

Policy Update and other useful information

What is it?

Social care institute for excellence (scie) - Best interests decisions: A COVID-19 quick guide

The Mental Capacity Act (MCA) is at the heart of good, empowering practice in health and social care. This quick guide aims to help people across social care and health settings to apply its provisions about making best interests decisions for or on behalf of people who lack the relevant capacity in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The MCA remains unaltered by the Coronavirus Act 2020. But while the law stays the same, applying the MCA in practice clearly has to take on board the new and challenging implications of COVID-19 and the measures, such as social distancing and testing, in place to combat it.

Find out more: <https://bit.ly/2OVu13U>

ADASS Budget Survey 2020: Impact of Covid-19 on budgets

ADASS has today published the second of two reports which together paint a vivid picture of the terrible impact of the Covid-19 pandemic for those of us who need social care, our family carers those organisations providing these crucial services.

The first report laid bare the impact upon those of us who are older or disabled, who have care and support needs and our families. Today's report reveals the scale of the financial impact of the pandemic and its very real consequences on the care and support of millions, the ability of local authorities to fund adult care, and the very viability of thousands of caring organisations that provide vital support that enables millions of us to live good lives.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2X0AUFE>

What is it?

BBC News - Changing Places toilets for disabled people to be compulsory

Large accessible toilets for severely disabled people - known as Changing Places - will be made compulsory for new buildings in England from 2021.

Shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues will be required to include at least one Changing Place, a government spokesman said.

The facilities include hoists, changing benches and space for carers.

Campaigner Zack Kerr said the announcement was "nothing short of life changing".

Read more here: <https://bbc.in/31d5AVs>

Children and Young People

Disability Rights UK - Children with Special Education Needs and Disability abandoned by Schools during Lockdown

Coronavirus and SEND Education: 75% of schools ignored Government risk assessment guidance during the lockdown.

A new report shows the extent to which children with Education, Health and Care Plans and their families have been neglected during the coronavirus crisis. Instead of risk assessment being used to support children to receive education, they were used to prevent children returning to school.

Parents and young people were often not included in the risk assessment process. Parents found themselves being dissuaded from returning children to school and faced barriers such as lack of transport and special provision. For children and families left at home, education was often not tailored to their needs and therapies were stopped.

Read here: <https://bit.ly/3i1Tl4J>

Resources and other bulletins

Learning Disability Today (LDT) 'Empowerment looks different for everyone'

Learning Disability Today's 'Change It Up' survey finds that the importance of supporting hobbies and aspirations should not be underestimated. Results from

Resources and other bulletins

the survey, published here today, illuminates the complexity of prescriptive definitions of empowerment and draws attention to the varying forms it can take. These findings can be used to inform how local authorities commission services and how care providers deliver them.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3k9zmCY>

Happiness Pulse

Practical wellbeing measurement for thriving people, teams, organisations, communities.

The Happiness Pulse helps you measure, understand and improve wellbeing with a simple online survey.

Find out more here: <https://www.happinesspulse.org/>

Centre for Thriving Places - Thriving Places Index

The Thriving Places Index identifies the local conditions for wellbeing and measures whether those conditions are being delivered fairly and sustainably.

Created by the Centre for Thriving Places it's designed to give a balanced and easily read 'dashboard' of information on the different elements that support places to thrive. It cuts across different policy areas and is structured to provide a holistic way of approaching different priorities.

Find out more here: <https://www.thrivingplacesindex.org/>

Local Area Coordination Network – Alongside, stories of Local Area Coordination

'Alongside' is a collection of 20 stories from last year about people who have changed their lives with the support of Local Area Coordinators from their local communities.

The stories take us on a powerful journey showing the impact of Local Area Coordination as Dave overcomes adversity, Kate rebuilds her relationship with services on her terms and Alison shows us that community really is the best medicine!

Read more: <https://bit.ly/307r07f>

Learning Disability Today (LDT) – Why can't people with learning disabilities have meaningful careers too?

Saba Salman, editor of 'Made Possible: Stories of success by people with learning disabilities - in their own words' tells Learning Disability Today about why meaningful employment is so important to many people with a learning disability.

