

Health Words: A Jargon Buster



This resource explains some words and terms surrounding the health system that you might come across

A

Advisory Group: A group of people who give thoughts and ideas to make something better.

Annual Health Check: For people with learning disabilities who are 14 or older and need more health support. It helps doctors find health needs that they might not spot in a normal appointment.

Association of Directors of Social Services: A group which brings together all the people who lead social services in England to help make social services better.

C

Care, Education and Treatment Review (CETR): When a group of people come together to help make the care given to people with learning disabilities and/or autism better.

Care plan: A document that explains all the support that a child or young person who is living in care gets.

Care Quality Commission: A big team of people who check the health system is working well. Its job is to make sure that all care is as good and safe as the government says it must be.

Case worker: A type of social worker who helps someone in particular, and gives them the information, advice and help that they need.



Challenging behaviour: When someone behaves in a way that means they might hurt themselves or other people around them. This might be because they find it difficult to say how they are feeling or what they need.

Clinician: A doctor, nurse or therapist who works with patients.

Clinical Commissioning Group: Local health leaders in charge of making choices about the health services in a local area. Sometimes called a CCG.

Commissioning: When a Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group plans, chooses and pays for services.

Commissioner: A person whose job is to understand what people need to keep healthy, safe and well and then plan, choose and pay for it.

Community: A group of people who live in the same place or have something in common.

Community nurse: Nurses who look after people who find it hard to go to the hospital.



D

Data: Information.

Department of Health: The government department in charge of health and adult social care in England. It is in charge of the NHS.

Diagnosis: Working out what illness somebody has by talking to them and/or looking at them to see what is wrong.

Discharge: When someone leaves the hospital and either goes back home or goes somewhere else for more health care.

Drugs: Also called medication or medicine, a drug is used to help someone to be healthier. These are different to illegal drugs.

E

Easy Read: Using pictures, easy words and clear writing to help make something easier to understand.

Emotional health: How you feel overall. It does not mean being happy all the time, instead it means how well you can deal with and make sense of your emotions.

Employment: Being paid to work, either full or part time. Full time work is usually 7 hours a day, 5 days a week and part time is less than this. It usually means working for someone else, but you can also work for yourself if you are self-employed.

F

Forum: A place where people can share their thoughts and ideas about something. It could be a group of people having a meeting, or it could be just online.

G

General Practitioner (GP): A local doctor who treats patients with illnesses which are not very serious, and checks up on people with long-term health problems. They also help people find other healthcare if they need something in particular.

Government: The group of people who make decisions for the country. In the UK, the government is chosen by a vote called the General Election.



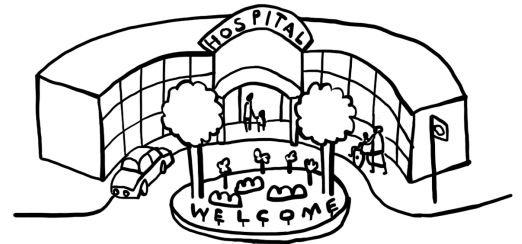
H

Health Education England: The organisation that is in charge of training the people who work for the NHS.

Healthy: When your body and mind are working well.

Hospital: A place where sick and injured people are looked after.

Hygiene: keeping yourself and your surroundings clean, so you stay healthy and do not spread diseases.



I

Immunisation: Protecting people from disease or infection, usually by giving them an **injection**.

Infection: When somebody gets ill because germs (bacteria or a virus) get into their body.

Injection: Using a special medical needle to put medicine or other things into someone's body.

L

Local Authority: The local government in charge of making choices in a local area. It might also be called the local council or LA.

Local Government Association: A group that works to make Local Authorities (LAs) work better, especially by helping different LAs talk to each other.

M

Medication: A drug that is used to make someone better or to stop someone getting ill.

Medicine: The same as **medication**.

Mental health: Like **emotional health**, but also includes other things like stress and how someone makes choices.

N

NHS: The National Health Service. This is the big organisation which runs all the different health services which are paid for by the government.

NHS England: The part of the NHS that only looks after and runs healthcare in England. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have their own organisations.

O

Operating room: A room in a hospital where operations are done.

Operation: When a surgeon does something inside someone's body to find out what is wrong with them or to help them get better.

P

Pain-killer: A drug that stops someone feeling pain in their body.

Participation: Taking part in something to achieve a goal. Having your say on the decisions



that affect your health care.

Patient: An unwell person who is being looked after by a doctor or nurse.

Patient Online: An online service which patients can use to book appointments with their GP, order repeat prescriptions, and look at their records.



Personal Health Budget: Money that people can use to spend on things to help them improve their health.

Personalisation: How professionals make sure each person gets exactly the healthcare and support they need.

Physical health: How well someone's body is working.

Prescribe: When a doctor or other health professional tells someone which medicine to take and how they should take it.

Prescription: A document which tells someone which medicine they should take and how they should take it.



Reasonable Adjustment: A change that must be made so that someone with a disability can take part in something.

Resources: A way of describing different information, contacts and other useful things about healthcare.



Social Services: Services paid for by the government to support people and communities, like education, housing and healthcare.

Social worker: Somebody who is trained to help people get the social services that they need.

Specialist: Someone who works on one particular thing and knows a lot about it. For example, a mental health nurse is a specialist in looking after people with mental health issues.

Steering group: A group of people whose job is to decide what a project or organisation should do in the future.

Summary Care Record: An electronic summary of every patient's records that are held by the NHS.

Surgeon: A doctor who carries out operations on patients.



T

Therapist: Someone who gives therapy to people.

Therapy: Different activities to help someone feel better. It could be for their body or their mind, and could include talking, exercise, art, or many other things.

Transformation: Changing something a lot.

Transforming care programme: A project where the Government, the NHS and other organisations have joined up to make sure that people with a learning disability and/or autism get the best possible care.

U

Unhealthy: Can mean either that someone's body isn't working properly, or that they live their life in a way that is not good for their health.

V

Vaccination: Like **immunisation**.



Waiting room: A place where patients wait to see a healthcare professional like a doctor or a dentist.

Ward: A room in a hospital where people with the same health issue are treated.

Wellbeing: Your physical health, mental health and happiness with your life all put together.

Wound: An injury which cuts someone's skin.

About the Council for Disabled Children

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to the other UK nations. CDC works to influence national policy that impacts upon disabled children and children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their families. The CDC membership is made up of a variety of professional, voluntary and statutory organisations, including disabled young people and parent representatives. CDC's broad based membership and extensive networks of contacts provides a unique overview of current issues. It also enables us to promote collaborative and partnership working among organisations.

CDC hosts the following networks and projects:

- IASS Network
- Making Ourselves Heard
- Special Educational Consortium
- The Information, Advice and Support Programme
- Transition Information Network

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