



Essex Learning Disability Partnership

Referrals to Specialist Health Learning Disability Services in Essex during the COVID-19 situation

The response to COVID-19 has required us to make significant adjustments to our usual offer.

The Essex Learning Disability Partnership (ELDP) consists of Specialist Health Services for People with Learning Disabilities in Essex, Southend and Thurrock. The service is provided by Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (HPFT), Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) and Anglian Community Enterprise (ACE). The Partnership has had to refocus its services to best support and protect people with regard to COVID-19 and the impact of the restrictions that have been applied.

The route and means for referrals to specialist health learning disability services remains the same. As a reminder:

For Services in **Mid and West Essex**: email - hpft.mwcommunityldteam@nhs.net / telephone - 01376 308700

For Services in **North East Essex**: email - hpft.necommunityldteam@nhs.net / telephone - 01206 363255

[Alternatively complete the referral form](#)

For Services in Southend, Castlepoint & Rochford, Basildon & Brentwood and Thurrock:

email - epunft.ldreferrals@nhs.net or telephone - 01277 637211

There will be a difference in what support can be offered to people referred as services are prioritising people at risk of COVID-19 or at risk of a significant deterioration in their Mental Health at present. We are applying a risk stratification process to all people referred and, based on the level of risk and need, are stratifying people as either high, medium or low risk (to which we are applying a RAG rating of Red, Amber and Green respectively).

All referrals will be responded to and referred people will be contacted by services.

Those people whose needs are rated as **red** will receive a direct service, tailored around individual need and will, in most cases will receive **daily contact**.

Those people whose needs are rated as **amber** will be contacted and receive a confirmation letter. The letter will include a contact number for the service for use if there is a significant change or crisis. Otherwise people rated as amber will be contacted generally **each week** to ensure they are ok and not at risk of crisis. This contact is unlikely to be for direct treatment or intervention, albeit each case will be considered individually.

Those people whose needs are rated as **green** will be contacted and receive a confirmation letter. The letter will include a contact number for the service for use if there is a significant change or crisis but will

otherwise be contacted generally ***each month***. Again this is unlikely to be for direct treatment or intervention, albeit each case is considered individually.

We are available to provide advice and support to health and social care services during this time. This includes but is not limited to:

- Working with the learning disability liaison nurses within the acute hospitals to provide support and advice for people who need an admission;
- Advice and support for health professionals in other settings (GP's, Community Hospitals, mental health services, community health services etc.) who are working with people with learning disabilities;
- Advice and support to social care providers who are working with people who may need additional support to access mainstream health services;
- Advice and support to social care providers who are supporting people with learning disabilities whose behaviours may be becoming more challenging or risky during this time.

We have already started to plan for the resumption of our full service offer and will keep you informed as and when there are any changes.