

## **PAGE Project Synopsis**

Families where one or both parents have a learning disability can often have complex needs due to a lack of understanding around parenting responsibilities and poor independent living skills. These parents may also suffer from discrimination, depression, poor self-esteem and unemployment, all of which may contribute towards child care proceedings occurring.

These families are often over-represented in care proceedings due to a perception that the parents do not have the skills and knowledge necessary to parent effectively rather than them being purposefully neglectful or abusive. It is also estimated that between 40% and 60% of parents with a learning disability have their children removed from their care due to being assessed as unable to provide an adequate standard of parenting.

When provided with appropriate support and training we believe that many parents with a learning disability can improve their skills and knowledge and learn to parent more effectively. This project aims to ensure that parents with a learning disability are provided with the skills and timely wraparound support to help them thrive in their parenting role, and therefore reduce the likelihood of childcare proceedings being initiated.

For those parents with a learning disability who are involved with childcare proceedings, many will find the process daunting and many will struggle to understand what rights and options they have. In addition to providing independent living skills training to parents with a learning disability, this service will also provide tailored advocacy support to parents who are at risk of, or are in the midst of child care proceedings. We believe that no-one should face the potential traumatic experiences of facing child protection and court proceedings alone, particularly where there is an identified need around understanding the process and identifying what their options are.