

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

GOV.UK

Psychological first aid in emergencies training for frontline staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers at the forefront of the national coronavirus response across England will be able to access a new Psychological First Aid training course from 15th June 2020

The free online course enables responders to develop their skills and confidence in providing key psychological support to people affected by coronavirus, including on issues such as job worries, bereavement or isolation as they carry out their vital work as part of the ongoing coronavirus response.

Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/37Ac97p>

CQC publishes data on deaths of people with a learning disability

The information that care homes submit to CQC about the deaths of people in their care is published on a weekly basis as part of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) reporting on deaths. The ONS data is not broken down by whether the person who died had a disability.

Supported by ONS we have completed a targeted piece of analysis to better understand the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) on people with a learning disability, some of whom may also be autistic, and how the number of deaths during this period compares to the number of deaths last year.

Read here: <https://bit.ly/2B95zse>

GOV.UK Guidance

Coronavirus (COVID-19): looking after people who lack mental capacity

Guidance for health and social care staff who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity.

This emergency guidance is for health and social care staff in England and Wales who are caring for, or treating, a person who lacks the relevant mental capacity during the coronavirus outbreak.

What is it?

The guidance ensures that decision makers are clear about the steps they need to take during this period. It focuses on new scenarios and potential 'deprivations of liberty' created by the outbreak.

Read guidance here <https://bit.ly/3hvgVr9>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - How you can Change It Up

Alexis Quinn, an autistic teacher, author and mother, describes in our exclusive video series what care looked like for her after self-referring to an Assessment and Treatment Unit. It wasn't at all what she expected. She goes on to explain why occupational therapy and 'autistic listening' were what she actually needed, along with illustrating in detail many other ways better outcomes can be achieved, all at lower cost than the status quo.

Watch the video insights here: <https://bit.ly/3d92shf>

Children and Young People

Council for disabled children

Tomorrows Leaders - A World Beyond Disability

The Education and Training Foundation (ETF) and Council for Disabled Children have published: Tomorrow's Leaders – A World Beyond Disability. This exciting new publication profiles the achievements of over 30 inspirational young people who are leading in their communities, with ambition, hard work and dedication to improving society.

Read it here: <https://bit.ly/2AIiGk9>

Council for disabled children - Top tips for preparing your child to return to school

The Royal College of Occupational Therapists have produced this top tips guide to help parent carers prepare their children for returning to school.

<https://bit.ly/30J8bb7>

Resources and other bulletins

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - Loneliness fuels healthcare anxiety in learning disabled and autistic patients

Isolation is the main driver of feelings of anxiety among people with learning disabilities and/or autism, according to a survey carried out by Learning Disability Today.

Read the article here <https://bit.ly/2Y4pAsW>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - How to change up the healthcare experience for people with learning disabilities and / or autism

Learning Disability Today calls for accommodation, care and mental health approaches to be designed to reflect the wishes of those with learning disabilities and / or autism.

Martin, who has a learning disability, and Alexis, who is autistic, describe in our exclusive video series how standard healthcare experiences feel when experienced by people with complex needs. Martin and Alexis then illustrate how such experiences can be improved by practitioners and policymakers alike.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3frMRuJ>

Beyond Words - Coping with Coronavirus

Free picture stories and illustrated guides to support people with learning disabilities and autism through the coronavirus pandemic.

- [Beating the Virus](#)
- [Mental health, end of life and bereavement resources](#)
- [Secure settings resources](#)
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Find out more here <https://bit.ly/2Ats4Z5>

Mental Health Today - I'm an Expert by Experience - here's how to challenge tokenism in patient participation

All too often, patient participation in the mental health field looks more like tokenism than genuine inclusion. Maddi, who trains mental health professionals as an Expert by Experience, examines how patient participation can look if implemented effectively, giving people like herself the space to be heard.

Read here <https://bit.ly/3htN9Dn>

Blogs

Choice Support - New sexuality and relationships charter

Lockdown has highlighted for so many of us just how important a loving partnership is, so everyone involved in developing this new Sexuality and Relationships - My Rights Charter felt it was still relevant to share it.

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

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - Social distancing is no 'blessing in disguise' for autistic people like me

Lockdown has been an uphill battle for many people. It's easy to feel depressed and anxious when you're living in a state of social isolation, pretty much confined to four walls 24/7, worried about catching a deadly disease, exposed to constant reports of death and fearful of what a post-COVID world will look like.

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

Open Future learning

"I used to think that my voice was equally important, if not more so, than the people I supported. In this story I saw this man advocate for himself, speak for himself, and voice his own dreams. It was at this point I understood that I was his ally not his advocate and that only he could advocate for himself. Our job then is to support advocacy, even teach advocacy, but once those are done our primary job is to shut up." – Dave Hingsburger

Watch the video clip here <https://bit.ly/2YwhQ1W>

Community Care - 'Government must act to stop people with learning disabilities dying under radar during pandemic'

Figures showing the sharp rise in deaths among people with learning disabilities during the coronavirus crisis are shocking and need proper investigation and increased priority, says self-advocate Gary Bourlet

Read here <https://bit.ly/37v1Hha>

UCL - Locked down but not out of co-production

This blog has three co-authors: Sarah, Clare, and Helen. They were some of the 91 people who attended our Co-production Network Session ('Virtual Co-production: Is it actually possible?') on the 12th of May 2020

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