

## Studies

### [Mutations linked to autism may be detectable in men's sperm](#)

About 1 in 15 men carries gene-damaging mutations — some with ties to autism or congenital heart disease — only in his sperm, a small study suggests.

### [X chromosome exerts extra influence on brain development](#)

The X chromosome holds stronger-than-expected genetic sway over the structure of several brain regions, a new study finds. The X-linked genes that may underlie this oversized influence have ties to autism and intellectual disability. The new findings suggest that the X chromosome, despite containing only 5 percent of the human genome, has a privileged role in shaping the brain — one that may be particularly relevant to developmental conditions. What's more, this influence may be stronger in men than in women, the study shows.

### [Autism mouse models cluster by brain activity pattern](#)

Four subtypes lend new support to the idea that there isn't a single 'hallmark' type of brain connectivity in people with autism.

### [IQ related to muscle strength in individuals with learning disabilities](#)

Intelligence quotient (IQ) in individuals with LD is significantly associated with muscle strength, both in the lower and upper body, according to new research.

## Cochrane Review

### [Behavioural and cognitive behavioural therapy for obsessive compulsive disorder \(OCD\) in individuals with autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\)](#)

Evidence is limited regarding the efficacy of CBT for treatment of OCD in ASD. There is much scope for future study, not only examining the efficacy of CBT for OCD in ASD, but also the particular ways that OCD manifests in and affects people with ASD and the role of the family in treatment response.

## Guidance

### [Meeting the healthcare needs of adults with a learning disability and autistic adults in prison](#)

Guidance on the design and delivery of prison healthcare for adults with a learning disability and autistic adults accessing healthcare services whilst in prison.

## Reports

[CQC report highlights how the right community support can improve outcomes for people with a learning disability, a mental health need and autistic people](#)

The report includes eight stories of people who have previously been placed in hospital settings, and how all are now thriving in community services across England. These stories describe how people's lives have changed when they are given the opportunity to live in their own home, with a supportive staff team where they can exercise choice, independence and control alongside real participation in the community.

[Joanna, Jon and Ben – a Serious Case Review](#)

Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board published a report about Joanna, Jon and Ben, three people in their mid thirties, who died between 2018 and 2020, in a private hospital called Cawston Park. The report exposes multiple serious failures – from the physical assault of patients and failure to meet healthcare needs, to lack of record keeping and even altering records.

## Projects

[New project to help people with learning disabilities become more included in community life](#)

A new project which aims to help people with learning disabilities to become more included in their local communities has recently been launched by The Scottish Commission for People with Learning Disabilities (SCLD). Four documents make up the Active, Connected, Included project, developed in collaboration with a number of local organisations, including community groups, local authorities and Third Sector Interface (TSI) organisations.

[Launch of AsIAm Adult Support and Wellbeing Programme](#)

AsIAm has announced the launch of its new Adult Support and Well-being Programme for Autistic adults. AsIAm has been working hard at developing a programme to address issues regarding the lack of social inclusion for autistic adults. The programme aims to adopt a community development approach, striving to support autistic adults to develop self-advocacy and peer support skills.

## Statistics

[Learning Disability Services Monthly Statistics AT: August 2021, MHSDS: June 2021 Final](#)

There were 2,040 learning disabilities and/or autism inpatients at the end of the month.

## Event

### [NEUROSTAGES festival announced](#)

NEUROSTAGES is a hybrid online and in-person festival celebrating and exploring neurodiverse artistic practice with a host of exciting artists and creatives. Streamed from the Centre for Contemporary Art in Glasgow on 15 & 16 October [festival passes are now on sale](#) on a pay what you can basis.

## App

### [New app to help improve quality of care for people with learning disabilities](#)

A new app which aims to improve the quality of care for adults with learning disabilities has recently been launched. Hear Me Now was designed in partnership with software developers Maldaba and enables people with learning disabilities to easily store important information on their phone, which can then be shared with healthcare staff and carers.

## News

### [NHS appoints national director of learning disability and autism](#)

NHS England has announced the appointment of Tom Cahill as the national director for learning disability and autism.

### [Shielding programme ends for most vulnerable](#)

The government has agreed to end the requirement for shielding guidance for people previously considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable.

### [Most vulnerable to be offered COVID-19 booster vaccines from next week](#)

Millions of the UK's most vulnerable are to be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine from next week.

### [What studying worms, flies and fish says about autism](#)

These animals have helped link new genes to autism, sort out harmful from benign mutations, show how multiple autism-linked genes interact, and uncover neural circuits involved in sensory and social function.