

## Studies

### [An Experience Sensitive Approach to Care With and for Autistic Children and Young People in Clinical Services](#)

Many support schemes in current autism clinical services for children and young people are based on notions of neuro-normativity with a behavioral emphasis. Such neuro-disorder approaches gradually undermine a person, restrain authentic self-expression, and fail to address the impact of a hostile world on autistic well-being. Furthermore, such approaches obscure attention from a fundamental challenge to conceptualize an alternative humanistic informed framework of care for staff working with diagnosed or undiagnosed autistic children and young people.

### ["I do my best to do right by her": Autistic motherhood and the experience of raising a non-autistic adolescent daughter](#)

Little is known about the parenting experiences of autistic mothers, yet there is reason to believe that autistic mothers of non-autistic daughters have a unique set of experiences, especially during their daughters' adolescence.

### [Exploring the association between social camouflaging and self- versus caregiver-report discrepancies in anxiety and depressive symptoms in autistic and non-autistic socially anxious adolescents](#)

Social camouflaging in autism involves hiding social differences and autistic traits to fit in with neurotypical settings and is associated with poorer mental health in both autistic adolescents and adults. This study explored the association between self-reported social camouflaging behaviours and adolescents' self-report of generalised anxiety disorder and depressive symptoms compared with caregiver reports.

## Reports

### [Preventing people with a learning disability from dying too young](#)

Around 1.3 million people in England have a learning disability and may need more support to stay in good health. But are they able to get access to the services they are entitled to in order to prevent illness? Our new report looks at a set of five key preventive health care services and functions to understand whether they are working as they should for people with a learning disability.

## Campaigns

### [Our Breaking Point response to the Government](#)

Today we sent a letter to Maria Caulfield MP, the Minister for Mental Health, following her response to our initial Breaking Point letter to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care (which you can view in [our previous blog post here](#)).

## Podcasts

### [Podcast: supporting adults with learning disabilities and autism post-pandemic](#)

Social workers from Wiltshire Council discuss how things have changed for the adults they support since the Covid-19 pandemic.



### [Autism: Girls and boys, why the big difference?](#)

5 Live takes an in depth look at autism, specifically how it presents in girls and women. Three quarters of girls with autism may not have been diagnosed with the condition. The N-8 Group, which is a collection of universities in the North of England, also found that ten times as many boys as girls are referred. As part of a day of coverage presenter Clare McDonnell visited Limsfield Grange school in Surrey, the only state school in the UK for autistic girls to meet with students and staff and some goats!

## Blogs

### [Questioning the diagnosis of autism denies the difficulties people like me live with](#)

Being autistic doesn't explain everything about me – but it helps make sense of my experiences.

### ['Maybe everybody feels socially awkward': the standups turning being autistic into a comedy superpower](#)

From Fern Brady to Hannah Gadsby, a host of comedians have discovered that they are autistic. What is it about standup that lends itself so well to neurodivergent people?

### [Self-Advocacy and Community – A blog by Gary Bourlet](#)

One thing I love about being a self-advocate is that I get to meet lots of other self-advocates from all around the country. In February I met lots of new people at the Learning Disability England conferences.

### [Psychiatry in Special Education Schools](#)

Dr Ann Collins, Consultant in the Child and Adolescent Learning Disability Service (CALDS) in Aneurin Bevan University Health Board, writes about her experience of working as a psychiatrist in Special Education Schools.

## News

### [DNACPR conversations often happen too late or not at all, says Ombudsman](#)

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has called for urgent improvements to the process and communication surrounding do not attempt cardiopulmonary resuscitation (DNACPR) decisions, sometimes referred to as 'do not resuscitate' orders.

### [Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: February 2024](#)

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in February 2024:

- In total 2,045 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,360 (67%) of these people are autistic
- There are 210 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 93% are autistic

### [Autism assessment waiting times](#)

As of December 2023, 172,022 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, new latest NHS data has revealed. This is a 47% increase in the number of people waiting in just one year.



