

Population Needs Assessment – Learning Disabilities

Survey Questions - why these questions were chosen.

It is explicitly grounded in:

- **LD Engagement Plan**
 - the **draft LD PNA chapter**
 - historic **2017 & 2022 PNA surveys**
 - the shift to **Engagement HQ / Microsoft Forms**
 - Welsh Government expectations around PNAs
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Rationale for Survey Question Design

Learning Disabilities – Population Needs Assessment

The survey questions used to inform the Learning Disabilities chapter of the Population Needs Assessment were developed following a detailed review of previous Population Needs Assessment engagement, the draft Learning Disabilities chapter, and the agreed engagement plan for the 2027 PNA

The approach taken reflects an intentional move from large, generalised surveys used in earlier PNAs to a **more focused, accessible, and audience-specific engagement model**, while retaining continuity with previous intelligence.

Building on Previous Engagement

Questions were informed by analysis of the 2017 and 2022 PNA public, provider, and professional surveys. These earlier surveys consistently highlighted key themes including:

- Access to services and information
- Independence, wellbeing, and community connection
- Health inequalities and unmet health needs
- Transitions between services
- Carer wellbeing and sustainability
- System pressures and future demand

Rather than repeating these questions in their original form, the 2027 PNA engagement reframes them into **shorter, clearer, and more accessible questions**, designed to explore the **same underlying issues through lived experience and practical impact**.

This ensures:

- Comparability over time
 - Reduced survey burden
 - Improved data quality
 - Greater inclusion of people with learning disabilities and carers
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Audience-Specific Design

Separate surveys were developed for:

- People with learning disabilities
- Carers and family members
- Professionals and providers

This reflects the engagement plan's principle that **different groups experience the system differently and should be asked different questions.**

The questions were therefore tailored to:

- Focus on **day-to-day life and outcomes** for people with learning disabilities
- Capture **system navigation, stress, and sustainability** for carers
- Identify **patterns of unmet need, pressure, and future risk** from professionals

This approach improves analytical clarity and avoids asking individuals to respond to questions outside their experience.

Focus on Lived Experience and Outcomes

Consistent with the engagement plan and Welsh Government guidance, questions were designed to prioritise:

- What helps people live a good life
- What makes everyday life harder
- Whether people feel listened to, safe, and supported
- Where gaps in support exist
- What would make the biggest difference in the future

This reflects a shift away from service-by-service questioning towards an **outcomes-focused, person-centred understanding of need**, aligned with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act.

Accessibility and Inclusion

Survey questions were designed to be:

- Short and clearly worded
- Free from technical or commissioning language
- Suitable for Easy Read adaptation
- Appropriate for supported completion

This responds directly to learning from previous PNAs, where engagement materials were not always accessible to people with learning disabilities, and supports the PNA's commitment to inclusive engagement.

Testing and Co-producing Accessible Survey Versions

Prior to wider release, the survey designed for people with learning disabilities will be **tested with individuals who have lived experience** to ensure the questions are clear, relevant, and easy to understand. This testing will focus on the clarity of language, length of the survey, question flow, and whether the questions meaningfully reflect people's real-life experiences.

Feedback from this testing will be used to refine question wording and structure. Where appropriate, people with lived experience will be **supported to co-produce an Easy Read version of the survey**, including simplified language, symbols, and alternative formats. This will help ensure the survey is accessible to people with different communication needs and can be completed independently or with support.

This approach aligns with the principles of co-production, supports inclusive engagement, and reflects the PNA's commitment to enabling people with learning disabilities to meaningfully influence how their experiences and needs are understood.

Alignment with the Engagement Plan and PNA Structure

The questions directly map to the agreed scope and structure of the Learning Disabilities chapter, including:

- Independence and wellbeing
- Health and health inequalities
- Care and support needs
- Prevention and early intervention
- Transition points across the life course
- Carer experience
- Future needs and priorities

This ensures that survey findings can be **directly integrated into the chapter narrative**, rather than sitting alongside it as standalone engagement data.

Supporting a Living, Cyclical PNA

Finally, the questions were designed to be used within Engagement HQ and Microsoft Forms as part of a **continuous engagement model**, rather than a one-off consultation.

This allows:

- Ongoing engagement beyond initial publication
 - Refinement of questions over time
 - Transparent feedback loops
 - Reuse of the engagement framework for future PNA updates
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Summary

The survey questions were designed to build on previous PNA engagement while improving accessibility, clarity, and relevance. They focus on lived experience, outcomes, and future need, are tailored to specific audiences, and align directly with the agreed engagement plan and structure of the Learning Disabilities chapter.