Learning Disabilities

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

Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

4 November 2026

Studies

Factors associated with the use of UK emergency services in children and young people with intellectual developmental disabilities
Children and young people (CYP) with intellectual developmental disabilities (IDD) experience substantial health needs and higher healthcare utilisation compared with the general paediatric population. However, factors affecting the emergency healthcare use among children with IDD of genetic aetiology remain poorly understood.

Correlates of Anxiety in Children and Adults With Moderate to Profound Intellectual Disability
Identifying potential risk markers implicated in the development and maintenance of anxiety will inform theoretical models and intervention development. However, there is an identified gap in the literature exploring this in individuals with moderate-profound intellectual disability (ID).

News

CQC warns people with learning disabilities still face unequal health and care
Inequalities persist across the whole health and care system for people with learning disabilities, and too many barriers remain to receiving the support they need to live independently, according to a new report from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Care Quality Commission (CQC) State of Care Report 2025/26 – CBF response
CQC's latest State of Care report shows that people with learning disabilities still face serious health and care inequalities.

Deprivation linked to mental health difficulties in children with learning disabilities
Children and young people with learning disabilities from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to experience mental health difficulties due to deprivation, according to new research.

Study finds gaps in breast cancer care for patients with a learning disability
A new study has found that patients with a learning disability, Black patients, Asian patients and patients from mixed ethnic backgrounds are more likely to face longer wait times for a breast cancer diagnosis and care and treatment.

We must hear people's voices: An inital response to the COVID Inquiry's report on social care
The UK COVID inquiry has published its report on social care. This is the area of the COVID Inquiry that's heard the most about the experiences of people with learning disabilities, their families and the organisations that support them.

Parenting assessments: how specialist frameworks can help engage parents with additional needs
Specialist assessments are used when parents have additional needs or complex circumstances. This can help make assessments fairer and more transparent - as long as social workers have the knowledge, understanding and empathy required.

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[Housing support for young people with SEND differs in policy and practice report finds]
A new report examining the current housing support for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families has found 'significant gaps' between policy and practice intended to help them prepare for adulthood.

[Knowledge gap in financial services could put people with a learning disability at risk]
A new survey has found that just over a third (34%) of financial and legal professionals have 'no idea' how to advise families on leaving an inheritance to a family member with a learning disability.

[Good Lives in 2036: What do self-advocates want for the future?]
What needs to change over the next 10 years so that people with learning disabilities can lead good lives?