

Studies

[What does receiving autism diagnosis in adulthood look like? Stakeholders' experiences and inputs](#)

The age of diagnosis is crucial for optimal health outcomes; however, some individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may not be diagnosed until adulthood. Limited information is available about the lived experience of receiving a diagnosis during adulthood. Thus, we aimed to investigate stakeholders' experiences about the ASD diagnosis during adulthood.

[Resilience in the face of adversity: How people with intellectual disabilities deal with challenging times](#)

In the current study, applying a guided photovoice procedure, people with intellectual disabilities were asked what helped them to deal with adverse events. Additionally, informants from their social network were asked to reflect on this question.

[Examining a model of anxiety in autistic adults](#)

Anxiety disorders commonly occur in autism. Existing studies implicate intolerance of uncertainty, alexithymia, sensory processing differences and emotion regulation difficulties as influencing factors of anxiety in autism. To date, a few studies have considered the combination of these factors within the same sample.

[Understanding the menopausal experiences of women with intellectual disabilities: A scoping review](#)

Globally, the available literature on women with intellectual disabilities and menopause focuses on providing medical insights into onset and symptoms and little attention has been paid to documenting how menopause affects women themselves. This represents a significant gap in understanding how women understand this change in life and has been a key justification for the need for this research.

[Assessing Autism in Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing Youths: Interdisciplinary Teams, COVID Considerations, and Future Directions](#)

Autism spectrum disorders are more prevalent in children who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH) than in the general population. This potential for diagnostic overlap underscores the importance of understanding the best approaches for assessing autism spectrum disorder in D/HH youths. Despite the recognition of clinical significance, youths who are D/HH are often identified as autistic later than individuals with normal hearing, which results in delayed access to appropriate early intervention services.

Toolkits

[New toolkit: making financial decisions for young people who lack capacity](#)

The Ministry of Justice has developed a new toolkit which aims to help parents and carers make financial decisions for young people who lack capacity.

The [toolkit](#) explains what lacking mental capacity means (and the difference between lacking mental capacity and fluctuating capacity), as well as the five principles of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA).



[Dynamic support register and Care \(Education\) and Treatment Review toolkit](#)

This toolkit provides useful resources to support policy implementation and good practice. We are currently working with teams to develop more resources to support everyone involved in the work of dynamic support registers and Care (Education) and Treatment Reviews.

Reviews

[Safe care at home review](#)

Joint review led by the Home Office and DHSC into the protections and support for adults abused, or at risk of abuse, in their own home by people providing their care.

Statistics

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

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in May 2023:

- In total 2,045 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,320 (65%) of these people are autistic
- There are 230 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 96% are autistic.

Blogs

[Learning disability awareness week: An introduction to new NCD Anne Worrall-Davies](#)

New interim National Clinical Director for Learning Disability and Autism Anne Worrall-Davies describes her priorities in the role and her background.

News

[New estimate suggests most autistic adults in England lack a formal diagnosis](#)

Anywhere from 435,700 to nearly 1.2 million people in England may be autistic but undiagnosed, according to a [study](#) of primary-care records — an estimate that includes more than 9 in 10 autistic people aged 50 and older.

[Capturing autism's sleep problems with devices nearable and wearable](#)

Autism scientists have long been on a quest to crack the condition's sleep conundrum. Problems with falling and staying asleep are not typically considered a core trait of autism, but they are exceedingly common among autistic people and have compound effects: They can exacerbate a range of autism traits and are linked to greater difficulties with daily functioning.

[Free sight tests for special schools](#)

Free NHS sight tests will be made available within all special school settings, the government and NHS England confirmed today.

[Books with neurodivergent characters mark new chapter for publishers](#)

Children's books that feature neurodiverse main characters are the latest publishing trend, experts have said.



[Autism assessment waiting times](#)

As of March 2023, 157,579 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, new [NHS data](#) has revealed. This is a 35% increase in the number of people waiting in just one year. That means you could easily fill two Old Trafford Stadiums with the people who are currently waiting for a diagnosis, and who are potentially struggling without the right support at school, work or home.

[Co-Producing a Lifelong Action Plan](#)

Today (19th June) we set out a vision for how we can work together to transform care at a Parliamentary event to mark the start of Learning Disability Week.

[Too much support for parents with a learning disability could be harmful for children](#)

Too much support for parents with a learning disability could be harmful and confusing for the children, according to a new report that explored 'substituted parenting'.

[Cost of living crisis impacting disabled people's activity levels](#)

Four in ten disabled people say the cost of living crisis is impacting their ability to stay active, according to new research by Activity Alliance.

[Petition calls for mandatory learning disability and autism training in schools](#)

Paula McGowan OBE, founder of the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism, has started a petition calling for a new law that would require all staff in educational settings to be trained in learning disabilities and autism.

[SEND: Plea for Reception place funding for nurseries](#)

There is an 'urgent need' to fund nursery schools to offer specialist Reception places because of a shortage of special-school or appropriate primary school places for young children with SEND, warn sector leaders.

[Autistica releases plan to ensure every autistic adult is offered a yearly, tailored health check by 2030](#)

Autistic people currently face extremely poor health outcomes, but with the right support and adjustments they can live healthy and long lives. We've worked with NHS England to create this plan to offer effective health checks to every autistic person.

[Learning Disability Week 19 - 25 June 2023](#)

This year we want to show the world the incredible things that people with a learning disability achieve, smashing misconceptions about what people can do and shining a light on the stigma many still face every day.

[Learning Disability Nursing CPD Award celebrates addition of higher learning sessions](#)

We are pleased to share that colleagues can now access the full suite of resources within our [Learning Disability Nursing CPD Award](#). Alongside a foundation module that provides core learning, the training now includes modules relating to specialist inpatient settings, community, forensic and intensive support settings, as well as primary and acute care liaison.