

Studies

[Improving palliative care for people with intellectual disability: a self-assessment of policies, practices and competencies in care services](#)

Providing care for ageing and vulnerable people with intellectual disability (ID) is challenging, and professionals working in ID care often have limited experience in palliative care. The current study provides insight into palliative care practices in ID care services and competencies of professionals and identifies ways to improve palliative care for people with ID.

[Barriers and needs in mental healthcare of adults with autism spectrum disorder in Germany: a qualitative study in autistic adults, relatives, and healthcare providers](#)

Autism refers to a neurodevelopmental condition with characteristic impairments in social interaction and communication, restrictive and repetitive behaviors, as well as difficulties in sensory information processing and daily living skills. Even though symptoms persist from early childhood throughout the lifespan and often require long-term support, there is a lack of mental health services that sufficiently meet the needs of autistic adults. Previous evidence suggested individual, professional and structural barriers to healthcare for autistic adults. Here, using a peer research approach, we sought to systematically investigate barriers and needs in mental healthcare of autistic adults in Germany at the three relevant levels (individual, professional, structural) and from three relevant perspectives (autistic adults, relatives and healthcare providers), in order to obtain specific recommendations for optimized healthcare.

[The relationship between camouflaging and mental health: Are there differences among subgroups in autistic adults?](#)

When autistic people use strategies to hide their autistic characteristics, we call this camouflaging. Autistic adults suggested that camouflaging can result in mental health difficulties. That is, people who report to camouflage also report mental health difficulties. However, since there are many differences between autistic people, this relationship may also differ between subgroups. Therefore, in this study we investigated whether camouflaging and mental health difficulties are related and whether this relationship is equal for all autistic adults.

[Disability Acceptance and Affirmation Among U.S. Adults With Learning Disabilities and ADHD](#)

Personal disability identity is a predictor of psychosocial functioning among adults with predominantly physical disabilities. In the present study, we examined personal disability identity in adults with learning disabilities (LD) and/or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Clinical Guides

[Clinical guide for front line staff to support the management of patients with a learning disability and autistic people – relevant to all clinical specialties](#)

This guidance supports healthcare professionals deliver good quality care for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

Articles

[Alcohol masked my autism so well, that nobody noticed it until I got sober](#)

A personal story about how alcohol can be an effective but problematic masking tool for autistic women.



News

[New NHS campaign to help spot early signs of life-threatening constipation in people with a learning disability](#)

The NHS has today launched a major new national campaign to support people with a learning disability, healthcare professionals and carers to spot the early signs of potentially life-threatening constipation.

[New Disability Action Plan consultation launched](#)

The government has published a Disability Action Plan outlining how it aims to improve the lives of disabled people in the UK. Tom Pursglove MP, Minister of State for Disabled People, Health and Work [launched the consultation](#) and invited responses to the proposals from interested parties, particularly disabled people and disabled people's organisations across the UK.

[People with learning disabilities from ethnic minority backgrounds dying at half the age of white peers](#)

People with a learning disability from ethnic minority backgrounds die at an average age of just 34, compared to an average age of 62 for white people with learning disabilities. This significantly shorter life expectancy is triggered by poorer healthcare access, language barriers, cultural and religious insensitivity, and a lack of information during transitional care in hospital and home.

[We need your help to shape new training for autistic people](#)

We're working with the Greater Manchester Suicide Prevention Board (part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership) to develop suicide awareness training to support autistic people and we need your help.

[#MyVoteMatters Petition Hand-in to Downing Street and Parliamentary Reception](#)

My Vote My Voice handed our #MyVoteMatters petition to Downing Street this month, together with the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Adult Social Care's Lived Experience Group. We called on the Government and Parliament to do their part to make elections more accessible and open clearer pathways to politics for autistic people and people with learning disabilities.

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

The latest monthly [Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data](#) shows that in June 2023:

- In total 2,035 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,310 (64%) of these people are autistic
- There are 215 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 93% are autistic.

[National Autistic Society Scotland launches 'Connections' to tackle loneliness and isolation](#)

Funded by the Social Isolation and Loneliness fund Connections aims to support over 130 adults aged 25-55 through a user-led, peer support approach. The programme aims to reduce the harms associated with social isolation and loneliness by providing participants with opportunities for regular social interaction with autistic peers who are facing similar transitions, life stages, and challenges – such as unemployment and late diagnosis.

challenging behaviour
Learning Disabilities and Autism
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life

research
mental capacity
intellectual disabilities
health information
carers



NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust
Community and Mental Health Services

2 August 2023

[Disabled people are receiving degrading treatment in an overstretched NHS](#)

Dan Scorer of Mencap responds to a report on a survey in which NHS staff said they don't have enough time for patients.

[Autism could be seen as part of personality for some diagnosed, experts say](#)

Autism without intellectual disabilities could be reframed as human 'variability' rather than medical condition, says sociologist.

['I recognised myself for the first time': the adults finally diagnosed as autistic](#)

Antoinette Monks was diagnosed with autism and ADHD at 71, while Debra Brisch got her diagnosis at 68. Both say it was life-changing.

[Luke's story](#)

Luke, an autistic teenager who also has ADHD and learning disabilities, hadn't had a medical check-up for years before he went into supported living with the North East Autism Society.

[Graham's story](#)

Suicide rates are nine times higher for those in the autistic and neurodivergent community than for neurotypical individuals (Autistica) – a staggering statistic that demonstrates just how devastating the impact of autism on an individual's mental health can be.

