

News

[Co-occurring conditions in autistic teens increase with age](#)

The health conditions that tend to accompany autism in adolescence grow even more prevalent by early adulthood, according to a new longitudinal [study](#).

[Autism Assessment in the UK: Closing the Gap](#)

The UK has a crisis in autism assessment. In England, as of March 2023 over 157,000 people of all ages were waiting for an assessment, of which 84% have waited longer than the 13 weeks recommended by NICE. The number of people awaiting assessment in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales is also high; and at their longest, waits for assessment can stretch into years.

[Huge surge in searches for private autism assessments](#)

There has been a huge surge in the number of Google searches for private autism assessments in the UK, according to a new analysis by Brain in Hand. In the last three months alone, there has been a staggering 900% increase in searches related to private autism and ADHD assessment in the UK. Furthermore, there has been an average of 5,000 searches per month for 'private autism assessment', and a 5000% increase in searches for terms such as 'high functioning autism' and 'stimming' in the last quarter.

[Autistic girl who died in hospital 'begged' to leave](#)

A young autistic girl who died in an inpatient unit last year "cried out for help" and repeatedly requested to leave the hospital, an inquest has heard.

[New app enables carers to provide person-centred support](#)

A new app designed to assist carers and improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities has been launched this week. The PBAS app combines the principles of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) and Active Support to empower the care and education of people with learning disabilities. The app allows carers to plan activities, daily tasks and personal routine based on the needs of the individual and the Active Support and PBS frameworks.

[Psychotropic medication: new resources for family carers](#)

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) has published new resources for family carers looking for information about psychotropic medication. The [pathway](#) focuses on how to make sure your relative only takes the medication that they need and that they are taking it safely. The resources have been funded by NHS England as a part of STOMP, a project about stopping the over-medication of autistic people and people with a learning disability.

[The transition from education to employment for young disabled people - inquiry launch](#)

The Public Services Committee has launched a new call for evidence for its new inquiry, The transition from education to employment for young disabled people. The Committee will be scrutinising how disabled young people transition into work from higher or further education and what challenges and barriers they face in doing so.

[Self-harm and learning disability: the role of grief](#)

Responses to self-injury by people with learning disabilities often focus on environmental triggers but research shows that emotional distress is often key, necessitating a trauma-informed response.

Conference

[Preventing Avoidable Deaths: Stopping people with learning disabilities dying younger, 8 November](#)

This online conference focuses on preventing avoidable deaths, a topic that has been highlighted in recent years by coverage of tragic, avoidable deaths and the important establishment of the LeDeR programme (Learning from Lives and Deaths - People with a Learning Disability and autistic people). The event seeks to highlight lesser-known issues for people with learning disabilities and provide practical suggestions for positive developments. The conference programme will include presentations from the team working on the LeDeR programme as well as keynotes on health conditions that are associated with premature or avoidable deaths, such as constipation and aspiration pneumonia. The event will consider improvements to avoiding preventable deaths including initiatives from support providers, consideration of individuals' wellbeing and an examination of early frailty.