

## Another 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 to think about the language they use to describe people. In particular we asked people to try not to use the word **LD**.



We want to thank those people who said they supported this and those who have tried hard not to use the word.



We believe that real change comes from people thinking about what they are doing and then doing things differently. Thinking about what you say is an important step.



If people just do things without thinking then nothing changes



We think words like **LD**, **special**, **vulnerable**, **challenging** and **units** don't really describe anyone or anything and when people use them it is usually not when people are saying something positive.



We think that unless professionals start to think about the words they use on a day to day basis to describe people the changes needed will never happen because any change needs to include thinking about disabled people in a different way.



We think Professionals need to talk to people with a learning impairment and agree with them what language and words to use.



What we want you to do

- Please don't use the word **LD** when describing disabled people
- Challenge anyone you hear using it
- Talk to and agree with people with a learning impairment about the words they are happy to use.

Thanks for your support



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