



What is a learning disability?

In consultation with people with learning disabilities, the Scottish Government (2019, p.9) defines a learning disability as follows:

“A learning disability is significant and lifelong. It starts before adulthood and affects the person’s development. This means that a person with a learning disability will be likely to need help to understand information, learn skills and live a fulfilling life. Some people with learning disabilities will also have healthcare needs and require support to communicate.”

SCLD also note on their website that:

“A learning disability is different for everyone. No two people are the same. Challenges faced by people with learning disabilities can vary widely. In all cases a learning disability is lifelong.

A learning disability affects the way a person learns new things throughout their life. Many people who have a learning disability can get qualifications, work, have loving relationships, and live independently. Some people with a learning disability might need more support throughout their life.”