

6. Being a part of the community and involved in local activities and leisure



What we know

Being involved with the local community leads to friendships and peer support and it can make people less reliant on commissioned services. It gives a sense of belonging and leads to people being able to contribute to their community. The community is there for all, everyone has the right to use the facilities and opportunities on offer.

People who need more support to do things because they have complex impairments or challenging behaviour, have the right to the same opportunities as everyone else. People who need this additional support might benefit from having direct payments or an individual budget, so they get the one-to-one support they need to do things. This would help to develop a culture of acceptance to support inclusive communities.

What people have said

“I want to meet my friends outside normal times”

- “Launch an initiative to promote availability of changing places and accessible toilets”.
- “Recognise that high-quality independent support and access to advocacy will be important for people to get the most from person centred reviews that promote Ambition”.
- “Take steps to understand, continue to plan for high-quality services that support the population of people who experience severe and complex and/or profound learning disability”.

What we are doing

We are working with providers to review their offer and think about how they can support people to develop their skills and independence.

We will continue to develop a quality assurance review for all provision.

We are working with Children's Services so that young people identify their aspirations for the future in their transition plan, including getting a job.

Looking into different approaches to enable people to access their community include personal budgets.

We are developing more safe spaces and havens that people can access.

We will review the number of changing places available across Norfolk

We are looking into how assistive technology can help people feel more engaged and able to access their communities.

What we will do next

We will work with providers to review the existing day opportunities model and undertake people's reviews to make sure that people are being supported to achieve their personal goals.

We will work with the community to increase the opportunities for people to use their local and community resources and clubs such as gyms, community groups.

In partnership, we will think about how community hubs can bring people together in a local resource including the idea of buddies.

We will specifically consider how people with more complex needs can access new experiences and opportunities whilst recognising their personal needs.

We will promote local community activities with fewer words and more pictures.

Work with Art and Culture companies to develop opportunities for people with a learning disability to actively participate by socialising, developing their skills and opportunities in the arts; such as music, photography, drama, art and dance.

What difference it could make

- ✓ More people say they are able to be involved in their community and local activities including employment, training and voluntary work.
- ✓ More people with a learning disability say they feel more confident about being in their local community and know people in their local community.
- ✓ Young people will include access to their local community in their transition plans.
- ✓ Accessing the local community will be included in assessments and reviews with and without support.
- ✓ More people will have personal budgets to access the opportunities and resources that help people's independence, like going to the shops.
- ✓ More people will use technology to support them to access their communities.
- ✓ People with complex and significant needs will have opportunities that meet their sensory needs and have positive experiences.