Learning Disabilities

Intellectual disabilities Quality of life Research
Carers Challenging behaviour
Mental capacity Health information

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

18 November 2026

Studies

Avoidable Mortality in Adults With Down Syndrome or With Other Intellectual Disabilities
Do adults with Down syndrome (DS) or with other intellectual disabilities (ID) experience a disproportionate burden of avoidable mortality, and if so, which factors are associated with it?

Communication Difficulties and Participation in Police Interviews: Experiences of Suspects with Cognitive Disabilities
Police interviews place considerable demands on suspects, who must understand questions, recall events, communicate clearly and assess their legal situation under conditions of stress and uncertainty. For individuals with cognitive disabilities these demands can be especially challenging.

Adverse life experiences, mood symptoms, and quality of life in adults with down syndrome
Life expectancy for people with Down syndrome (DS) has increased, creating a need to understand how to optimize later-life quality of life (QOL).

School factors predicting family satisfaction in inclusive education: evidence from families of students with intellectual disabilities
Family satisfaction is a relevant indicator for assessing the quality of inclusive education for students with intellectual disabilities. This study analysed families' perceptions of the school educational response and examined the school-related factors predicting overall family satisfaction.

Long-term benefits of early obstructive sleep apnea treatment in infants with Down syndrome
The Respire−21 study found that early obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) diagnosis and treatment is associated with improved neurocognitive and behavioral outcomes in infants with Down syndrome (DS) followed from 6 to 36 months of age (screened group) versus a control group receiving standard care at 36 months of age (standard care group).

How to Co-design Psychiatric Education with People with Intellectual Disability and Autistic People
Involving people with lived experience in clinical care, education, and research is increasingly recognized as a priority in psychiatry and across the health professions. Co-designing education with people with intellectual disability and autistic people is not just a methodological preference, but an ethical imperative grounded in disability rights frameworks.

News

Nearly half of deaths among adults with Down syndrome are from avoidable causes
47% of deaths among adults with Down syndrome in England were from causes classed as avoidable, with epilepsy and pneumonia as the leading treatable causes, and COVID-19 the leading preventable cause, according to a new study led by researchers at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) at King's College London.

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[South West organisations merge to strengthen support for people with a learning disability]
South West social care charity, Milestones Trust, has merged its services with the Ordinary Lives Project Association (OLPA) to strengthen its support for people in Wiltshire with a learning disability and mental health needs.

['No matter what, he doesn't quit': disabled wrestlers draw strength from ring alter egos]
Scheme in Derry aims to sow confidence by getting people with learning and physical disabilities into wrestling.