

# Learning Disabilities

Nov 2020

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## **COVID-19**

[Covid and the law – latest for people, families and supporters: Webinar Tuesday 3rd November: 3 – 4pm \(on Zoom\)](#) The law and guidance about how we all live through Covid 19 keep changing. This webinar will focus on issues for people with learning disabilities, family members and paid supporters and what they tell us are important to them.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): looking after people who lack mental capacity](#) Updated guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity.

[COVID-19: providing unpaid care to adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults](#) Updated guidance for people who are providing unpaid care to adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[COVID-19: supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults](#) Updated guidance for care staff supporting adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

[Visiting care homes during coronavirus](#) Updated guidance for making arrangements for limited visits for care homes with the support of their director of public health.

[Face-to-face DoLS assessments strongly discouraged in high-risk Covid areas](#) Practitioners should only carry out face-to-face Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) assessments “in exceptional circumstances” in areas covered by tier 2 and 3 Covid-19 restrictions.

## **Reports**

[State of Care: What the CQC’s new report means for autistic people](#) Many autistic people are still not receiving the good quality care they need, according to a new [report](#) from the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the regulator of health and social care services in England. The report, which is about the state of care in 2019/20, highlights the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the sector.

[Out of sight – who cares? A review of restraint, seclusion and segregation for autistic people, and people with a learning disability and/or mental health condition](#) This report looks at the use of restraint, seclusion and segregation in care services for people with a mental health condition, a learning disability or autistic people.

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## **Independent Review**

[LeDeR review finds death of autistic teenager Oliver McGowan was 'potentially avoidable'](#) An independent Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR) has found the death of autistic teenager Oliver McGowan at a Bristol hospital was 'potentially avoidable'. The review made a number of recommendations and they are available in [Easy Read format here](#).

## **Study**

[Social attention shifts differently over time for autistic adults](#) This study of eye-tracking suggests that neurotypical adults change how they view social scenes over time in a way that autistic adults do not.

## **News**

[Brain structure changes in autism, explained](#) Autistic people have distinct patterns of brain development, which sometimes result in differences in brain structure. Here's what we know about those differences.

[When mental capacity assessments must delve beneath what people say to what they do](#) Professionals often assume capacity should only be considered when they interview the person in cases where assessments must explore their ability to carry the decision through.

[Devon locals with learning disabilities create stop-motion animation to help halt disabled hate](#) A new stop-motion animation created by people with learning disabilities and their support workers in Devon is hoping to raise awareness of disability hate crime this month, after new figures showed yet another surge in the number of crimes committed across the South West.

[CQC demands national system change to prevent future generations of autistic people and/or people with a learning disability from 'falling through the gaps'](#) The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is calling for improved community-based capacity and capability across education, health and care for people with a learning disability, autistic people and or a mental health condition, after a review found undignified and inhumane care in some hospital settings providing complex care.

## **Publication**

[JCHR reports on the detention of young people with learning disabilities or autism: government response](#) Response to the Joint Committee on Human Rights (JCHR) recommendations on the rights of people with a learning disability or autistic young people in inpatient settings.

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## **Statistics**

[NHS Digital data shows high levels of restrictive practices being used in inpatient units](#) Latest [NHS Digital figures](#) show that there continue to be high levels of restrictive interventions, like physical restraint, over-medication and solitary confinement, being used against the 2,060 people with a learning disability and/or autism who are still locked away in these hospitals. There were 4,810 recorded instances of restrictive interventions (including physical, prone, mechanical and chemical restraint) in July 2020, of which 660 were against children.

## **App**

[Six councils implement app for people with learning disabilities](#) A group of local authorities have implemented an app to support people with learning disabilities as part of their social care services. They begun to roll out the AutoNoMe at Home app – developed by virtual support provider AutoNoMe – last month as part of the Social Care Digital Innovation Accelerator (SCDIA) programme, backed by the Local Government Association and NHS Digital.

## **Film**

[Flu vaccination for people with learning disability and autism](#) This short film presentation supports general practice and pharmacy teams to carry out flu vaccinations for people with a learning disability and autistic people who may be eligible for a vaccination.