

## Studies

### [New research into autism and gender dysphoria](#)

The study published in [Autism](#) investigated the perspectives of clinicians working with autistic patients who experience gender dysphoria, and whether they work differently with this patient group.

### [Children with disabilities at high risk of violence](#)

The global study of more than 16 million young people reveals that young people with mental illness or learning disabilities are particularly vulnerable to violence, which can have a serious and long-lasting impact on their mental health and wellbeing.

### [Diagnostic Accuracy of the Social Attention and Communication Surveillance–Revised With Preschool Tool for Early Autism Detection in Very Young Children](#)

This diagnostic study assesses the accuracy of the Social Attention and Communication Surveillance–Revised and Social Attention and Communication Surveillance–Preschool in identifying children aged 11 to 42 months on the autism spectrum.

### [Multi-professional and multi-agency model PLUSS to facilitate early detection and support of pre-school children with neurodevelopmental difficulties – a model description - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

The pilot study shows that the screening procedure can detect children with clinically significant problems.

## Guidance

### [Hospital discharge and community support guidance](#)

This document sets out how health and care systems can ensure that people:

- are discharged safely from hospital to the most appropriate place
- continue to receive the care and support they need after they leave hospital

### [NICE guidance on diagnosing fetal alcohol spectrum disorder](#)

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published a new comprehensive quality standard designed to improve the diagnosis and assessment of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD).

## White Paper

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

This white paper sets out how some of this money pledged by the government will be spent to begin to transform the adult social care system in England, such as new investments in:

- housing and home adaptations
- technology and digitisation
- workforce training and wellbeing support
- support for unpaid carers, and improved information and advice
- innovation and improvement

## Briefing

### [Revisiting safeguarding practice](#)

This briefing is for social workers and other safeguarding practitioners working in adult social care who are involved in safeguarding.

## Consultations

### [Government to improve protections for people deprived of their liberty](#)

The Department of Health and Social Care and Ministry of Justice have launched a consultation to ensure freedoms and human rights of people lacking mental capacity are better protected. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 7 July 2022. [Easy read](#)

### [Human Rights Act consultation: Update](#)

Learning Disability England has been working with self advocates and the British Institute of Human Rights to ask the Ministry of Justice to make accessible versions of the consultation. The Ministry of Justice has published an easy read and an audio version of the consultation. The new deadline to take part in the consultation is 19th April 2022.

### [SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#)

The Government are seeking views on a green paper about the changes to make to the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision (AP) system in England. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 1 July 2022.

## Toolkit

### [Mental Capacity Toolkit for health and social care workers](#)

Bournemouth University (BU) has created a Mental Capacity Toolkit to support health and social care professionals working with individuals whose decision-making capacity is impaired, such as those with learning disabilities.

## Reports

### [Improving healthcare for people with learning disabilities](#)

The [report](#), published in the journal Anaesthesia, states that each stage of a patient's journey through the hospital needs to be anticipated and planned for in order to reduce health inequalities.

### [SEND system has become too adversarial, new report finds](#)

The report - [Agreeing to Disagree](#) - was commissioned by the Local Government Association, which represents councils across England, and aimed to research arrangements for avoiding disagreements and resolving disputes in the SEND system in England.

### [More action needed to ensure people with a learning disability, autistic people and people with mental ill health get the right care at the right time](#)

Not enough progress has been made to address the recommendations made by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in its 2020 'Out of sight – who cares?' restraint, segregation, and seclusion review.

## Article

### [Surviving through story: Experiences of people with learning disabilities in the covid19 pandemic 2020–2021](#)

We discuss how people with learning disabilities have been presented in the media and our views about the way we are not heard, or always shown as vulnerable victims. We have found many sad stories, but also positive ones about people being creative and supportive. We look forward to the future and share our ideas about how society could be different and more inclusive. Being part of this project has given us confidence to know we are not alone, and shown us how we can help with the recovery.

## News

### [Digital Lifeline Project is the beginning not the end](#)

During COVID, Learning Disability England helped with a project by the Good Things Foundation. The report says that this project has helped people feel less lonely and has improved their health and wellbeing. The Good Lives framework says education, health and social care commissioners and providers need to understand the 'digital divide' faced by people with learning disabilities.

### [Health-care barriers prevent many autistic people from seeking medical treatment](#)

In an online survey, autistic people reported that they often have trouble using the telephone to make medical appointments and experience sensory overload in waiting rooms, among other health care barriers.

### [More than 500 Changing Places toilets to be built in England](#)

The new facilities will be built in the top locations voted for by families, carers and users of Changing Places toilets. Research by the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers in 2021 found that country parks, open spaces, beaches, tourist attractions, motorway services and other transport networks were the most in demand locations for the toilets, as the journey to the destination is a key factor in planning a day out.

### [Learning disability training for nurses could be mandated](#)

The House of Lords has passed an amendment to the Health and Care Bill which could see learning disability and autism training become mandatory for healthcare staff.

### [Sexuality and Down's syndrome is the theme of new campaign \(\[learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk\]\(http://learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk\)\)](#)

The right of people with Down's syndrome to have an independent love life with access to sexual health information is the theme of a new campaign launched by Italian charity CoorDown for World Down Syndrome Day 2022. The awareness group has created a short video called [Just the Two of Us](#) which tells in a hyperbolic way how families, especially when it comes to love relationships, can become a cumbersome presence in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. The strapline of the video is "Love needs space".

### [New moderated online platform for autistic young people](#)

The [Ambitious Youth Network](#) will offer autistic young people aged 16 to 25 a platform to take part in peer support sessions, share experiences and find volunteering, work experience and employment opportunities. There will also be opportunities for them to work together and campaign for change.

### [Local councils must stick to fixed time limits for EHCPs \(\[learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk\]\(http://learningdisabilitytoday.co.uk\)\)](#)

Every local council must keep to fixed legal time limits when reviewing the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND), according to a new High Court judgement.

### [Autistic children wait up to five years for an NHS appointment](#)

Figures acquired under the Freedom of Information Act show that children are having to wait up to five years for an NHS autism appointment.

### [New autism clinicians reflect on skill gaps, gains after remote training](#)

The pandemic has forced many health-care students to train online, raising concerns about their readiness.

### [DNA tags in placenta point to possible autism-linked gene](#)

The gene, dubbed NHIP, is in a chromosomal region that shows unusually low levels of DNA methylation in placentas from women who gave birth to autistic children.