### [NHS spending £534 million a year to 'lock away' people with learning disabilities](#)

The NHS is spending more than half a billion pounds per year to detain people with learning disabilities and autistic people in mental health hospitals, according to new research. The research from ITV News and Mencap shows that in 2022/23, the NHS spent £534 million on inpatient mental health care for people with learning disabilities and/or autism even though 41% of people in these hospitals could have their needs met in the community. It is likely the real cost is even higher as this figure is for basic costs alone and not additional needs.

### [Government Response to the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill's report](#)

Over a year after it was due, the government has finally published its response to the report by the Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill. The delay in responding to the Joint Committee's report and its exclusion from the King's Speech last November means that it is highly unlikely this Bill will enter Parliament before the next general election. The Government appears to have no sense of urgency, or to see the need to prioritise this.

### [UK government has made 'no progress' towards improving lives of disabled people, charity says](#)

The UK government failed to provide any 'new evidence' that it is improving the lives of disabled people at a United Nations hearing this week, according to Disability Rights UK. Representatives from the UK government faced the UN's disability committee in Geneva on Monday (18th March), after they refused to attend the last evidence session in August 2023.

### [Access All Areas co-produce Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training videos](#)

Access All Areas, a production group involving autistic people and people with learning disabilities, has been working with the NHS, Skills for Care, and their partners to develop co-produced training videos for The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism.

### [Pupils with SEND more likely to be suspended from school](#)

Children with special education needs or disabilities (SEND) are three times as likely to be suspended multiple times from school, according to a report from the Education Policy Institute (EPI).

### [World Down Syndrome Day: charities call to end stereotypes](#)

This World Down Syndrome Day (21st March), campaign groups from around the world are calling on the general public to 'end the stereotypes' about people with Down's syndrome. This year's theme challenges prevailing narratives about people with Down's syndrome and learning disabilities, and spreads awareness about what people with Down's syndrome can do, as opposed to what they cannot do.

### [Updated Mental Capacity Act elearning now available](#)

The Mental Capacity Act elearning programme has been updated for all health and care staff who work with people lacking mental capacity. The resource has been revised and updated in line with recent case law and user feedback; and includes essential revisions to materials about the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

### [Newly updated Dysphagia elearning now available](#)

The Dysphagia elearning programme has recently been updated to help healthcare staff better manage the condition with people in care homes, hospitals and community settings.



challenging behaviour  
**Learning Disabilities and Autism**  
Asperger Syndrome  
quality of life

research  
mental capacity  
intellectual disabilities  
health information  
carers



27 March 2024

[Supporting neurodiversity in our organisations](#)

New Research in Practice resources explore how organisations can support neurodivergence in the workplace. The resources are open access for Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

[Neurodiversity in the social work profession](#)

We need to develop better practices for neurodiversity within social work. Whilst some advances have been made with practice involving people who access social work services, we need to get better at supporting our neurodivergent colleagues.

[Dad says technology has given autistic son a voice](#)

A father has called for more to be done to give autistic, non-speaking people like his son a voice through the use of technology. Dan Harris, who is from Peterborough, gave a speech on autism acceptance at an Unesco event on inclusive schooling in Paris this week. He urged for technology to be made more accessible to people who are non-speaking.

[Autistic friendly clothing, F&F collection at Tesco](#)

Mattel announces the renewal of the National Autistic Society partnership for a 2nd year to develop a range of clothing using the Thomas & Friends brand to create an autism friendly collection that will be available exclusively at F&F Clothing in selected Tesco stores from 4th March until 29th April including World Autism Acceptance Week 2 - 8 April 2024.

[Greg Halford: How everything changed for a Premier League player](#)

Colchester United, Nottingham Forest, Wolves, Cardiff, England Under-20s. Right-back, central midfielder, winger, striker. Greg Halford has appeared for 20 teams in his career and played in nearly every position on the pitch.

