



COVID-19

[New PBS helpline offer for families and carers during Covid-19](#) Bild is offering a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) helpline to support families and carers of people with learning disabilities, mental health issues or autistic people with the challenges of living with Covid-19 restrictions. Supporters, carers and family members might want to discuss how they are doing, to gain reassurance that they are doing the right thing, or they might want to talk through some ideas and get some practical suggestions.

[Shocking levels of physical restraint, over-medication and solitary confinement used during lockdown as more people locked up in modern day asylums](#)

- 225 children with a learning disability and/or autism are still locked away in inpatient
- Little change in the number of admissions with 120 admissions in July 2020
- Delayed discharges continue with at least 115 people still stuck in hospital when they are ready for discharge in July 2020
- The average total length of stay in inpatient units is 5.6 years.

[Full report](#) accessed via NHS Digital

[Overview of adult social care guidance on coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) Information for adult social care providers on COVID-19 guidance and support.

[National Autistic Society Scotland calls for transition plans to help autistic children return to school following lockdown](#) The National Autistic Society Scotland is calling on schools to provide all autistic children with a personalised transition plan to help with their return to school.

[Carers facing burnout and isolation during covid-19 get wellbeing lifeline](#) Families and unpaid carers looking after people with learning disabilities will be able to access wellbeing support through a new guide published by Turning Point. The [guide](#) has been drawn up in response to concerns that many carers feel burned out, isolated and overlooked. This is as a result of the temporary closure of services such as day centres in response to social distancing restrictions.

Newsletter

[Learning Disability Newsletter: Issue 11](#) In this issue of the learning disability newsletter you can find out about getting help with difficult feelings, spotting signs you're in crisis and how to get help; the Mental Capacity Act – getting the right support to make decisions.

Blog

[Spokespeople are so important to Learning Disability England](#) Blog by Gary Bourlet, self advocate and Membership and Engagement Lead about the importance of Spokespeople for LDE.

Learning Disabilities

Sep 2020

Library &
Information
Service



Studies

[Facial expressions between autistic and neurotypical people may be mismatched](#)

Conversations between an autistic and a typical person involve less smiling and more mismatched facial expressions than do interactions between two typical people, a new study suggests.

[Inside scientists' quest to map, modulate social circuits in autism](#) One of the biggest mysteries in autism research is understanding how the condition's discrete set of traits emerges from a multitude of genetic and environmental factors. Over the past decade, scientists have homed in on a possible explanation: Autism's diverse influences may all affect the same neural circuits, or networks of neurons that work in concert.

News

[Introducing our Autism Inpatient Mental Health casework service](#) The new service provides:

- confidential information, advice and support by phone and email
- details about mental health rights and entitlements, to help prevent or challenge detention and secure the care and support autistic people need in their communities
- help autistic people and their families explore their options and make informed decisions
- guidance and support on specific issues, such as getting help from an advocate, finding the right provision in the community, making a complaint or appealing against a decision
- signposting to advice and support from other parts of our charity, including education rights, transition support, the autism helpline, and parent to parent.

[Brain's center of automatic body functions has autism links](#) Some people with autism have trouble coordinating their movements. Some experience sensory disturbances, such that everyday sounds seem unbearably loud. And some have an atypical heart rate or disturbed sleep cycles. These seemingly disparate features are all tied to a tiny region called the brainstem.