

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

Beyond the high fence - From the unheard voices of people with a learning disability, autism or both

This report is for NHS England, specialist commissioners, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), local authorities and anyone working in the criminal justice system. It was co-produced with people with a learning disability and autistic people with the help of Pathways Associates and NHS England.

We called it Beyond the high fence because it is about seeing what is possible for people who have been in prison, hospital or both.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/beyond-the-high-fence.pdf>

Universal Personalised Care - Making personalised care happen

Personalised Care will benefit up to 2.5 million people by 2024, giving them the same choice and control over their mental and physical health that they have come to expect in every other aspect of their life. A one-size-fits-all health and care system simply cannot meet the increasing complexity of people's needs and expectations. Personalised care is based on 'what matters' to people and their individual strengths and needs. The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) says personalised care will become business as usual across the health and care system and [Universal Personalised Care](#) confirms how we will do it. Easy read information <http://bit.ly/2ISUW0a>

Care Quality Commission - Relationships and sexuality in adult social care services Guidance for CQC inspection staff and registered adult social care providers

This guidance is for CQC inspection staff and registered providers. It is about people's relationships and sexuality in social care services for adults receiving personal care and support. It focuses on caring for people who need support to express their sexuality and to have their needs met.

<https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20190221-Relationships-and-sexuality-in-social-care-PUBLICATION.pdf>

Children and Young People

Bringing Us Together - Education Survival Guide

Bringing Us Together is a parent-led company, helping parents to feel "I can do this". The Survival Guide is a way of bringing together as much good information together as possible so parents can find it with ease.

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

The Education Survival guide covers:

- What is Send?
- School Duties *with or without an EHC Plan"
- EHC Plans
- EHC Assessments
- EHC Plans – what goes where
- Therapies
- Involving Parents
- Reviews
- What if my child's needs are not being met
- Appeals and Mediation
- Exclusions
- Home Education
- Home to School Transport
- Dealing with Meetings
- The Law
- Other Useful Links
- How to look after you too

Bringing Us Together - A Family Survival Guide

This guide has been written by families for families of children and adults with a learning disability, autism or both.

<http://bit.ly/2TgQEV5>

For information about both guides and Stronger Together click here

<https://bringingusstogether.org.uk/new-education-survival-guide-and-more/>

Independent - Children 'falling off the grid' in the tens of thousands amid surge in pupils leaving mainstream education

Children's commissioner warns that 60,000 children, many with special educational needs, are permanently out of school as more families feel they have no choice but to home educate. <https://ind.pn/2SLI8tk>

Children and Young People

Reducing Restrictive Intervention of Children and Young People

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) and Positive and Active Behaviour Support Scotland (PABSS) both support families of children who have experienced restrictive intervention. They took forward this piece of work, driven and supported by family-carers, to gather data to better understand the nature and scale of this practice. Their small-scale piece of work (with 204 survey respondents and 566 case studies) found that many families believe restrictive practices are the main method for managing behaviour in some schools. That approach is not consistent with NICE recommendations and suggests a need for much greater investigation of this issue.

The report published by the Challenging Behaviour Foundation suggests restrictive intervention of children with learning disabilities may be widespread across the UK. <http://bit.ly/2ThbGCV>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - Autistic young adults need appropriate work experience opportunities

Evelyn Ashford was so upset by the lack of meaningful training for those with autism that she opened a model railway shop for her autistic son. She fought to ensure that work experience there formed part of his Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP). Here, she tells Darren Devine how she hopes her fight for her son can set a precedent that ensures those struggling with autism to get work experience that engenders independence. <http://bit.ly/2Tk8Jlh>

Resources and other bulletins

BBC News Autism-anorexia link 'must be acted on'

The NHS must change the way it assesses eating disorders to take account of a link with autism, a research charity has said.

Autistica said findings suggested one in five women presenting to UK clinics with anorexia may also have autism and tailored therapy was vital.

One woman said her autism had made her "obsessed" with counting calories, even though she did not want to lose weight.

Health watchdog NICE said more research was required.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-47359416>

Resources and other bulletins

Information about Autistica

We are the UK's leading autism research charity. Our vision is a long, healthy, happy life for autistic people and their families.

We harness the potential of cutting edge science to improve the lives of everyone affected by autism by

- funding and promoting groundbreaking medical research*
- improving understanding of autism*
- advancing new therapies and interventions*

<https://www.autistica.org.uk/>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - Should "challenging behaviour" be used as a reason to limit community access?

When, if ever, should "challenging behaviour" be used as a reason to limit community access? How serious should episodes get before it's okay to restrict community access? Darren Devine reports. <http://bit.ly/2HeyBHX>

BBC File On 4 - No Place Like Home - The Inside Story of Supported Living

The programme investigates the growth of the supported living sector and raises some important questions and challenges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0002grh>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - United Response call for autism-awareness training for public transport staff

Every year 1.7 billion people travel by rail. It's something which most commuters or holiday-makers don't usually give a second thought to. But for people with autism, travel can be hell.*

<http://bit.ly/2tT7Pge>

GOV.UK Strengths-based social work: practice framework and handbook

The framework and handbook support social workers and social care professionals in applying a strengths-based approach to their work with adults.

<http://bit.ly/2TIL7fv>

Resources and other bulletins

Easy Read Guides to Brexit

Written in consultation with [People First \(Scotland\)](#), these guides give straightforward information about the European Union, about Brexit and about our rights after Brexit.

The Guides are:

- [Easy Read Guide to the EU & Why UK is Leaving It \(Written in October 2018\)](#)
- [Easy Read Guide to UK Plans to Leave the EU \(Written in October 2018\)](#)
- [Easy Read Guide to Our Rights after Brexit \(written October 2018\)](#)

Blogs

Autism: why are we still not spotting the girls?

Girls with autism are still being left to struggle as, despite more recognition, girls are still under-diagnosed

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

Alex Fox - Am I an ally?

A conversation about power in the relationships between disabled people and their personal assistants, got me thinking about privilege and why it's a concept rarely talked about in social care.

<https://alexfoxblog.wordpress.com/2019/02/14/am-i-an-ally/>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - Are Learning Disabilities Mortality Review millions being spent wisely?

It was promoted as a world-first that would deliver improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities by investigating the reasons behind premature deaths. Darren Devine speaks to those who say the aims of the learning disabilities mortality review (LeDeR) are being undermined.

<http://bit.ly/2J37zpE>