

Supporting people with learning disabilities who have experienced domestic violence and abuse.

Research Summary: Easy Read



People with learning disabilities who experience **abuse** want to be treated fairly and with respect.

Abuse is when someone says or does things to make you feel hurt, upset or scared.



People with learning disabilities want to be understood.

They want to be listened to and taken seriously.



People with learning disabilities want support to reach their goals and dreams.

The research



Research is about:

- Finding things out
- Understanding them
- Making things better



In our research we asked people with learning disabilities about how they want to be treated when they experience abuse.



Support staff don't always understand what it's like for people with learning disabilities who experience abuse.

The research wanted to make sure that people with learning disabilities get the support they need for abuse.



To do this, we spoke to seven adults with learning disabilities who had experienced abuse about:

- What is fair
- What is unfair
- How they want to be treated after experiencing abuse.

What we found out



People with learning disabilities said that fairness means:

- Being treated with respect
- Being treated the same as others
- Not being judged
- Making sure people can access support.



People with learning disabilities said that being treated unfairly means:

- Being treated differently from others.
- Not being treated with respect
- Being judged.

We made a new guide to help support staff to work better with people with learning disabilities who have experienced abuse.

The guide is called the **Fairness Informed Practice Framework**. This is sometimes shortened to **FIP**.

It tells staff how to:

- Understand what it's like for people with learning disabilities who have experienced abuse
- Have good relationships with people with learning disabilities
- Not judge people with learning disabilities.



Summary



It is important that people with learning disabilities are treated fairly when they experience abuse.



People with learning disabilities are often misunderstood. This is because there is not enough training on how to support them.



The FIP model will help everyone to treat people with learning disabilities better.

It will show them how people with learning disabilities want to be treated when they experience abuse.



The research was done by Dr Gavin Hutchison as part of his course at university.

The full report can be found here: [Gavin Hutchinson Research Report](#).

This easy read was created by L&Q Living.