

## **NDA A Recommendations**

### **1. Importance of an early diagnosis and person centred care**

- It is important to see the person, not the Learning Disability or dementia
- When changes are noticed, this needs to be acted upon quickly and a timely but accurate differential diagnosis should be received.
- Conversations might be difficult, but health professionals need to tell the person the diagnosis and say the word dementia. The diagnosis needs to be understood and explained in a way that makes sense to the person
- Diagnosis is followed up and the relevant professionals are involved at the appropriate times

### **2. Joined up working**

- Diagnosis flags a need for joint working with health and social care professionals
- To involve people with a Learning Disability and dementia and their carers throughout the whole process. Is their diagnosis told to them in a way that makes sense to them? Have they fully understood what this means and the impacts? Work together to ensure this.
- Practitioners working in Learning Disability and dementia to understand systems and to have training
- Funding at all stage of the pathway has to be there and has to be holistic

### **3. Awareness and support of people outside of current system who are isolated**

- People who have a Learning Disability, but haven't been assessed and aren't accessing services
- People living at home with their parents
- People living in small services
- People with a Learning Disability who may be a carer for a parent

### **4. Commissioning**

- Commissioners need to understand the issues people with a learning disability and dementia face
- Money needs to be invested in these areas
- Need to improve access to person centred commissioning
- Commissioners to follow the British Psychological Society (BPS) guidelines for commissioners

### **5. Living in their own homes for as long as possible**

- People shouldn't have to move house following a diagnosis. Support needs to be funded to maintain people in their own homes, which would be a more appropriate care setting
- Local authorities to work closely with the person with a Learning Disability and dementia, their carers and their care providers to fund the changing support needs within their home