

Reports

[2023 LeDeR report into avoidable and preventable deaths of people with learning disabilities](#)

The 2023 "Learning from Lives and Deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people" (LeDeR), which investigates deaths in UK adults with a learning disability in an effort to provide learning for the future and improve care, was presented to Parliament (2 September 2025).

[Out of Control: Addressing the Rise in Psychiatric and Neurodevelopmental Disorders amongst Children and Young People](#)

This new report by Policy Exchange identifies how poor incentives have driven overdiagnosis of mental ill health and neurodivergence in young people, stretching key public services to breaking point. It takes a unique, holistic view of the systems to support young people across health, education and welfare. The costs of support across all three areas have spiralled to tens of billions each year, whilst young people struggle to access early help and those with the most severe needs lose out.

Blogs

[Learning from Lives and Deaths: A wake-up call about learning disability nursing](#)

The recent publication of the delayed LeDeR review shows that people with learning disabilities continue to experience catastrophic health inequalities. Commitment to address inequalities needs real commitment to registered nurses in learning disabilities.

[Championing Neurodiversity in Nursing Practice: Why It Matters for Nursing Staff](#)

RCN Professional Lead for Long Term Conditions, Callum Metcalfe-O'Shea explains the benefits of neurodiverse-informed care, and why the RCN has developed a new neurodiversity resource for nursing staff.

[The spectrum goes multidimensional in search of autism subtypes](#)

Grouping people with autism based on shared features, genetics and co-occurring conditions may improve clinical trial outcomes, researchers say.

[Why hype for autism stem cell therapies continues despite dead ends](#)

After numerous tests, there is still no evidence that these experimental treatments help, so now is not the time to expand access to them.

[Autism-linked copy number variants always boost autism likelihood](#)

By contrast, varied doses of the same genes decrease or increase the odds of five other conditions, with distinct biological consequences, two new preprints show.

News

[20 Years Lost: System Change Is Needed, Not Just Local Action](#)

The LeDeR report for 2023, published just yesterday, shows that people with learning disabilities and autistic people are still dying far too young – on average 20 years earlier than other people.

[Bild welcomes publication of delayed LeDeR report](#)

The delayed 'Learning from lives and deaths – People with a learning disability and autistic people' (LeDeR) report has now been published by King's College London. An easy read version of the report is also available.

[Our response to the LeDeR Review](#)

The latest Learning from Lives and Deaths – people with a learning disability and autistic people (LeDeR) Review has been published. The report highlights the significant health inequalities people with a learning disability and autistic people face.

[RCPsych responds to LeDeR report 2023](#)

King's College London has published the 2023 Learning from Lives and Deaths report (LeDeR), which investigates the lives and deaths of adults who have a learning disability and autistic people in the UK.

[Around 90% of middle-aged and older autistic adults are undiagnosed in the UK, new review finds](#)

89 to 97 per cent of autistic adults aged 40+ years are undiagnosed in the UK, according to the largest review of its kind. The review indicated that middle-aged and older autistic adults are facing higher rates of mental and physical health conditions than non-autistic adults of the same age, alongside challenges with employment, relationships and wellbeing.

[Older autistic people need more help after years of misdiagnosis, review finds](#)

Researchers have called for better support for middle-aged and older autistic people after a review found that 90% of autistic people aged over 50 in Britain are either undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

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

The latest monthly Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data shows that in July 2025:

- 2,010 autistic people and people with a learning disability are in mental health hospitals in England. Of these, 1,455 (72%) are autistic.
- There are 230 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 220 (96%) are autistic.
- The number of autistic people without a learning disability detained in mental health hospitals has increased by 140% since 2015.

[Diabetes mortality is much higher for people with a learning disability](#)

People with a learning disability who have type 2 diabetes are at higher risk of dying from the condition, despite having better overall blood glucose control.

[Half of adults with a learning disability feel unsafe using public transport](#)

A new survey from Mencap has found that nearly half of adults with a learning disability feel unsafe when using public transport, leading to restricted independence, increased isolation and reduced well-being.

[Down's Syndrome Association publishes back-to-school guides for children with SEND](#)

The Down's Syndrome Association has produced a series of resources to support children and young people with Down's syndrome and special education needs and disabilities (SEND) as they return to school.

[What we do \(and don't know\) about autism and ageing – new research](#)

Autism is often thought of as a childhood condition, but this is far from true. Autism is a lifelong condition – and most autistic people are adults. Yet less than 1% of autism research has focused on older autistic people.

[Autism assessment waiting times](#)

As of June 2025, 236,225 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England, latest NHS data has revealed.

[Mental Capacity Act reform stalled: urgent action needed as system unravels](#)

Failure to act on long-delayed reforms to the Mental Capacity Act is contributing to preventable deaths, unlawful detentions and growing human rights concerns.

[Two-thirds of councils need to improve on DoLS, finds analysis of CQC reports](#)

Social Care Institute for Excellence sounds alarm over long-delayed failure to implement Mental Capacity Act reforms and flags concerns over implications for human rights and care of disabled and older people.

[Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards system is at breaking point, new analysis shows](#)

New analysis shows that 67% of local authorities inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) were found to require improvements to their Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) arrangements.

[Charities bid to defend Cheshire West deprivation of liberty ruling in upcoming Supreme Court case](#)

Mencap, Mind and National Autistic Society apply to intervene in case triggered by application from Northern Ireland attorney general to reconsider landmark 2014 judgment.

[Our response to Out of Control report](#)

We have responded to a new report by Policy Exchange, Out of Control, which claims there is an 'overdiagnosis' of neurodivergence in young people.

[AAC app update includes hundreds more icons to enable users to communicate on broader range of topics](#)

Spoken, an augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technology specialist, has released an update of its assistive communication app, which include expanded personalisation options, hundreds of high-resolution icons, and five voices with new accents.

[UK firms misleading parents with milk teeth autism treatment claims, report finds](#)

Companies are making thousands of pounds by misleading parents with claims that collecting stem cells from their children's teeth can be a treatment for diabetes and autism, an investigation has found.

[Inside the school refusal crisis: how a mother and her daughters survived a broken system](#)

Caro Giles had to home-educate three of her four daughters when they grew so distressed at the prospect of school that they made themselves ill. Why is our approach to education failing so many young people?

challenging behaviour
Learning Disabilities and Autism
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life
mental capacity
intellectual disabilities
health information
research
carers



NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

10 September 2025

[Two updated e-learning courses launched](#)

All of our training provides not only a fantastic knowledge base, but the added benefit of a true insight into the autistic experience. We pride ourselves in our ethos of co-development, and delivery of all training development and delivery that we do.

