

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

GOV.UK Shielding update: letter to patients

Translations and accessible formats of a letter from the government sent to patients in England who are shielding.

<https://bit.ly/3eftkMW>

Children and Young People

GOV.UK - Young carers and young adult carers: providing care during coronavirus

Guidance and information for people under the age of 25 who are providing care for someone during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

<https://bit.ly/3iXNGQ>

Disability Rights UK - Disabled children face institutional discrimination

The Education Select Committee heard powerful evidence last week on the shocking situation of children with special educational needs and disabilities. During the Coronavirus crisis, the majority of families were left to cope alone with the health, care and educational needs of their disabled children. The mental and physical health of children has deteriorated and families have been left without any support or respite. Whilst this might have been understandable in the early days of the crisis, it is completely unacceptable for this to continue.

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

Resources and other bulletins

Local Area Coordination Network – Which Way Next?

The Councils who make up the Local Area Coordination Network have coproduced a new report entitled 'Which Way Next?'. The report is based on the testimony of many people involved, and outlines how the approach has adapted to meet new challenges by:

- *Supporting people and families to achieve their vision of a good life, to use their gifts and make their contribution.*
- *Helping communities to be self-supporting and to flourish.*
- *Supporting systems transformation, building bridges and strengthening relationships between citizens, communities and services.*

Read report here: <https://bit.ly/2VYqDZQ>

King College London - Helping day centres to 'unlock lockdown'

The COVID-19, or Coronavirus, pandemic and the lockdown of society from March 2020 were unprecedented. Most day centres closed to regular users.

Because adult day centres are not a regulated service, and tend to be invisible in terms of guidance provided, we have put together Helping adult day centres to 'unlock lockdown'. This document aims to support manager or voluntary co-ordinators and staff generally, into the 'new normal' after the lockdown. There is strong evidence that attending a day centre brings quality of life and so, despite risks, enabling people to have the choice of going to a day centre is something worthwhile.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2O4V8ce>

Helen Sanderson - SELF-MANAGING TEAMS DURING COVID-19: VOICES FROM WELLBEING TEAMS

The Covid-19 pandemic has revealed the strengths and spirit of those who work in health and care, and brought into sharp focus the life-threatening cracks in the system.

Three years ago, I set up Wellbeing Teams, the first self-managing teams in homecare in the UK. I wanted to create a provider organisation that brought together compassionate care and community connections, delivered by small self-managing teams.

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

Resources and other bulletins

The Guardian - My working week: 'I worried I'd passed on Covid-19 to a woman I was supporting'

Lockdown has been tough for those I help with mental health problems and learning disabilities. People have been lonely.

Monday

I am a community support worker for people with mental health issues, a learning disability or both. I focus on helping people to become more independent of social care services.

I took the weekend off but life for the people I support continues, and much of Monday is spent catching up and seeing how the people I support have got on. Some of them have been using our weekend support line so I follow up on those. Many people live on their own and are feeling really isolated.

Read the article here: <https://bit.ly/2ZVw9O2>

Webinars and training

Learning Disability England (LDE) - Good health and Annual Health Checks: Webinar 21st July 3pm – 4pm on Zoom

As guidance changes how can support services help people with learning disabilities stay healthy including having an annual health check?

This webinar on 21st July will focus on how annual health checks and will include some examples of how they can help people despite current Covid restrictions.

Find out more here and book your place: <https://bit.ly/2AJvRRX>

SDS Network: Individual Service Funds (ISFs)

This webinar focuses on an important innovation - Individual Service Funds. This is a way in which people can have a personal budget but can choose a person or organisation to manage that budget with them. This helps people get better, more flexible and more focused support.

In this webinar Chris Watson, an expert in commissioning, Gary Kent, who runs a small community support organisation and Jacqui Hendra describe how Individual Service Funds (ISFs) work in practice.

Watch here: <https://bit.ly/2AHvIyn>

Blogs

Learning Disability Today - I'm an autistic, mixed race woman - let's discuss intersectionality

Multiply marginalised due to being a mixed race, autistic woman, Mette writes for Learning Disability Today about how she experiences a world that wasn't built for her.

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

Restraint reduction network - "Together we can get through this difficult period"- My experience of life in lock-down

Hi my name is Amy, I am 25 years old, living in the north east of England, after recently moving into the community after 11 years in inpatient mental health settings. My diagnosis is autism and I love to write, especially poetry. I also like long walks and being creative.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3e7cXSR>

Our Voices

Covid-19: Valuable voices, not vulnerable people

We are individuals. We are family members. We are support workers. During the coronavirus pandemic, we have inspired and instigated positive change. We have thrived, provided solutions and sought opportunities to learn.

The lockdown has brought highs and lows, which we have celebrated, reflected upon and adapted to with creativity, humour and humility.

Together and individually our voices are powerful.

We want to be heard.

These are our voices.

Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/2O7ARCY>

Chris Hatton - What can the statistics tell us about people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people in inpatient units during COVID-19? Part 1 - number of people

This blogpost is about the number of autistic people and/or people with learning disabilities in inpatient units (including ATUs) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Blogs

The number of people in inpatient units run by private companies did not change much during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The number of people in inpatient units run by the NHS dropped as the first wave of COVID-19 hit. These are likely to be people who were staying in general mental health inpatient units for a few days or weeks.

The biggest drops in the number of people in inpatient units were in young people (aged under 25 years) and people who had not been sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/38AS5lK>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) - How should we think about post-pandemic grief support for people with a learning disability?

Psychotherapist David O'Driscoll explores what post-pandemic grief support could look like for people with learning disabilities.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3iOeYXk>

The Health Foundation - Strengthening social care analytics in the wake of COVID-19: initial findings

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has focused national attention on the challenges faced by people who use, commission or deliver social care services. Unfortunately, efforts to respond to the crisis have been hampered by the lack of detailed, actionable and accessible data about social care.

The Health Foundation and Future Care Capital have teamed up to [explore the key data challenges the sector is facing in the post-COVID-19 era](#). We have begun by hosting workshops with people who use care services, carers, providers, care tech developers, local authorities, researchers, and membership bodies for providers and for front-line staff. Participants have come from England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, from domiciliary care and residential care, and included both older adults and working-age adults with a range of needs and experiences.

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