

# Learning Disabilities

Oct 2020

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## **COVID-19**

[Adult Social Care – our COVID-19 Winter Plan 2020/21](#) The plan covers 4 themes:

- preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings
- collaboration across health and care services
- supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers
- supporting the system

[Social Care Sector COVID-19 Support Taskforce: final report, advice and recommendations](#) This report sets out the progress and learning from the first phase of the pandemic in informing advice and recommendations to government and the social care sector.

[Covid-19 "shocking statistics" for people with disabilities Figures released](#) today by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) have revealed that disabled people, while only making up 16% of the population according to the 2011 census, made up 6 in 10 deaths between March and July. And after adjusted for population density, socio-demographic, region and household characteristics the ONS study found that the mortality rate for disabled women were 2.4 times and disabled men 2 times higher than for non-disabled people.

[Autistic families concerned about the return to school, survey finds](#) 77% of families feel their child returning to school will need more support, but less than half believe they will receive it.

## **Guidance**

[Reasonable adjustments: a legal duty](#) Guidance for health and social care professionals about the legal duty to make reasonable adjustments for people with learning disabilities. Updated 15 September 2020.

## **Training**

[Free places available on new Bild Positive Behaviour Support qualifications](#) Bild is launching two new blended learning qualifications in Positive Behaviour Support, and have a limited number of free places available for family carers and personal assistants who are employed directly by the person they support.

[With the right training, people with learning disabilities can become partners in research](#) A training course for students with learning disabilities succeeded in increasing their knowledge of research and their research skills. The course also increased their confidence and self-esteem. Several of the students went on to take up new work opportunities.

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## **Studies**

[Neural responses to names may underlie language difficulties in some autistic people](#) Minimally verbal autistic people do not differentiate the sound of their own name from that of a stranger's, according to a new electroencephalography (EEG) study. They also have difficulties filtering sounds from background noise.

[Largest study to date confirms overlap between autism and gender diversity](#)

People who do not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth are three to six times as likely to be autistic as cisgender people are, according to the largest study yet to examine the connection. Gender-diverse people are also more likely to report autism traits and to suspect they have undiagnosed autism.

[Gender and sexuality in autism, explained](#) Many studies have examined the prevalence of gender diversity among autistic people. One of the most frequently cited studies found that about 15 percent of autistic adults in the Netherlands identify as trans or nonbinary; the percentage is higher among people assigned female at birth than among people assigned male.

[Brain signal imbalance tracks with sex and with camouflaging autism traits](#)

Autistic men show a greater imbalance between excitatory and inhibitory signalling in the medial prefrontal cortex than autistic women do, a new study has found. The sex difference in this brain area, which is involved in social behaviour and cognition, could help explain why autistic women seem to camouflage their autism more often than autistic men do, researchers say.

[Transition to adult healthcare is often challenging for autistic children](#) Adolescents with autism are the least likely among young people with mental, behavioural and developmental conditions to receive guidance from their doctor on the shift from paediatric to adult healthcare, according to a new study by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

[Autistic and non-autistic youth get different healthcare as they age](#) Young people with autism receive more mental health services and less gynecological or urgent care than their neurotypical peers, a new study shows. They may also get more consistent primary care than non-autistic youths during the transition from adolescence to young adulthood.

## **Webinar**

[Making Health Checks work](#) This free webinar will give people the chance to hear about great work that is being done by self advocates, family carers, commissioners and providers around the country to help make Annual Health Checks really work.

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## News

[Staff abused women at learning disability unit, finds CQC](#) Cygnet Health Care hospital closed and four staff sacked after CCTV footage showed workers emotionally and physically abusing service users.