

Studies

[Childhood imaginary friends and social skills may be linked](#)

Autistic children with imaginary friends may have stronger social skills and be better able to understand others' minds than their peers without imaginary friends, according to a new study.

[AI study in healthcare of people with learning disabilities](#)

A new study is looking into how artificial intelligence (AI) can create safe, ethical and cost-effective improvement to the quality of life for thousands of people with learning disabilities.

Guidance

[Social work with adults experiencing complex needs](#)

This guideline covers the planning, delivery and review of social work interventions for adults who have complex needs. It promotes ways for social work professionals, other care staff and people with complex needs to work together to make decisions about care and support.

Resource

[Growth charts map brain changes across lifespan](#)

The new resource is the first to chart human brain development from before birth to 100 years of age.

Webinar

[Free webinar: Shifting the balance of power: putting people back in control](#)

Thursday 16th June, 2-3pm. This talk will debate why power should be given to people with a learning disability and/or autism so they can gain more direct control over their own lives. It will also discuss how people with lived experience of learning disability who are at the heart of government policy can help drive future change.

Legislation

[New mental health laws to be consulted on by MPs](#)

A new draft Bill to reform the Mental Health Act (MHA) will be consulted on by MPs, the government announced in the Queen's speech.

Blogs

[Good Lives: An Update](#)

The Good Lives framework brings together people's thoughts and ideas about what it will take for everyone with learning disabilities to be able to live their good life.

[Learning Disability Pride 2022](#)

Learning Disability Pride is a week of celebrations across Britain. We want people with learning disabilities, their friends, families and supporters to have marches, walks, parties and events all across the country from 13 to 19 June 2022.

News

[Learning Disability Week 2022](#)

This year, Mencap want to show how people with a learning disability are reconnecting with friends and their communities. They also want to talk about the issues many people still face after the end of COVID restrictions, like still having to isolate or dealing with poor mental health and anxiety.

[Psychiatric conditions hospitalize almost one in four autistic women by age 25](#)

The findings, based on Swedish national registry data, suggest a critical need to expand mental health services for autistic people.

[Listening Ear – Be heard](#)

The wellbeing of carers is just as important as the people they care for. The Listening Ear service is open to parents, carers, siblings or close relatives of children, young people and adults with severe learning disabilities who display behaviour that challenges.

[People with learning disability facing mental health crisis](#)

Nearly a third of people with a learning disability in the UK are struggling with mental health issues in the wake of the pandemic, according to new research from Mencap.

[Death toll of people in Scottish inpatient units revealed](#)

Fourteen people with a learning disability and/or autism have died in mental health facilities in Scotland in the space of six years, new figures reveal. Public Health Scotland (PHS) published the data taken from Scottish inpatient facilities between April 2015 and December 2021.

[Millions in need of assistive technology denied access](#)

More than 2.5 billion people need one or more assistive products, yet nearly one billion of them are denied access, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, a new report has found.

[Funding for learning disability health checks in Scotland](#)

Health boards in Scotland are to share £2 million extra funding to deliver annual health checks for all people with learning disabilities.

[Researchers publish new dataset on minimally verbal autistic people](#)

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology published the first repository of vocalizations from minimally verbal autistic people. Those with few or no spoken words still produce a range of phonemes, or units of sound, that may serve as developmental markers or intervention targets.

[Autistic LGBTQ+ people report frequent mental health problems](#)

The co-occurring conditions may stem from the heightened stress people in minority communities experience.