Supporting People with Learning Disabilities to have relationships

An easy read guide for people with learning disabilities and supporters
This leaflet tells adults with learning disabilities about their rights to have a relationship.

It also tells you what Rotherham Learning Disability Service and NHS Rotherham are doing to support this.

Rotherham Learning Disability Service and NHS Rotherham have written a big report for staff to tell them how best to support people with learning disabilities to have relationships. You can get a copy of the full report from Rotherham Learning Disability Service.

From the age of 18 people with learning disabilities become an adult and have the right to make their own decisions.
People with learning disabilities have the same thoughts and feelings as everyone else.

Lots of people with learning disabilities want to have relationships.

For some people having a relationship is one of the most important things in a person's life.

Sometimes people with learning disabilities do not have the same chances to meet and start a loving relationship and sexual relationship.
People with learning disabilities have:

- The right to education and information about personal relationships and sexuality.

- The right to education and information about their own bodies.

- The right to love and be loved.

- The right to have a relationships.
• The right to information and help with contraception and sexual health.

• The right to marry, enter into civil partnership or live with their partner.

• The right to information and advice about being a good parent, and support when thinking about becoming a parent or not.

• The right to support during pregnancy.
• The right to support if you have been sexually abused.

Families and family Carers:

Families and family carers are an important part of the lives of people with learning disabilities. However, the rights and wishes of people with learning disabilities should always be respected.

The law says that professional carers and family carers can not make any decisions that go against that of an adult with learning disabilities.

They can only do this if the person lacks capacity and this has been tested using the Mental Health Capacity Act.
Staff Training

To support the rights of people with learning disabilities the Learning Disability Service and NHS Rotherham will make sure that all staff working with people with learning disabilities have training.

This training will show staff how best to support people with learning disabilities to have relationships. All staff will be have to have a basic level of training around relationships and sexuality.

The Learning Disability Service and NHS Rotherham will make sure that staff have support to do this.
Managers will support staff to keep their knowledge on how best to support people with learning disabilities to have relationships up to date.

The training will help staff support carers and people with learning disabilities.

Rotherham Learning Disability Service and NHS Rotherham, hope that by doing all of these things, people with learning disabilities in Rotherham should have good relationships and get the support they need.
If you would like more information about anything in this leaflet then talk to a member of staff or call Rotherham Learning Disability Service on 01709 302800.

This document can be made available in your language and in alternative formats such as Braille, large print, electronic and audio-tape versions.
Contact us at:
minicom 01709 823 536
www.rotherham.gov.uk

Veuillez nous contacter si vous désirez ce document dans une autre langue et/ou dans d’autres

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如需索取這份文件的其他語文版本和/或各種形式版本，請聯絡我們。

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