

## Systematic Review

### [Behavioural and psychological features of PTEN mutations: a systematic review of the literature and meta-analysis of the prevalence of autism spectrum disorder characteristics](#)

Existing research suggests approximately 25% of people with constitutional PTEN mutations may meet criteria for or have characteristics of ASD. Studies have also begun to establish a range of possible cognitive impairments in affected individuals, especially when ASD is also reported. However, further large-scale studies are needed to elucidate psychological/behavioural corollaries of this mutation, and how they may relate to physiological/physical characteristics.

## Studies

### ["It's like putting a penguin on the floor": what can the perspectives of youth with autism teach us about social inclusion?](#)

Xanthe Hunt and Jason Bantjes consider the perspectives of autistic young people affected by social exclusion, and present early findings from their new active ingredients review which looks at the role of social inclusion interventions in improving adolescent mental health.

### [RNLDs face significant barriers to caring for autistic women](#)

Although learning disability registered nurses (RNLDs) are well-placed to provide support for autistic women in inpatient settings, there are significant barriers to effective practise, finds a study published in Nursing Times.

### [New study to improve end of life care planning](#)

Improving end-of-life care planning for people with learning disabilities will be the focus of a new two-year study that aims to produce a toolkit of guidance, approaches and resources, as well as staff training materials.

## Statistics

### [Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in December 2021:

- In total 2,065 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England.
- 1,220 (59%) of these people are autistic.
- One in seven (14%) of these are autistic people under 18

## Projects

### [Supporting people with learning disabilities to rent their own place](#)

Learning Disability England has been working with Housing LIN, the Universities of York and Bristol, Riverside Housing and an advisory group of self advocates from My Life My Choice and York People First. The project focusses on housing experiences of people on the 'edge' of social care, who don't have a lot of paid support in their lives.

### [Equal Treatment: January Project update](#)

Equal Treatment is a new project aiming to challenge racism and health inequalities through strengthening self-advocacy and peer support.

Equal Treatment will help groups think about how to be more inclusive and good allies to tackle racism.

## Guidance

[Visiting arrangements in care homes](#) (updated)

Updated to reflect the fact that there is now no limit on visitor numbers; following a normal visit out, residents do not need to test or self-isolate; and, following an emergency hospital stay or other high-risk visit out, residents should self-isolate for 10 days, with testing arrangements to end isolation sooner.

[Checklist to help people with severe learning disabilities](#)

Cerebra, a national charity helping children with brain conditions, has published a 'Be-Well Checklist', designed to help parents, carers and professionals improve the wellbeing of people with severe learning disabilities and complex needs.

## Report

[National Autism Charity publishes evaluation of Autism-Friendly Schools Pilot Programme](#)

A report into Ireland's Autism-Friendly Schools programme finds that autism-friendly schools "benefit all students and all staff".

## Online Events

[Bild announces a new series of PBS group support sessions for family carers](#)

Bild has announced new dates for family members and carers of people with learning disabilities to access small group sessions on Positive Behaviour Support (PBS).

## News

[Second ground-breaking antiviral to be deployed to country's most vulnerable](#)

Thousands of those most at-risk to COVID-19 will soon be able to access the UK's second ground-breaking antiviral.

[Introducing Spectrum's Autism Drug Trial Tracker](#)

The tool provides interactive, curated information on more than 200 clinical trials for autism and related conditions.

[High Court finds National Disability Strategy unlawful](#)

The High Court has found the government's recently published National Disability Strategy unlawful due to the design of the survey that failed lawfully to consult disabled people and others.

[New campaign calls to end hospital living for people with LD](#)

ENABLE Scotland has launched a new campaign which aims to get people with learning disabilities out of inpatient units and into the community, where they can live closer to home.

[NHS England » NHS expands COVID vaccinations to the most vulnerable 5 to 11 year olds](#)

The NHS vaccination programme will begin to roll out to children aged between 5 and 11 who are most at risk of COVID-19 this week, as the health service's drive to protect the country from the virus continues. Eligible children include those with learning disabilities.