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## **Trust launches strategy to care for patients with learning disabilities**

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has launched a strategy to ensure people with learning disabilities receive accessible, safe and appropriate care.

The Learning and Disabilities Strategy will ensure staff who work for the Trust make reasonable adjustments, understanding the needs of people with learning disabilities when they access healthcare.

Hosting the launch at Russells Hall Hospital, Chief Executive Paula Clark said it marked a special day for the Trust.

“Having a strategy for the way we care for people with learning disabilities means we have a set of standards that we all adhere to as an organisation and that is really powerful,” said Paula.

Attending the launch was Margot James, MP for Stourbridge and a school governor with special responsibilities for children with special educational needs.

“I am very aware of the changing landscape and the integration of health and education to provide solutions for children to allow them to reach their potential,” said Margot.

“The strategy is a great piece of work and I would like to commend The Dudley Group and staff for the work they have done in taking national research and recommendations and putting them into practice,” she added.

“I was especially pleased that people with learning disabilities were actively involved in the formation of this strategy, which will only make it that much more effective in helping to spread knowledge and best practice through the organisation.”

The launch, organised by the Trust’s Learning Disability Liaison Nurse Jacqui Howells, featured a play by Bristol drama group The Misfits, which is made up of eight adults with learning disabilities, delivering a production about resuscitation.”

The Trust’s strategy will support the Disability Discrimination Act and Mental Capacity Act to ensure the delivery of equal treatment to Dudley patients.

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