

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

GOV.UK Modernising the Mental Health Act – final report from the independent review

The Independent Review of the Mental Health Act 1983 has set out recommendations for government on how the Act and associated practice needs to change.

The final report sets out recommendations covering 4 principles that the review believes should underpin the reformed Act.

This page <http://bit.ly/2LNySSs> includes Easy Read and summary versions of the report.

Community Care - CQC to probe restraint and seclusion of people with mental health problems and a learning disability

The government has asked the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to review the use of restrictive interventions on those with mental health problems and learning disabilities and/or autism in hospitals and care homes.

It will review and make recommendations on the use of physical restraint, prolonged seclusion and segregation in settings that provide inpatient or residential care for people with mental health problems and a learning disability and/or autism.

The announcement follows longstanding concerns about the care and treatment of this group, including excessive use of restraint, institutional abuse, poor care and people being placed in inappropriate settings, often far from home. Read more here <http://bit.ly/2F58C4A>

Children and Young People

National Autistic Society – national autism strategy to be extended to children (5 December 2018)

The Government has announced plans to introduce an updated national autism strategy, which will cover people of all ages in England for the first time. The

Children and Young People

National Autistic Society are really pleased that after 10 years of calling for the strategy to cover both children and adults, the Government is making this commitment to improve the lives of future generations. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2COpStz>

GOV.UK New funding to support children with special educational needs

Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are set to benefit from an extra £350 million funding to provide specialist support and tailored facilities, helping those with complex needs to succeed.

The Education Secretary Damian Hinds has announced (Sunday 16 December) that councils will receive an additional £250 million over the next two years on top of the £6 billion already provided for the high needs budget this year, to provide much needed support for children and young people with complex SEND. <http://bit.ly/2BWJ4Ua>

Families Launch High Court Challenge Against Governments Special Education Needs Funding Policy

Families have officially launched a High Court legal challenge against the government's special education needs funding policy which is leaving "thousands of children across the country in limbo".

Irwin Mitchell's specialist Public Law and Human Rights team is acting for a number of families who believe that their children, who have an array of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), are not receiving the essential support they require.

The legal experts have now asked the High Court to give the green light for a Judicial Review to be held into the legality of how the government provides funding to local authorities. Read more here <http://bit.ly/2ToPEtx>

Resources and other bulletins

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - United Response launches accessible recipe videos for people with learning disabilities

As part of a pioneering new project from the disability charity United Response, people with learning disabilities are making YouTube videos to help tackle obesity.

Resources and other bulletins

CookABILITY aims to encourage people with a learning disability, or autism to cook for themselves and eat healthy food.

Read more here and see the videos <http://bit.ly/2Aw6PSW>

LDT - Supported employment: why taking the leap pays off

Currently across England, only 6% of people with a learning disability are in paid employment. This devastatingly low figure is due not to a lack of desire or effort from those individuals, but to employers not being open to hiring them.

Supported employment is a process which involves intense support at the beginning of employment, followed by gradually phasing this out as both employer and employee grow in confidence.

Although it is against the law for employers to discriminate on this basis, many employers will admit to having reservations about employing someone with a learning disability. This is due to a variety of reasons including, first and foremost, that people have low expectations about the capabilities of those with learning disabilities; employers may have a preconception that they will not be able to do the job that is required of them.

Read more <http://bit.ly/2s9jM0y>

Blogs

Learning Disability Today - What does the Independent Review of the Mental Health Act mean for autistic people?

<http://bit.ly/2s80gS1>