

Learning Disabilities

Mar 2021a

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Policy

[Launch of LeDeR policy: Learning from Lives and Deaths](#) NHS England and NHS Improvement has published a new LeDeR Policy this week. This policy sets out the core aims and values of the LeDeR programme and the expectations of different parts of the health and social care system in delivering the programme from June 2021. An easy read version of the guide is also available.

Studies

[Social work and autistic young people: an exploratory study](#) This study conducted by the Chief Social Workers for Adults and the Chief Social Worker for Children and Families aims to improve the quality of autistic people's lives and social work practice.

['Shocking' postcode lottery for SEND support in schools, new report shows](#) A study from the [Education Policy Institute \(EPI\)](#), funded by the Nuffield Foundation, found that the extent of SEND support was largely dictated by the school that a child attends, rather than their individual circumstances. It also found that the huge variation could be explained by inconsistent approaches to identifying children.

[Risk of forced marriage among people with learning disabilities: carers provide insights into consent, care needs and the place of marriage in South Asian communities](#) In a new study, researchers explored the views of carers within Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities. Carers said that securing long term care for their relative was the prime reason behind forced marriage. Other themes emerged, including the importance of marriage within the community, along with the belief that it might lessen the disability. There was a lack of awareness that these marriages are against the law if the person does not have capacity to consent. [Easy read report](#)

Review

[CQC publish review of DNAR during Covid 19: 'Protect, respect, connect'](#) The Department of Health and Social Care asked CQC to conduct a rapid review of how DNACPR decisions were used during the coronavirus pandemic, building on concerns that they were being inappropriately applied to groups of people without their knowledge.

Report

[AGCAS calls for more research into employment barriers for people with a learning disability](#) The report [What Happens Next?](#) is written by careers and employability professionals who are members of the AGCAS Disability Task Group examines the effect of a disability on a graduate's employment prospects.

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Cochrane Review

[What is the accuracy of diagnostic tests for autism spectrum disorder in preschool children?](#) This Cochrane review found that of the three diagnostic tests for autism assessed, ADOS was the most sensitive, with 44 children per 1000 screened classified as not having autism, compared with 148 for CARS and 355 for ADI-R, with a study population prevalence of 74%. However, sensitivities and specificities were heterogeneous across studies for all three tests, and reviewers rated only one study (out of 21 included) at low risk of bias for all four criteria related to conduct of the tests and selection of participants.

Guidance

[Call for urgent review of NICE guidelines for autism screening](#) The 10-item Autism Spectrum Quotient, known as the AQ-10, is an international screening method recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). However, [a recent report](#) published in The Lancet Psychiatry, has found a “worrying discrepancy” between the clinical cut-off recommended by NICE and the research informing their guidance.