



# Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training in Learning Disabilities and Autism Newsletter

Newsletter Date:  
December 2020

Number 1

## In this issue...

Expert by experience quotes about the project:

“I am really proud and pleased that we are doing - project board, training, webinars, getting the message across and the impact from everybody else. We are all a really big team.”

“I’ve been going to meetings to do with the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training Project, at the national meeting I’ve reported about how Gloucestershire are doing things and how it’s going from our end.”



## Progress since our stakeholder event

In September, our original timeline was to train 5000 people at Tier 1 and 700 at tier 2, from November 2020. Along with other trial project partners, we have been prevented from starting on time. We have been working closely with the national group about this situation and we have now taken the option to extend the pilot project. This enables us to officially start our tier 1 and 2 training in March 2021 thereby ensuring we fulfil our obligation to train the numbers before November 2021.

Initially we said Tier 1 had to be completed to obtain the right knowledge before going on to Tier 2. Tier 2 is more practical and appropriate for staff who are supporting people with autism and learning disabilities. Now each organisation will be able to carry out training needs analysis to decide who is required to do the training and what tier of training they will need. We are currently creating guidance for managers to assist in this process. It will be circulated in early 2021.

## Tier 1

People who will attend Tier 1 are those who need general awareness of how to support people with a learning disability or autistic people. This will involve staff who occasionally interact with people with a learning disability and/or autistic people, but who do not have responsibility for providing direct care or making decisions about care or support.

We realise it is important to get tier 1 right for everybody – the audience is vast - everyone in health and social care! So, we will not be compromising on the quality and our experts by experience have been pulling out all the stops to make sure the training is engaging, relevant and useful.

As a result of feedback from local providers, we have re-considered the time people will spend on the tier 1 training. The total learner effort for tier 1 will now be 1.5 hours.

Tier 1 will now consist of the following:

- An information video created by our experts by experience. There will be soundbites and ‘real feel’ videos

## Our team...

- 5 experts by experience (with autism, learning disabilities and with combined learning disability and autism)
- 3 family carers in our team.
- A changing group of professionals and people who support people with a learning disability and/or autism
- A broad range of experts on the project board

## Other information:

- Background to the project
- Our Project Board meets monthly - email us to join!
- Independent review into Oliver McGowan's LeDeR process
- The 3 tiers of the Core Capabilities Frameworks

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which will be based on good and bad lived experiences. The aim of the videos is to empower staff to do things differently and have a set of skills to help them in different work areas.

- A 30-minute webinar where staff will complete a one-off drop-in session to meet experts by experience and discuss the training. There will be a 'safe space' question and answer opportunity for staff to develop skills and confidence when communicating with people with a learning disability or an autistic person.
- Learners must attend the webinar, watch the video and complete an assessment quiz to successfully complete tier 1 and get a certificate.

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## Tier 2

Tier 2 will be a one day, face to face, training session facilitated by a family carer, somebody with lived experience and someone who works in learning disability services. There will also be a person providing technology support to run the hybrid model. This means, just like our stakeholder event, people will be able to attend online and in person.

We have been working on a risk assessment for the training venues to make sure they are Covid secure environments, but we have had some technological challenges. We need better equipment - finding a way around the infection control issues with a roving microphone is proving interesting! We think we are close to a solution and look forward to trying it all out in our pilot sessions in January and February before our go live date in March 2021.

So far, we have spent 52 hours meeting to design the content delivery. The training will follow a lifespan approach to include all age groups. Each section is mapped to the Capabilities Frameworks but overall, we want the training to be meaningful and practical. There will also be a tier 2 guidebook for staff with lots of tools, resources and a list of local and national contacts.

Earlier this month, we shared our content material for the tier 2 Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training with our 'critical friends' via Zoom. We used Turning Point polling software to gather qualitative and quantitative feedback. This has really helped to shape our training in readiness for the pilot sessions in Feb 2021, so a big thank you to all those involved.

It is essential we have a wide range of views so that we can design a programme that can work for everybody. We are keen to hear from other people who may like to be part of the project board, or from people who would like to be added to the stakeholder mailing list to receive a newsletter after the training is rolled out.