

Studies

[Air pollution increases hospital admission risk for autistic children, study suggests](#)

Autistic children face an increased risk of hospitalisation if exposed to air pollution for relatively brief periods, with boys more at risk than girls, new research suggests. Admissions for issues such as hyperactivity, aggression or self-injury may be prevented by minimising their exposure, and cutting air pollution levels could lower the risks, the researchers behind the study concluded. [The findings were published in the journal BMJ Open.](#)

[New mapping method reveals subtleties of brain development](#)

The machine-learning approach could help identify how brain structure differs between autistic and non-autistic infants, the researchers say.

[Auditory cortex may develop early in autism](#)

A well-studied brain response to sound appears earlier than usual in young children with autism.

[Autism diagnosis in adulthood tied to increased burden of psychiatric conditions](#)

Mood, anxiety, personality and eating disorders more commonly affect autistic people diagnosed in adulthood than those diagnosed in childhood.

[Experimental drug shows promise for autism-linked syndromes](#)

The drug quells seizures in children with Dravet syndrome or Lennox-Gastaut syndrome.

[When people with a learning disability outlive their parents](#)

When a person with profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD) loses their parents, support aimed at facilitating a timely transfer of responsibilities, and at clarifying the content of these responsibilities, could better prepare both siblings and professionals to mitigate the impact of absent parents. The research published in [Research in Development Disabilities](#) aimed to explore how parental roles are taken over by others and how this affects the care and support as well as quality of life of the person.

[Online training and transition to adult health services](#)

Online training resources are an effective way to ensure that registered nurses, and potentially other healthcare professionals, have the necessary knowledge to contribute effectively to transitions for young adults with learning disabilities into adult health services. The study, published in [Nurse Education in Practice](#), was part of a national study on the experience of transition from child to adult health services for young adults. The main study provided [contemporary evidence](#) to raise the awareness of registered nurses of the needs of young adults with learning disabilities to help ensure a safe, effective and person-centred transition.

[Faith-based care services have impact on quality of life](#)

Care home residents with a learning disability who live in faith-based care services recorded higher quality of scores, according to new research. The study, published in [Journal of Long-Term Care](#), looked at the extent to which spiritual beliefs and practices were linked to individuals' perceptions of quality of life in two types of care services: one a faith-based provider, the other a non-faith-based service. It found that spiritual and/or religious beliefs as well as practices and support from the spiritual community can contribute to the quality-of-life perception of individuals with a learning disability.

Reports

[Disabled households at high risk of extreme fuel poverty](#)

Households where someone lives with a disability are at highest risk of experiencing fuel poverty, according to a new report from the UCL Institute of Health Equity. Led by Sir Michael Marmot, [the report](#) found that 55% of UK households are forecast to fall into fuel poverty by January 2023 without additional interventions. This will lead to greater damage to health and higher rates of death associated with living in a cold home.

[Guidance on learning disability and gender-based violence](#)

The Institute for Research and Innovation in Social Services (Iriss) has produced a new report that offers guidance for those working with women with learning disabilities who have experienced gender-based violence (GBV). The [report examines](#) why women with learning disabilities are disproportionately likely to experience GBV and makes recommendations on appropriate support. It also discusses barriers to accessing services such as normalisation of abuse, lack of awareness and unrealistic expectations of professionals as well as lack of available resources.

Statistics

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

The latest monthly Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data shows that in August 2022:

- In total 1,970 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,205 (61%) of these people are autistic
- around 180 of these are autistic people under 18.

Toolkit

[New toolkit on learning disabilities and homelessness](#)

Homeless Link, a charity that supports homeless people, has developed a new toolkit to enable homelessness services to better recognise and support people with learning disabilities. The toolkit aims to enable people with learning disabilities to move towards stable housing and provide them with opportunities to thrive.

Blog

[Growing older for people with learning disabilities](#)

A blog about growing older and planning for the future.



22 September 2022

News

[Hundreds of new homes for people with a learning disability](#)

Golden Lane Housing (GLH), a charity that works with people with a learning disability to provide supported housing, created 232 new homes between 2021 and 2022. According to their recently published Social Impact Report, they spent £7.3 million on new homes for people with a learning disability last year and are projected to spend a further £52 million over the next five years, with the aim of housing at least 750 people in new homes that are owned or leased by April 2025. GLH says the publication illustrates the impact that the organisation has on the lives of autistic people and those with a learning disability throughout the country and the vital work being done to address the need for independent living arrangements for people with a learning disability or autism.

[Severe shortage of personal assistants for disabled people](#)

The severe shortage of personal assistants (PAs) for disabled people has been highlighted by Baroness Jane Campbell, a disabled member of the House of Lords, who said independence is a civil right. In a [recent podcast for the BBC](#), she said that she has been struggling to recruit PAs to help with her care and day-to-day living, and fears the shortage will force people currently living independently back into care settings.

[Easy News: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has died](#)

Easy read guide to help people understand and cope with the Queen's death.