

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

GOV.UK - Disabled people's rights: the UK's 2019 report on select recommendations of the UN periodic review

The UK's response to select concluding observations from the United Nations' first periodic review of the rights of disabled people and wider progress report.

All reports can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2kNS8WG>

Department of Health & Social Care and the British Association of Social Workers - The Capabilities Statement for Social Work with Autistic Adults

The foundational values of social work with autistic adults are recognising, appreciating, and promoting the values of neurodiversity. Within the community of autistic people, the label or category 'autism' is rejected by some and accepted by others. Social workers should know how people describe themselves and their self-identity.

Read more and download the Capabilities Statement here:

<https://bit.ly/2nOS2PP>

The Kings Fund - What is commissioning and how is it changing?

Commissioning is the process by which health and care services are planned, purchased and monitored. Here we look at the commissioning process in more detail, the organisations involved and how it is changing.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2mvls21>

Learning Disability England (LDE) - Rights, relationships, respect – social care

"Social care means making sure people can access their rights and are treated with respect"

What is it?

This is just one of the things 40 people with learning disabilities, family members and staff said is most important for how we design and develop social care support in the future.

People got together and talked about what is important to them and their families in local ['Think Tanks'](#).

Read more here and get involved: <https://bit.ly/2maMTkT>

Resources and other bulletins

Skills for Care: Supporting personal relationships.

Supporting people who need care and support to have meaningful relationships.

Personal relationships refer to the close connections between people that are formed by emotional bonds and interactions. Everyone has the right to enjoy a full range of relationships and to choose to express their sexuality as they wish. This includes people with learning disabilities and people with dementia. The adult social care workforce needs to understand how they can better support people who need care and support to do this.

Download it here <https://bit.ly/2nuuikg>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - A Beginner's Guide to Neurodiversity

Suzanne Comberousse is a freelance autism consultant and trainer:

The term "neurodiversity" was coined in the late 1990s by Australian sociologist Judy Singer, who is autistic herself.

Singer, along with the American journalist Harvey Blume, recognised that what we call "diversity", i.e. the variety we observe and value around us, can also be applied to people whose brains are different. These variations include autism, ADHD, the various forms of 'dys' (-lexia, -praxia, -calculia etc.), learning disability and more.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2nwW6Eu>

LDT: Stay Up Late's #NoBedtimes campaign challenges institutional culture in residential settings

Having a learning disability should never stop anyone enjoying a great night out.

But we find that lots of people with learning disabilities are unable to lead full and active social lives. People are often told there isn't the staff to support them

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to be out late. Some residential homes lock their doors at 10pm and residents don't have a key.

We're working to end those old-fashioned ideas. We want people with learning disabilities to be able to lead the kind of social lives they want to lead. That's why we are launching our #NoBedtimes campaign. We want to work with groups and individuals around the whole country to tell everyone about the campaign and why it's important.

Find out more about the campaign here: <https://bit.ly/2mzTt4m>

Nesta: Delivering with people, for people

How City of York Council is harnessing people's strengths, skills and networks.

York has a long tradition of working with our citizens and communities in innovative ways. In the 1990s we introduced participatory budgeting. Working with citizens across our 21 neighbourhoods, we pioneered the development of Neighbourhood Agreements and explored the social contract between citizen and state.

In 2016, York's People Helping People partnership came together to re-imagine our approach to volunteering and explore how we might enable a 'people led approach', embedding social action across the city.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2IJt2sf>

The Guardian: 'A chance to have my own voice': the care users redesigning support

People in Essex with learning disabilities and autism are working with health and care staff on new methods of support

The projects created in Essex aim to boost support, opportunities and community connections.

Louise Sayer is a disruptor. The 28-year-old from Essex is among 24 learning disabled or autistic people who have been working with local health and care staff to design new methods of support. Council managers have been so impressed with Sayer that they recently offered her a permanent job as a co-production support officer.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2IQhcwn>

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Seeability: New wordless story to improve eye care for people with a learning disability

SeeAbility has teamed up with publishing charity Beyond Words to launch a new resource, carefully designed to open up conversations, improve awareness and understanding, and support informed decision-making around eye health.

*The wordless story, **Looking After My Eyes**, is an accessible book for people with learning disabilities that raises awareness of the importance of regular eye tests and everyone's right to good quality eye care.*

More information: <https://bit.ly/2oZUJ1z>

LDT: The possibilities of artificial intelligence: research co-produced by disabled people

A group of Loughborough University academics have been awarded funding to examine how artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, such as the Amazon Echo, help people with disabilities live independently and explore how they may shape the future of social care.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2mAwbLI>

Webinars and training

Learning Disability England Webinars

Social work with adults with learning disability – putting good relationships with people who use services at the centre of practice.

Friday, 11th October 2019

10.00 – 11.00

Gloriously Ordinary Lives

Friday, 18th October 2019

10.00 – 11.00

Find out more and book here: <https://bit.ly/2oTmKI3>

Blogs

Corporate Rebels: THESE 4 ORGANIZATIONS ARE REINVENTING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

In the face of constant budget cuts, ageing populations, and employees leaving their profession in droves, there is perhaps no greater need to reinvent organisations than in the health and social care sector.

Fortunately, there is a growing number of rebels who are doing just that. Here are some examples of inspiring stories I've come across from interviewing pioneers in this field for the [Leadmorphosis podcast](#).

Read the blog here: <https://bit.ly/2p1IIsC>

The British Institute of Human Rights: Putting Wishes and Feelings at the Centre of Decision Making

The case was about AB, a 24 year old woman with learning disabilities. After returning from a staying with a family friend in Nigeria in April 2019, AB had become pregnant in circumstances which remain unclear.

Read the blog in full here: <https://bit.ly/2oe7TaS>