

# Our third open letter to professionals who work with people with a learning impairment, from the Darlington Learning Impairment Network.



In our last open letter we set a challenge to professionals

- Not to use LD when describing disabled people
- Challenge anyone you hear using it
- Talk to and agree with disabled people the words to use to describe them



We want to thank everyone who has listened to this request and tried to behave in a different way.



At our meeting in January 2017 the Network looked at a list of words being used when talking about Transforming Care, words like:



Cohort

Severe

Vulnerable

Resettlement

Beds

Challenging Behaviour



Siblings

Co-morbidity

Unit

Rehoming (Battersea anyone)

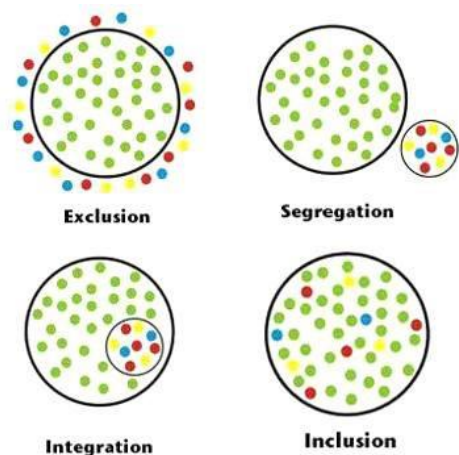
We think that words like these are about being in **Service Land**. These words are not used to describe how non-disabled people live their lives. We think that by using words like these people are trapped in **Service Land** people are even called Service Users!



If you are trapped in **Service Land** it's really hard to be a citizen and be seen as equal to non-disabled people and be described like everyone else.

By using the language of **Service Land** people are seen as different.

We think rather than use "special" words to describe people and what happens to



them, professionals should use everyday language and say it like it is e.g. Rather than “bed reduction”, how about “reducing the numbers of people who are in hospital and don’t need to be there”. Instead of “Cohort”, “that group of people who.....” Shorter isn’t always better.

We hope that this has given you some food for thought, we are always happy to hear any comments people have please feel free to contact us.



**Darlington Learning Impairment Network**

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**Contact**

**[mark.humble@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:mark.humble@darlington.gov.uk) or**  
**[Jenny.byers@darlingtondisability.org](mailto:Jenny.byers@darlingtondisability.org)**