

Balancing risk and independence



What did we find?

Peer and friendship groups provide a 'safety-net' to give people with learning disabilities confidence to lead more independent lives

People with learning disabilities are:

- generally well informed about risks and safety in the home and out in the community
- increasingly using inclusive spaces including bars, coffee shops, garden centres, parks and other public amenities
- tending to engage in the community in smaller groups

What learning is involved?

Developing awareness and understanding of risks through peer discussions and information and advice

“

If you have a child with a learning disability... who you've been hugely involved in keeping them safe all those years and they become a teenager and they want to go to the pub or go out with their friends, it all becomes a little bit scary.

”

Anya, provider

What more can be done?

Organisations could:

- facilitate peer support and challenge traditional risk averse attitudes in the sector to support greater engagement in the community

Local authorities could:

- work more closely with parents and carers in managing community safety including parent and carer forums

