Focus group guide with the family carers

I. Understanding of a learning disability
First, we would like to talk to you about what a learning disability is.

1. Do you agree with our definition of a learning disability?
[Presenting the definition of the learning disability used in the study (definition used by the Valuing People accepted by the Department of Health)]
If you do not agree with our definition, please tell us why.

II. Access to services
Now we would like to talk about services that the person you care for receives. By services we mean any support that comes from people who are not family members or friends. These are services that are for people who have a learning disability.

2. Is it easy to find support needed?
Please tell us is it easy to find services provided by the public sector, private sector and voluntary sector.

3. Is it easy to use services?
[prompt: accommodation, help at home, support at school, help to get a job, health checks, day services, transport, financial support)]

4. Overall, is this support enough?

III. Quality of care
5. Are you happy with services that your relative receives?
What do you like about it?
Is there anything that you do not like about it? How could it be improved?

IV. Advocacy
6. What happens when you are not happy with the services?
Do you find it easy to tell staff if you are not happy with the services?

7. Do you feel that your concerns are listened to?
Do things change after you communicate your concerns?

V. Closing questions
8. Do you have any other comments you would like to say?

9. Is there anything else that would help us to understand the situation of people with learning disability from your communities?