Ageing Well with a Disability

The Particular Needs of Older People with Learning Disabilities

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Who are older people with learning disabilities?
Where are we now?

- An absent presence?
- Invisibility and the importance of intersectionality
  - Learning disability and older people
  - Older people and learning disability
Where do we need to be? – Some thoughts

- Integration or specialist services – what is best for older people with learning disabilities?

- What are the common needs and what are the particular needs – Do we know?
Older people with learning disabilities and health

- Higher prevalence of some common health concerns
  - Earlier onset
  - Associated with particular conditions

- Additional health needs
  - Ageing and the impact on secondary conditions
  - Lack of positive/preventative healthcare
Older people with learning disabilities and social support

- The importance of social networks
  - Reduced family connections
  - Increased importance of others (staff, people who share home)
  - Lack of purposeful contact with neighbours, increasing with level of impairment

- Meaningful occupation
  - Lack of expectation and opportunity to develop
  - Social isolation – lack of transport, social support to access
The value of visibility

- The importance of being known and having our needs and roles recognised
  - As a person in our own right
  - As an important member of our families
  - As an active member of the community
Ageing Well with Learning Disabilities

- The perspectives of people with learning disabilities
Securing long-term change

- Transitions across the life course

- Ageing begins the moment we are born – we need to work with those who are already older but also address the issues across the life course to reduce or eliminate the problems for future generations

- Person centred planning is ongoing – our lives change and plans need to change with them.