


# The Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability

## Self-Assessment Framework (SAF)

Update on what is happening next

July 2016

Background information	
 <p><b>2007</b></p>	<p>The learning disability health self-assessment framework started to be used in England in 2007.</p>
	<p>The self-assessment framework was a very important way for the NHS and councils to work together with people with learning disabilities and families.</p>
 <p><b>2013</b></p>	<p>In 2013, the self-assessment framework joined up with the learning disability partnership board reports and became the joint health and social care learning disability self-assessment framework.</p> <p>The joint self-assessment framework was done twice, in 2013 and 2014. People in Clinical Commissioning Groups and councils said they had to do a lot of work to collect information for this.</p>
<p><b>SAF</b></p>	<p>We sometimes also call the self-assessment framework, the SAF.</p>

	<p>The most important part of the SAF was that local people with learning disabilities and families were at the centre.</p> <p>Some people with learning disabilities and family carers felt that sometimes their experiences have not been included in information about their local area is doing on services for people with learning disabilities.</p>
	<p>The SAF has helped local areas find out what is working well and work out what was important for the health service and councils.</p>
	<p>This work was really important to make health and social care services for people with a learning disability better.</p>
	<p>The learning disability Public Health observatory looks at every SAF that happens in England and writes a report giving the big messages.</p>
	<p>The SAF has been the only direct chance that people with learning disabilities and families have to say what is good or bad in local services.</p>
	<p>People and families having a say over what happens in their area is one of the main reasons why it is still important the SAF happens.</p>

## Progress



**NHS**  
England

National  
**Valuing**  
Families  
Forum



Department  
of Health

**Local**  
Government  
Association

NHS England and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) who led the SAF from 2013 agreed that there was a need look at the SAF and see if it needed to change.

They brought together a group of experts in December 2015. This included people from:

- National Forum of people with Learning Disabilities
- National Valuing Families Forum
- Inclusion North
- NHS England
- Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS)
- Local Government Association (LGA)
- Public Health England
- Department of Health









The group worked very hard from December 2015 to March 2016.

The group met 5 times in London.

They looked at how the SAF could happen in the future. They looked at different ways of doing the SAF. They said there could be a new approach.

This would start by looking at the experiences of people using services and those running

	services.
	<p>The group of experts also started to work on the questions for the SAF.</p> <p>The questions are linked to important areas in the Department of Health's Learning Disability Action Plan. This action plan will be published later in 2016.</p> <p>The SAF questions would ask how well things are going in local areas by asking people their experiences of using or working in the services.</p>
	<p>The SAF questions are in 3 main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People are able to have a life</li> <li>• People feel involved, protected and respected</li> <li>• Peoples health and social care needs are met</li> </ul>
<b>How to make the SAF process happen in the future?</b>	
	<p>More work still needs to be done about this to say how the SAF will work.</p> <p>National health and care organisations have discussed this with different groups of people including the National Forum of people with learning disabilities and the National Valuing Families Forum.</p> <p>The Forums said there needs to be a clear process and good time to plan so lots of people can have their say.</p>

	<p>The Forums also said they think it will be important to show how people's voices are included in local plans after the SAF.</p>
	<p>Local areas will be asked to make the SAF happen with the people and money they have.</p> <p>Public Health England will help them by collecting some information and putting it on a website.</p> <p>Local areas will be able to look at this information for their local area and use it to have conversations with people.</p>
	<p>Everybody agrees that the SAF is very important for people with learning disabilities and families to hold public services to account about how they support people with a learning disability.</p> <p>Some people are now working out how to make it happen based on the work of the group of experts which met from December 2015 to March 2016.</p> <p>They will keep in touch with the Forums and others about the ideas and next steps.</p>
	<p>The plan is to tell people about the new SAF process by Autumn 2016.</p> <p>After people have been told there will be enough time for self-advocates and carers to contribute their experiences.</p>