

## Locala at Learning Disability Week 2025

This week (16th–22nd June) marks **Learning Disability Week 2025**, with the important theme “Do you see me?” – a call to action for individuals and organisations to ensure that people with learning disabilities are seen, heard and valued in every aspect of life, including their health and wellbeing.

At Locala, one of our core purposes is to tackle the root causes of health inequalities, so being part of community events like this is central to our work. On Monday 16th June, Locala colleagues joined **Kirklees Involvement Network (KIN)** for a Health Stall event at Huddersfield Mission.



Wendy Newsome, Dental Nurse

**Preeya Patel (Health Inequalities and Inclusion Lead)** and **Wendy Newsome (Dental Nurse)** were on hand to share advice and resources to promote good oral health, focusing on the adjustments that can make dental care more accessible for people with learning disabilities and complex needs.

People were particularly interested in examples of specialist products, such as Dr Barmanns toothbrushes, non-foaming toothpaste, and the Open Wide mouth prop – a simple yet effective tool designed to help individuals who may find it difficult to keep their mouths open during dental care. The stall also featured giant teeth and toothbrush props, which sparked plenty of curiosity and smiles!

Alongside them was **Courtney Smith (Sexual Health Outreach Worker)**, offering information and advice on sexual health, including contraception, safe sex, consent, and signposting to support services. Courtney spoke with 32 people in total and provided accessible resources and free condoms – these were very well received.



From left to right: Tina (KIN member), Courtney Smith, Sexual Health Outreach Worker

Feedback from attendees highlighted the value of having health professionals on hand to answer questions in an informal, approachable way. Carers and day centre staff also said they wanted more advice like this, showing the importance of continuing to offer accessible, community-based health education.

We were pleased to be positioned next to our partners from the Pennine Breast Screening service, represented by **Amelia Polasik (Health Promotion Specialist)**, a reminder of how joined-up working across services can help reduce inequalities and reach people who may otherwise miss out on important health information.

At Locala, we are committed to ensuring that everyone in our community, including those with learning disabilities, has access to the health services and support they need to live well.



From left to right: Wendy Newsome, Nicola (KIN member), Amelia Polasik (Health Promotion Specialists, Pennine Breast Imaging)