

Systematic Review

[Randomised controlled trials of mood stabilisers for people with autism spectrum disorder: systematic review and meta-analysis](#)

Given the methodological flaws in the included studies and the contradictory findings, it is difficult to draw any definitive conclusion about the effectiveness of mood stabilisers to treat either ASD core symptoms or associated behaviours. Robust large-scale RCTs are needed in the future to address this issue.

Studies

[Depression and learning disability](#)

Depression in people with a learning disability might occur more frequently than often assumed with many people still running the risk of being underdiagnosed, according to new research. The study published in [Journal of Mental Health Research in Intellectual Disabilities](#) found that the choice of instrument for measuring depression in individuals with a learning disability is critical.

[Childhood infections associated with intellectual disability](#)

Infections during childhood may contribute to a later diagnosis of intellectual disability (ID) and autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to a new study.

[Early language loss in autistic children not tied to later communication problems](#)

Autistic children who [show language regression](#) — a loss of language skills in early childhood — do not necessarily have communication problems later on, a new study finds.

[Electronic health record alerts for physicians boost autism study enrollment](#)

An algorithm that scans electronic health records and alerts doctors to a patient's eligibility for SPARK, a large genetic study of autism, led to a [fourfold increase in enrollment](#) in the project, according to the lead investigator of a new study. The likelihood of enrollment was particularly elevated among [Black and Asian people](#), a companion study shows.

White Paper

[Integration White Paper could "medicalise social care"](#)

The government has published a new White Paper which aims to better integrate the NHS and adult social care sector, bringing the health service and local government closer together to improve patient care.

Statistics

[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in January 2022:

- In total 2,030 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England.
- 1,185 (58%) of these people are autistic.
- Around one in seven (165) of these are autistic people under 18

Resource

[War in Ukraine](#)

Learning Disability England have shared the following easy-read resources to help people understand what is happening about the war in Ukraine: [Sally Hirst has shared this easy read on Facebook](#). Easy News from United Response has done an easy read that helps to explain too. [Read the Easy News article here](#)

Research

[Some NHS Trusts failing to communicate with people with LD](#)

Just one in three (35%) NHS Trusts are meeting the legal requirement to adequately communicate with people who are blind, deaf or have a learning disability, according to research by Healthwatch.

[Sexual consent for people with cognitive disabilities](#)

Decisions about sexual consent for people with cognitive disabilities must be person-centred and balanced, according to new research. In order to achieve the ideal outcome, the person must be involved in the process of personalising these approaches, and both they and their family/carers should be taught about the importance of sexual consent.

['Living with Covid' plan will increase fear and anxiety](#)

Research shows that seven in 10 disabled people feel they are being left behind, with six in 10 saying they are fearful of going out and socialising due to the risk of Covid.

Review

[Review launched into safeguarding people from carer abuse at home](#)

[The government has launched a review into whether people receiving care at home](#) have adequate protections from abuse by those providing it. The probe is in response to concerns raised by disabled and deaf people's organisations that existing safeguards are not adequate, where the carer fell outside the definition of domestic abuse provided by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Guidance

[COVID-19: guidance for supported living](#)

This summarises the changes made to the COVID-19: guidance for supported living as of 25 February 2022.

Conference

[Bild International Positive Behaviour Support Conference 2022](#)

Bild is pleased to announce that the next International Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Conference will take place in Bristol on the 20, 21 and 22 June 2022. The theme for this year's conference will be Co-Production: doing PBS with not to people, and attendees will have the option to attend either in-person, or online.

Report

[The Accessible information standard](#)

This report finds that although some providers have made sincere efforts to support people with communication needs, many are still falling short, despite the AIS falling under the Equality Act 2010. This highlights the need for better accountability, staff training and clear lines of complaint when people feel providers haven't met their requirements. Our report also provides some preliminary indication that the AIS might not cover all groups of people who struggle to access services due to communication barriers.

News

[DNACPR: An Open Letter to the Ministerial Oversight Group](#)

Learning Disability England is standing with the Stop People Dying Too Young group along with the British Institute of Human Rights, Inclusion North and Difference NE to send an Open Letter to the Ministerial Oversight Group on DNACPR. The Open Letter is asking the Ministerial Oversight Group (MOG) why they have not included people with lived experience on the Oversight Group. And asking them to change their Terms of Reference to include people with lived experience as equals.

[National Autistic Society and SEND review](#)

Representatives from the National Autistic Society (NAS) have delivered a petition to the Department for Education calling on the government to invest in autistic children's futures in its SEND review, which is expected in the next few weeks. Over 40,000 people signed the petition after the charity recently published a report that found that the education system is simply not working for autistic children in England and that parents are facing exhausting and sometimes years-long battles to get support for autistic children in school.

[Quality of medical care in special schools needs addressing](#)

The standard of medical provision in special schools needs to be urgently addressed in the forthcoming SEND review, according to the Medicine in Specialist Schools Group.

[Most autism intervention studies lack data on race, ethnicity](#)

Only a quarter of more than 1,000 autism intervention studies published since 1990 report on participants' races and ethnicities, and just one included a Native American participant.