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Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2EDo8q6>

The Health Foundation - Living in poverty was bad for your health long before COVID-19

When we learned the fatality rate for COVID-19 was far higher among people from more socioeconomically deprived areas, there was rightly a sense of outrage. Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on deprived communities should be a key concern for government and health care leaders. But the unequal impact should not have come as a surprise.

Not everyone has the same opportunity to live a healthy life, and one key driver for these health inequalities are the inequalities in society itself. The story is not new. But COVID-19 has thrown it into sharper focus.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/2BRu91o>

Webinars and training

DISRUPTION: DELIVERED - Webinars with purpose and actions

The Global Good Disruption: Delivered webinars will be a break from the norm; a series of hard-hitting, trending topics that will challenge our thinking and get everyone a little uncomfortable in their seats! We want to drive change and address tough questions to help you deliver impact FASTER, so they will be disruptive! Would you expect any less from us?

The launch:

We'll be kicking off the series with our first two trending topics to coincide with our 2020 Virtual Awards Ceremony on **Wednesday 2nd September**

Find out more here: <https://bit.ly/30nYyOo>

Blogs and Podcasts

The virus and 'the vulnerable': have labels cost lives?

Aside from the devastating impact that the Coronavirus pandemic continues to have on lives and livelihoods, it's also had a significant impact on our vocabulary. New terms like COVID-19, self-isolate and social distancing have been added to the dictionary [1], others have taken on new meaning (lockdown, shielding, zoom..), and yet more have seen a surge in use – virus, pandemic, mask, keyworker, carer, hero...

As our lives have changed, so has our language, and we've pretty much accepted and adopted this new vocabulary without question. But I have a

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question. What influence has the language of this pandemic had on our response?

Read more: <https://bit.ly/39Qapb6>

University College London (UCL) - Space Wars: Exclusion from Research

.....Unsurprisingly, new faces are rarely introduced. When the participants of the studies, those involved in patient public involvement or in co-producing, remain all too identical in terms of their background, some well-known phrases start popping up. The particularly offensive and untrue label of "[hard-to-reach](#)" often comes with the justification that there is mistrust towards the healthcare services and research professionals, implying a need for attitude change in communities and not for improved engagement skills among research staff. "Less often heard voices" is definitely more polite, but "ignored" would be shorter and more accurate.....

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/3hJ9Mmx>

SCIE - COVID-19: Insights and experiences from the sector

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolds, we've been faced with daily news about the pressure on adult social care, rising need and an undervalued workforce. This podcast series asks how we can change the relationship between the state, services and people.

Listen here: <https://bit.ly/2X0KsAl>

MacIntyre Families Podcast

MacIntyre want to reach out to as many people as possible and we thought that creating a Family Podcast would be a great, modern way of sharing stories directly from families and from people in the Social Care sector.

Each month Nicola Payne, MacIntyre's Family Engagement Consultant, talks to special guests who share their insights and experiences.

Listen here: <https://bit.ly/3faqUqs>

LDT - A testing time for learning disability services

.....At the beginning of this pandemic - which feels like a long time ago - it all felt very, very scary. It was certainly, the biggest challenge I've ever faced working in social care. Early on, there was a lot of illness and suspected illness;

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at one stage over half the staff in teams I am responsible for were off self-isolating or sick.

We were scared for people we support, many of whom have multiple additional health conditions - and staff were understandably frightened for themselves. It was a daunting time for everyone. At one point we had a member of staff and a person they support both seriously ill in hospital at the same time. Like everyone else we experienced a sense of panic, but we worked through it and kept going.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/30nWrtW>

LDT - Celebrating the key workers who happen to have learning disabilities

The pandemic has certainly pushed us out of our comfort zones and changed the way we live our lives.

"Society has been forced to re-assess what we consider key and essential roles to be and communities have started to value and celebrate people as individuals."

Change can be difficult, challenging and disruptive, we all recognise this.

However, the past few months has taught us that we can adapt very quickly and bring ideas and ingenuity that ultimately improve performance and the way we work.

Read more here: <https://bit.ly/30mFDDt>