

Learning Disabilities

Aug 2021a

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Covid-19

[COVID-19: guidance on protecting people defined on medical grounds as extremely vulnerable](#) Updated 6 August with an added easy read version.

[Visiting arrangements in care homes](#) Updated 3 August - Clarification on PPE usage when caring for residents with learning disabilities.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): providing unpaid care to adults with learning disabilities and autistic adults \(updated\)](#) This guidance is for those who provide unpaid care, such as friends or family, to adults with a learning disability or autistic people.

[Covid guidance on Mental Capacity Act and DoLS withdrawn](#) [The government has withdrawn guidance](#) on practice in relation to the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) during the pandemic. It said this meant social workers and other professionals should follow usual decision-making processes in relation to practice under the MCA-DoLS that relates to Covid-19.

Studies

[Sex, age of diagnosis correlate with autism comorbidities](#) A study suggests that girls are more likely to have various other conditions, such as anxiety or an eating disorder, if they are diagnosed with autism as a teenager, compared with girls diagnosed as children. The authors suggest this may show that clinicians miss diagnosing some autistic girls unless they also have co-occurring conditions.

[Genetic roots of sleep issues, autism may be entwined](#) The same genetic factors may underlie both autism and autistic people's tendency to have sleep problems, such as insomnia according to a Swedish study.

[Involving learning disability nurses in annual health checks](#) A trial which tested a new model of annual health checks found that the presence of a learning disability nurse significantly improved uptake among people with learning disability.

Blog

[How does hate and mate crime have a big impact on the lives of people with learning disabilities and autistic people?](#) A blog post explaining the concepts of hate crime and mate crime and discussing people with LD's experiences.

Resource

[Parents set up online interactive club](#) Two parents of young adult daughters with varying needs have set up The Willow Tree Club, which provides online interactive activities for people with learning disabilities.

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Strategy

[New National Disability Strategy launches](#) More accessible housing, easier commuting and better job prospects are set to become reality for millions of disabled people in the UK through actions set out in the government's National Disability Strategy.

Consultation

[NICE opens consultation on draft guideline](#) NICE have opened consultation on its draft guideline on disabled children and young people (up to the age of 25) with severe complex needs. The [guideline](#) is built on the principles and requirements set out in the SEND code of practice and aims to help professionals across health, social and education services to work together to deliver the best care for disabled children and young people with severe complex needs.

Guidance

[New guidance to improve housing for autistic people](#) A new report by NDTI has set out guidance which considers the sensory needs of autistic people in housing. The report aims to change the approach to autism and promote an understanding of the condition as a sensory processing difference rather than a behavioural disorder.

News

[Children's social workers to receive standards on autism practice](#) Capability statement for practice with autistic children will add to existing standards for adults' practitioners, and follows concerns raised by chief social workers about how professionals work with families.