

SERVICE BACKGROUND

Andrew Birkenshaw is a health facilitation nurse with the Learning Disabilities Health Support Team and Jodee Simpson is a speech language therapist. The Health Support Team is a multi-disciplinary specialist team consisting of psychiatrists, psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians, nurses and health support workers, who support people with learning disabilities (LD) to have their health needs met. The team does this through assessment and action planning, providing specialist equipment and advice and ensuring reasonable adjustments are made so that individuals can have their health needs met either in mainstream services or at our specialist clinics at Waddiloves Health Centre. We also build integrated pathways with other services, within our own and with other organisations to enable service users with LD to have their health needs met. This includes providing an in-reach service to the main hospitals in Bradford and Airedale to support people with LD who have been admitted for treatment. In this particular case Andrew provided an in-reach service to St James's Hospital, Leeds.

WHAT THE STORY IS ABOUT

This is an excellent patient story that demonstrates the quality of care that can be achieved when people from different disciplines, different services and different organisations work together to create a person-centred hospital admission support plan. The commitment that went into planning his care meant a man with learning disabilities (LD) and autism, who would have found any healthcare intervention difficult, was able to have quality, safe and effective lifesaving treatment. Andrew took the lead in co-ordinating this shining example of transforming care in practice, which highlights how professionals can break down the distance barrier to ensure the patient gets the right treatment, in the right place, first time.

In all, 15 professionals from 5 organisations were involved in making this happen, demonstrating excellent collaboration between health professionals, service providers, social care and family to provide the least restrictive and best quality care for this gentleman.