

Studies

[Mapping and identifying service models for community-based services for children with intellectual disabilities and behaviours that challenge in England](#)

One in five children with an intellectual disability in the UK display behaviours that challenge. Despite associated impacts on the children themselves, their families, and services, little research has been published about how best to design, organise, and deliver health and care services to these children. The purpose of this study was to describe how services are structured and organised ("service models") in England for community-based health and care services for children with intellectual disability who display behaviours that challenge.

[The association between cardiovascular health and cognition in adults with Down syndrome](#)

Evidence in the general population suggests that predictors of cardiovascular health such as moderate to vigorous physical activity (MVPA), cardiorespiratory fitness, and systolic blood pressure are associated with cognitive function. Studies supporting these associations in adults with Down syndrome (DS) are limited. The purpose of this study was to examine the associations between systolic blood pressure, cardiorespiratory fitness, and MVPA on cognition in adults with DS.

[A systematic review on the mental health of parents of individuals with learning disabilities](#)

The transforming care programme aims to increase care provision in the community for individuals with learning disabilities (LDs) in the United Kingdom resulting in more parents taking on carer responsibilities. Previous research suggests that having a child with LD may be associated with impaired mental health in parents. However, previous reviews have often conflated poor mental health with wellbeing or quality of life and have grouped people with LD together despite the LD severity and/or the underlying cause of LD, both of which may have different types of impact on parents. This review aims to critically appraise and synthesise the literature on the mental health of parents with children with LD of unknown cause to answer the question, 'Do parents of individuals with LD of unknown cause experience diagnosable mental health difficulties?'

[The first 1001 days: A scoping review of parenting interventions strengthening good enough parenting in parents with intellectual disabilities](#)

There are concerns about parents' parenting skills with intellectual disabilities. However, it is reported that parents with intellectual disabilities show good enough parenting if they are supported effectively and in line with their needs. This scoping review identifies and critically evaluates preventive interventions for parents with intellectual disabilities and a cumulation of multiple and complex problems that aim to prepare them for good enough parenting.

[Evaluating a new supported employment internship programme for autistic young adults without intellectual disability](#)

Supported employment initiatives have been shown to increase employment rates for autistic people who want to enter the workforce. Despite the success of supported employment initiatives in increasing employment rates, little is known about the first-hand experiences and views of those involved. In the current study, we examined the experiences and views of autistic young adults without intellectual disability ('interns'), employers and parents regarding a previously unevaluated paid internship scheme that offers tailored support for interns and employers before, during and after the internship, the Employ Autism network.



[‘I’m not just being difficult . . . I’m finding it difficult’: A qualitative approach to understanding experiences of autistic parents when interacting with statutory services regarding their autistic child](#)

Becoming a parent is an important part of adult life for many people, including autistic people. Many parents of autistic children can find getting the right support for their children difficult. Knowledge is currently poor about how this is experienced by parents who are also autistic themselves. The main researcher is also an autistic parent to an autistic child and other experts by experience were consulted in the development of the study.

Reports

[The LeDeR Report – Action all supporters can take](#)

The LeDeR programme, funded by NHS England, started in 2017. It aims to improve healthcare for people with a learning disability and autistic people. LeDeR have released a new report and video. It is called ‘Learning from Lives and Deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people’.

Guidance

[Reducing harm from ligatures in mental health wards and wards for people with a learning disability](#)

This guidance was developed by the Mental Health and Learning Disability Nurse Directors Forum in collaboration with experts by experience and the Care Quality Commission.

[National guidance to support integrated care boards to commission acute mental health inpatient services for adults with a learning disability and autistic adults](#)

The Service model for commissioners of health and social care services (2015) provided comprehensive guidance for the commissioning of services for people with a learning disability and autistic people who display behaviour that challenges. This terminology is no longer used, and the health and social care landscape has changed since 2015 – therefore an update is required.

Resources

[Supporting social work with carers – resources and tools](#)

Social work practitioners play a central role in ensuring that carers receive information, advice and help. New Research in Practice resources and tools aim to support social work with carers.

E-learning

[Makaton training available for nurses](#)

A new elearning resource for nurses to develop their understanding of Makaton and learn basic Makaton signs, has been added to the NHS Learning Hub.



Blogs

[Improving the health of people living in care homes – how the Enhanced health in care homes framework is making a difference](#)

Following publication of the third edition of the Enhanced health in care homes framework Dr Adrian Hayter reflects on how it has changed the way that primary care and social care work together, and how it can improve the way we care for people living in care homes.

