

# Learning Disabilities

Mar 2021

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## **COVID-19**

[JCVI advises inviting people on Learning Disability Register for vaccine](#) JCVI has advised the government to invite all people on the GP Learning Disability Register for COVID-19 vaccination.

[Care home residents to be allowed one visitor as part of cautious easing of lockdown](#) Every resident will be allowed one regular indoor visitor from 8 March. Visitors to be allowed to hold hands, with tests required before entry and PPE to be worn on site.

[The Efficacy of WeChat-Based Parenting Training on the Psychological Well-being of Mothers With Children With Autism During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Quasi-Experimental Study](#) This initial study examined the use of the WeChat-based parenting training intervention on the wellbeing of mothers with children with ASD. The study reported that it found the intervention to be acceptable and appears to be an effective approach for reducing anxiety, depression, and parenting stress, as well as increasing hope in mothers with children with autism during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Future studies with rigorous designs and longer follow-up periods are needed to further detect the effectiveness of the training.

## **Randomised Control Trial**

[Music therapy for autistic children: playing better than listening?](#) Summarises a recent randomised controlled trial comparing music therapy to music listening for children with autism spectrum disorder.

## **Statistics**

[New data highlights the autism employment gap](#) The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has [published new data](#) that shows just 22% of autistic adults are in any kind of employment.

## **Inquiry**

[Stop 'sectioning' people with a learning disability or autism when they are in crisis](#)

There are currently two thousand people with autism or a learning disability detained in secure inpatient settings, the majority of whom could be managed in the community according to evidence presented at a Health and Social Care Committee inquiry. The [inquiry](#) was to examine the limited progress in improving the way autistic people and individuals with learning disabilities are treated and focused on the use of restraint and “sectioning”.

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## Cochrane Review

[The effectiveness and adverse effects of D-cycloserine compared with placebo on social and communication skills in individuals with autism spectrum disorder](#)

This review examined the evidence around the efficacy and adverse effects of D-cycloserine compared to placebo. The reviewers were unable to conclude with certainty whether D-cycloserine is effective for individuals with ASD. This review included low certainty data from only one study with methodological issues and imprecision.