

# A Good Specialist Learning Disability Service - A Delphi Study

*Eva-Maria Hempe, Engineering Design Centre, University of Cambridge*  
*eh343@cam.ac.uk*

## What is the study about?

The role of a specialist service for people with learning disabilities is subject to disagreement and debate. Different people involved in providing care to people with learning disabilities have different views. As a design researcher at the University of Cambridge, I am interested in your views on the role of specialist learning disability services and what makes a good service.

I have planned a study to find out what you and other key people involved in the care for people with learning disabilities think are the roles of a specialist service and what can be provided by other mainstream services, such as the local council, GP surgeries or hospitals. This will be the basis for further work to improve how services are designed and developed.

## What would I have to do?

My study uses a structured protocol to collect ideas from individual participants and shares the anonymised answers with the whole group. Each participant then votes for the ideas that should be kept and ranks how essential they are to the role of the service. This is repeated twice with the aim of achieving consensus.

Finally I will ask if you have any ideas how these ideas for a good service could be put into practice. The final results will be again shared with the group.

## How much time will it take?

There are 4 rounds and each round will take 15 to 30 minutes for answering the questionnaire. You will receive feedback and the next questionnaire within 4 weeks, either electronically or by mail – whatever is most convenient to you. I hope to start the study by mid April 2010.

## I want to take part

Great! Please write me an email ([eh343@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eh343@cam.ac.uk)) or call me (07805 606910) and I will send you the questionnaire as soon as I have enough people to start the study.

## I have more questions

Then please feel free to contact me. My email is [eh343@cam.ac.uk](mailto:eh343@cam.ac.uk) and my phone number 07805 606910.