["It is essential when working with children with additional needs that they are given a voice"](#)

Leanne Evans, a nursing team leader at a special school tells us how awareness of and support for disabilities has changed for the better.

[Does the title 'Registered nurse in learning disabilities' still reflect what we do?](#)

This blog is intended to bravely raise a question about the title 'Registered nurse in learning disability'. It is intended to share opinion and spark discussion and debate.

News

[2022 LeDeR report into the avoidable deaths of people with learning disabilities](#)

The 2022 LeDeR report, which seeks to investigate and learn from the avoidable deaths of people with a learning disability in England, was published today. The report, which is produced for NHS England, was led by researchers from the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) at King's College London, the University of Central Lancashire, and Kingston University London. A copy of the report can be found [here](#).

[Bild responds to 2022 LeDeR report](#)

This annual report looks at deaths of people with learning disabilities in England and aims to improve healthcare for people with a learning disability and autistic people. Bild welcomes the release of this important report and in particular, the inclusion of autistic adults without a learning disability. Though data is currently limited, we hope that as the programme continues this will provide new important insights into causes of death and health inequalities for autistic people.

[CBF response to the 2022 LeDeR report](#)

The 2022 Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) report, which looks at the deaths of people with a learning disability and autistic people and aims to improve health and care, has been published. We send our condolences to everyone who has lost a loved one.

[The Autism Alliance responds to LeDeR annual report](#)

The latest annual Learning from Lives and Deaths report – known as LeDeR – focusing on people with a learning disability and autistic people, has been published by King's College London. The LeDeR programme is vitally important. Autistic people and people with a learning disability have a substantially lower life expectancy than the general population, and it is critical to learn from reported deaths so that improvements can be made across the healthcare system, and more people can live happier, healthier, longer lives.

[People with a learning disability four times as likely to develop sepsis](#)

People with a learning disability are almost four times as likely to develop non-Covid-19 related sepsis and have an increased 30-day mortality risk, according to a new study.



[The Autism Alliance launches Breaking Point](#)

Over 75% of autistic adults reach crisis point because they can't access specialist social care. The law is being broken every day in England - and autistic people are paying a heavy price. The adult social care system in England is in crisis. The chronic underfunding of the sector, the struggle to find and keep the right staff when wages are so low, and problems with the quality of care, are all well known. Social care is seen by many as the poor relation of the health service, and its continuing neglect is damaging individual lives and the wider economy.

[Autistic adults detained while they wait years for care](#)

Adults are supposed to have specialist help within weeks but many end up in hospital instead. It can be deeply damaging, experts say.

["Significant failings" in medical and nursing care contributed to death of autistic man](#)

A Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) has found that an autistic man who died at the age of 53 "was not properly assessed" and "his needs were not met" in the months leading up to his death.

[MP calls for mandatory learning disability and autism training for education staff](#)

Dame Caroline Dinenage, MP for Gosport and former Care Minister, is calling on the government to introduce mandatory autism and learning disability training for education staff. Dame Dineage took to parliament to debate the issue yesterday, and highlighted the urgency of training for education staff on how to best meet the needs of autistic children, children with learning disabilities and special educational needs (SEN).

[Autistic adults have poorer access to and outcomes from mental healthcare](#)

Autistic adults using NHS mental healthcare services are more likely to experience worse therapy outcomes compared to non-autistic people, according to new research. The research, published in The Lancet Psychiatry, has also revealed that autistic adults are largely under-represented in mental healthcare services, despite being more likely to experience anxiety or depression than the general population.

[Our response to the Autumn Statement](#)

Tim Nicholls, Head of Influencing and Research at the National Autistic Society, said: "What the Chancellor announced in the Autumn Statement will do nothing to help address key issues autistic people face: record waits for diagnosis, a chronic lack of local social care services and mental health support, and parents having to fight too long for too little support for autistic students.

[Advancing Healthcare Equity: Enhancing Hospital Experiences for Individuals with Disabilities](#)

Improving the hospital experience for individuals with disabilities stands as a crucial aspect of modern healthcare that embodies ethical, social, and practical considerations. For International Day of Persons with Disabilities, annually observed on December 3rd, Picker explores the importance of improving hospital experiences for individuals with disabilities, especially those who are neuro-challenged.

