

## Studies

### [Rare mutations prevalent among autistic people](#)

About one in four autistic people carries rare genetic mutations in genes strongly linked to autism or other neurodevelopmental conditions, far more than in the general population, according to a new study. These mutations combine with common genetic variants to shape a person's chances of having autism, a related study from the same team shows.

### [Earlier autism diagnosis associated with greater trait improvement](#)

Children who are diagnosed with autism before 2 and a half years of age show greater gains in their social skills, on average, than children who are diagnosed later, according to a new study.

### [Birdsong-related DNA sequences tied to autism-linked genes](#)

Genes that appear to play a role in some birds' ability to learn songs are frequently mutated in autistic people, according to a new study.

### [Myelin loss may explain how autism-linked DNA deletion affects cognition](#)

Mice that lack one copy of TBX1, a gene in the autism-linked 22q11.2 chromosomal region, produce too little myelin — the fatty insulation that surrounds neurons — and perform poorly on tasks that measure cognitive speed, according to a new study.

## Research

### [Evidence review for adult social care reform](#)

A technical evidence paper outlining trends and challenges in adult social care based on the current adult social care system in England.

## White Paper

### [People at the Heart of Care: adult social care reform white paper](#)

This white paper sets out a 10-year vision for adult social care and provides information on funded proposals that will be implemented over the next 3 years.

## Independent Review

### [Independent Review into the death of Clive Treacey published](#)

The report from an independent investigation into the death of Clive Treacey has been published, concluding that his death was "potentially avoidable".

## Inquest

### [Coroner rules death of 13-year-old Sammy Alban-Stanley was preventable](#)

The coroner has ruled that the death of 13-year-old Sammy Alban-Stanley, who died after falling from a height at Ramsgate seafront, could have been prevented if he was provided with extra support.

## Reports

### [Report calls for radical remodelling of autism care and treatment](#)

A report published in The Lancet is calling for a new, comprehensive model of autism care and treatment that prioritises personalised, stepped care approaches.

### [New report reveals extent of loneliness felt by people with a learning disability](#)

A new report has revealed the extent to which people with learning disabilities felt lonely, both during and after pandemic lockdowns. The report, published to coincide with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, is based on an analysis from an online survey of more than 1,000 members of the general public who have a learning disability.

### [One year on from Out of Sight – what's changed?](#)

CQC published [a progress report to highlight what has been achieved so far](#) and which areas need more focus since the recommendations made in the 2020 Out of sight review.

### [Adults With Incapacity Act monitoring report 2020-2021](#)

The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland monitors the use of welfare guardianship orders for adults with a mental illness, learning disability, dementia and related conditions, to determine how and for whom the AWI Act is being used. This helps to inform policy and practice.

### [NICE impact people with a learning disability](#)

This report highlights the lack of progress made in many areas. Data shows high levels of health inequality and limited positive change over time. You can [read a summary of the findings](#) or [download the full report](#) for more information.

## Project

### [New project to investigate why 63% of people with a learning disability die before age 65](#)

A new project will investigate why 63% of people with learning disabilities pass away before the age of 65 years compared to only 15% of the general population, many from unjust and avoidable deaths.

## Online Seminar

### [New guide on managing epilepsy safely in people with a learning disability](#)

A new training seminar has been published to help neurologists recognise and manage epilepsy safely and effectively in people with neurodevelopmental disorders. It flags up the risk of sudden unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) in this population, which may be up to 20 times higher than in the general population.

## Advice

### [5 tips for a Christmas that works for everyone](#)

Christmas can be a difficult time for people with a learning disability, autism or mental health needs. We've taken advice from many sources to help make this season easier and more enjoyable for everyone.

### [How to have an autism-friendly Christmas](#)

Christmas can be a magical time, but if someone in your family is on the spectrum, there's extra pressure to get it right. These simple pointers may help.

## News

### [Learning disability service launches Positively Unique – an online shop with goods made by people with disabilities](#)

A Devon learning disability service has this month launched a brand-new online shop selling custom and personalised gifts made by people with disabilities.

### [Milestone Down Syndrome Bill backed by MPs](#)

Landmark proposals designed to improve the services offered to people with Down's Syndrome have been backed by Parliament. It would see people with Down's Syndrome legally recognised as a specific minority group and public bodies required to ensure they have systems in place to meet their needs. [Down Syndrome Bill](#)

### [Supreme court rules man with learning disability does not have capacity to consent to sex](#)

The Supreme Court has decided that a 37-year-old man with a learning disability and autism, known as 'JB', does not have capacity to consent to sex.

### [New proposals to allow families to access small funds for people who lack capacity](#)

A new streamlined process has been proposed by the government to allow families of people who lack mental capacity to make withdrawals from cash-based accounts up to £2,500 without the need to get permission from the Court of Protection.

### ["Life-changing" internship opportunities for people with learning disabilities and/or autism](#)

Two UK charity partners, DFN and Hft, are offering young people with learning disabilities and autism life-changing internship opportunities and the chance to learn vital skills. DFN Project SEARCH is a transition to work programme for students with learning disabilities and autism. The project's ambition is to get 10,000 young adults with learning disabilities and autism into full-time paid jobs over the next decade.

### [Mitochondria: An energy explanation for autism](#)

Mitochondria use oxygen to convert the nutrients from the food you eat into a form of energy the body can use. The brain consumes a lot of this energy — about 20 percent. Could changes in mitochondria, then, affect how the brain functions and contribute to autism?

### [First-of-its-kind commission defines 'profound autism,' issues recommendations](#)

The term 'profound autism' should be used to describe autistic people who require round-the-clock, lifelong care, a team of autism researchers, clinicians, autistic adults and parents of autistic people.

### ['Diagnosis is rebirth': women who found out they were autistic as adults](#)

Women from around the world describe the life-changing impact of finally receiving a diagnosis.