

# Learning Disabilities

Aug 2021

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## **Covid-19**

[JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination of children and young people aged 12 to 17 years: 15 July 2021](#) At the current time, children 12 to 15 years of age with severe neuro-disabilities, Down's syndrome, underlying conditions resulting in immunosuppression, and those with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), severe learning disabilities or who are on the learning disability register are considered at increased risk for serious COVID-19 disease and should be offered COVID-19 vaccination.

[Next steps following updated JCVI guidance in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and young people](#) Letter regarding the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and young people.

## **Strategy**

[National strategy for autistic children, young people and adults: 2021 to 2026](#) The government's national strategy for improving the lives of autistic people and their families and carers in England, and implementation plan for 2021 to 2022.

## **Statistics**

[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#) The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in June 2021:

- In total 2,075 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are still in inpatient mental health hospitals.
- 1,200 (58%) of these people are autistic.

## **Report**

[Report published on Institutionalising Parent Carer Blame](#) The experiences of families with disabled children in their interactions with English local authority children's services departments.

## **Government Response**

[Independent Care \(Education\) and Treatment Reviews: government response](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care's response to the report and recommendations from Baroness Hollins and the Oversight Panel's review of the Independent Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews.

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## News

[Government urged to develop better support for autistic people in the criminal justice system](#) The Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorate has urged the Government to develop more coordinated and effective support for autistic people in the criminal justice system (CJS) in England and Wales.

[New medical grade transparent face masks improve communication](#) A new medical grade transparent face mask designed by Alder Hey Children's Hospital is the first of its kind to be clinically safe and support communication for those who have hearing difficulties, cognitive problems and/or learning disabilities.