

Studies

[Experiences of UK and Irish family carers of people with profound and multiple intellectual disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

People with profound and multiple intellectual disabilities (PMID) have high and intensive support needs that ordinarily place significant strain on family carers. This was further heightened by the removal of many external supports during the COVID-19 pandemic. We sought to explore the experiences of family carers of people with PMID during the COVID-19 pandemic and understand what the longer-term impact might be on their lives.

[The biosocial correlates and predictors of emotion dysregulation in autistic adults compared to borderline personality disorder and nonclinical controls](#)

Emotion dysregulation (ED) is a core symptom of borderline personality disorder (BPD), whose aetiology has been attributed to biosocial factors. In autism spectrum condition (ASC), although ED is prevalent and is associated with decreased well-being (e.g. self-harm, suicidality), it has been understudied, especially in adults. It is therefore crucial to further understand ED in autistic adults to improve its treatment.

[Caregiver-child interaction as an effective tool for identifying autism spectrum disorder: evidence from EEG analysis](#)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a complex neurodevelopmental disorder that affects individuals across their lifespan. Early diagnosis and intervention are crucial for improving outcomes. However, current diagnostic methods are often time-consuming, and costly, making them inaccessible to many families. In the current study, we aim to test caregiver-child interaction as a potential tool for screening children with ASD in clinic.

[The early life growth of head circumference, weight, and height in infants with autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review](#)

The Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) prevalence has increased significantly over the past two decades. This review summarizes the current knowledge of the association between the early life growth of head circumference (HC), weight, and height with ASD in infants.

[Strategies to improve the magnetic resonance imaging experience for autistic individuals: a cross-sectional study exploring parents and carers' experiences](#)

Autistic individuals encounter numerous barriers in accessing healthcare, including communication difficulties, sensory sensitivities, and a lack of appropriate adjustments. These issues are particularly acute during MRI scans, which involve confined spaces, loud noises, and the necessity to remain still. There remains no unified approach to preparing autistic individuals for MRI procedures.

["Work with us... to make it more accessible". What women with intellectual disabilities want from infant-feeding health resources: an exploratory study](#)

More women with intellectual disabilities are becoming mothers but fewer are known to breastfeed compared with other women. Women with intellectual disabilities are entitled to accessible antenatal and infant feeding information, yet are rarely asked for their views on available resources. This article reports on the final stage of a UK project exploring how women with intellectual disabilities are supported to make infant feeding decisions. The wider project includes a scoping review and interviews with healthcare professionals, here we focus on the voices of the women themselves.



[Experiences of Students with Learning Disabilities in Higher Education: A Scoping Review](#)

As the number of students with learning disabilities (SwLD) entering higher education (HE) increases, a need arises to improve the services provided to them by understanding their experiences. This scoping review explores the extent and type of evidence on the experiences of SwLD in HE.

[Nature-Based Interventions for Autistic Children A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

Question: Are nature-based interventions (NBIs) associated with health-related functional trajectories of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

[Mental Health of Children With Special Educational Needs and the Return to In-Person Learning After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Question: How did the mental well-being of children with special educational needs (SEN) change when schools reopened after the COVID-19 pandemic?

[Screen Time and Autism Spectrum Disorder A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis](#)

Question: Is there an association between screen time and autism spectrum disorder (ASD)?

[Development of Deep Ensembles to Screen for Autism and Symptom Severity Using Retinal Photographs](#)

Question: Can deep learning models screen individuals for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and symptom severity using retinal photographs?

[Co-Design of a Virtual Reality Multiplayer Adventure Game for Adolescents With Autism Spectrum Disorder: Mixed Methods Study](#)

Virtual reality (VR) adventure games can offer ideal technological solutions for training social skills in adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), leveraging their support for multisensory and multiplayer interactions over distance, which may lower barriers to training access and increase user motivation. However, the design of VR-based game environments for social skills training is still understudied and deserves the deployment of an inclusive design approach to ensure its acceptability by target users.

Guidance

[Meeting the needs of autistic adults in mental health services](#)

This guidance is for integrated care boards, health organisations and wider system partners and provides advice on how to improve the quality, accessibility and acceptability of care and support for autistic adults to meet their mental health needs, both in the community and in inpatient settings. It outlines 10 principles for implementation and provides practical examples of how these principles may be applied.

Guides

[Executive functioning and the Mental Capacity Act 2005: points for practice](#)

Practical advice from a Community Care Inform guide on how to assess capacity and make best interests decisions where a person has executive functioning difficulties.



Podcasts

[Dr Jane Padmore: The joy and fulfilment of working for people with a learning disability](#)

People with a learning disability have poorer health and experience greater and persistent inequalities in health. So how can we shift the dial? In this episode, Dr Jane Padmore, chief executive of Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, explores how reimagining the workforce, making better use of the voluntary sector and deepening understandings of learning disability, autism and neurodiversity can go some way. Jane, who is also chair of the Mental Health Network's Learning Disability Forum, shares how a life-changing summer placement ignited a life-long passion that has shaped her career.

Blogs

[ADHD and autism: Tackling the long wait for support](#)

Long wait times for autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) support can have a severe impact on individuals. We look at what people have already told us and urge you to come forward if you have been affected.

[A busy year](#)

I first started noticing in autism back in 2012, when junior doctors were still called House Officers. Back then, autism was seen as the domain of CAMHS and Learning Disability services: general adult psychiatrists like me didn't take much of an interest. Over the intervening time there has been a real culture shift. I've presented at a number of College events this year, including the International Congress, and pretty much every psychiatrist I speak to now wants to learn more about Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry.

News

[Latest NHS data shows sharp rise in waiting times for first autism appointment](#)

The College has raised concerns about a huge gap in NHS resources for specialist autism services. New data published by NHS England shows that between July and September 2023, people in England who had an appointment for suspected autism had, on average, waited almost ten months since their first referral. This compares to 2022, when on average, people waited for almost seven months to be seen.

[Autism assessment waiting times](#)

As of September 2023, 157,809 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, new NHS data has revealed. This is a 50% increase in the number of people waiting in just one year.

[Our letter to the Prime Minister](#)

Today we sent a letter to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, signed by the many organisations who support our call for action.

[New apartments support disabled residents using assistive tech and automated systems](#)

New supported living apartments in Lancashire are enabling residents to live independently, thanks to a package of care and support with assistive technology. Formerly Skerton's Police Station and NHS offices, the apartments opened in July this year in a converted listed building, enabling those with learning and physical disabilities and autism to rent their own homes with 24-hour support.



challenging behaviour

Learning Disabilities and Autism

Asperger Syndrome
quality of life

mental capacity
intellectual disabilities

health information
carers

research



NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust
Community and Mental Health Services

19 December 2023

[Government to protect care home, hospital and hospice visiting](#)

Consultation response published setting out plans to make visiting a fundamental standard of care.

[Autism research hits the road](#)

Some scientists are thinking creatively about how to collect data in flexible environments and meet communities where they're at.

[Almost 18,000 Scots living with welfare guardianship orders– highest ever level](#)

New figures published today by the Mental Welfare Commission show that 17, 849 Scots were living with a welfare guardianship order in March 2023, the highest level recorded, and a 4.4% increase on 2022.

