The RCN Foundation Chair in Adult Social Care Nursing will explore the RNLD workforce across social care in the UK

The study will explore the phenomenon of RNLDs losing their identity within social care nursing and leaving the NMC register. The research will examine why this is happening, the impact on the lived experience of service users and carers, and the subsequent effect on workforce capacity within the sector. The study should aim to recommend strategies to address this exodus of RNLDs within social care.

Study end date: April 2026

Budget: £30,000

A study to analyse and evaluate the impact of the annual health check on reducing health inequalities and premature death for people with a learning disability

The output will be a national, evidence-based model for the annual health check which makes best use of digital technologies for the assessment and record keeping and communication of need. Recommendations for the education, training and development needs of those undertaking the health checks, to ensure appropriate, effective and timely escalation based upon the results of the assessment will also be made.

Study end date: April 2026

Budget: £30,000

The development of a nurse-led pathway to support the referral and transition from learning disability mental health services for children and young people with a learning disability in need of support from mental health services.

Study end date: October 2026

Budget: £30,000

Edinburgh Napier University in partnership with Glasgow Caledonia University: A project based in Scotland which develops equitable access to practice learning experiences for undergraduate learning disability nursing students, including developing new and non-traditional placement settings that reflect emerging roles of learning disability nursing.

To work together with people with learning disabilities and student nurses to develop a model of practice learning which can be used in different health and social care settings. By going to these placements student learning disability nursing will develop the skills and knowledge to meet the health needs of people with learning disabilities.

Study end date: December 2026

Budget: £30,000

2027



Nurse-led research study to reduce health inequality and enhance health related quality of life outcomes for people with lived experience of a learning disability in Wales

Study end date: April 2027

Budget: £30,000

Nurse-led research study to reduce health inequality and enhance health related quality of life outcomes for people with lived experience of a learning disability in Northern Ireland

Study end date: April 2027

Budget: £30,000

Find out more about the RCN
Foundation Learning Disability
Nursing Programme



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