

Action from learning: Deaths of people with a learning disability from coronavirus



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About this report



On 12 November the University of Bristol published a **report** about the **deaths of 206 people** with a learning disability who died during the **coronavirus pandemic**.



The **report** talked about some of the **good things** which had happened to people with a learning disability who had **coronavirus**.



The **report** also talked about some things which were **not good**.



We will **tell you** about the things that were **not good** and tell you what we are going to do to **make them better**.

Spotting when people are getting more unwell



The **report** said that sometimes **community health and care staff** didn't know how to spot when someone was **getting more unwell**.



Sometimes **community health and care staff** did not have the **right things** to help them. For **example** the **right machines**.



What we are doing about it



We are working with **care homes** so that staff get better at **spotting when somebody with a learning disability is poorly, and getting more unwell**.

Spotting when people are getting more unwell



We are **training 5,000 paid and unpaid carers** so that they can spot when the person they support is **poorly and getting more unwell**.



We are writing some **documents to help hospital staff spot the signs** that somebody with a learning disability is **getting more unwell**.



The **documents** will say **how the signs might be different** to someone without a learning disability.

DNACPR and learning disability as a cause of death

DNACPR



DNACPR stands for **Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation**.



Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or **CPR** is when someone tries to make your heart start again if it stops.



If people **do not want CPR**, they can choose to have a **Do Not Attempt Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation recommendation** or **DNACPR**.



If you have a **DNACPR** a health professional **will not try** to start your heart if it stops.

DNACPR & learning disability as a cause of death



The **report** said that sometimes a **learning disability** was still being used as a reason not to try and resuscitate someone.



A learning disability is never a reason to not try and **resuscitate** someone.



The **report** also said that some people were still putting **learning disability** as the **reason someone died on their death certificate**.



A learning disability should never be put as the reason someone died on their death certificate.



What we are doing about it



All the way through the **coronavirus pandemic** we have been reminding doctors that a **learning disability is not a reason not to try and resuscitate someone.**

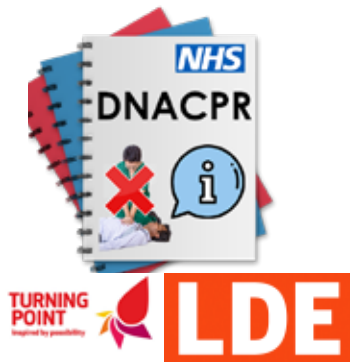


We are making sure that **GPs look at all DNACPR decisions** and make sure they are **right for each person.**



We are making sure that **staff working in health and social care get good training in caring** for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

DNACPR & learning disability as a cause of death



We have worked with **Learning Disability England** and **Turning Point** to make some **good information** for families and carers about **DNACPRs**.



We are working with a **new type of doctor called a medical examiner** to make sure that doctors use the **right words on death certificates** for people with a learning disability.



The **Care Quality Commission (CQC)** checks services like GPs, hospitals and care homes to make sure they are **giving good health and social care** to people.



The **CQC** are doing a **report** about **DNACPR** and how they were used during the coronavirus pandemic and this will come out in **Spring 2021**.

Looking at someone's learning disability instead of their health



We know that sometimes people decide **what is wrong with somebody based on their learning disability instead of the symptoms** which are making them poorly.



The **report** said that this meant some people **didn't get the treatment they needed at the right time.**



What we are doing about it



We are **working with NHS 111** to look at how they **look** at people with a learning disability. This is so we can make things **better** for people.

Looking at someone's learning disability instead of their health



We are reminding **GPs to look at all of the health issues** a person on their **learning disability register** has.



This means that people who are more likely to get **very poorly or even die from coronavirus** can be asked to take **extra care to keep themselves safe**.



We are reminding **GPs** that the **signs that someone with a learning disability is getting more unwell** might be different to someone without a learning disability.



This will help people with a learning disability **get the right care when they need it**.

Reasonable adjustments



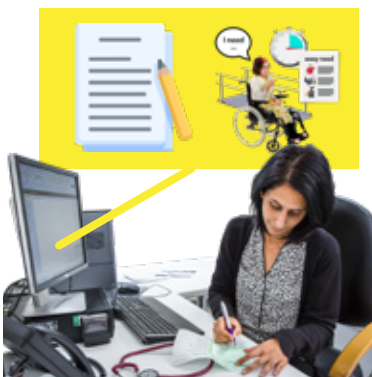
Reasonable adjustments make it **easier** for someone with a disability to **access** the **NHS services** they need to keep healthy.



The **report** said that some people **did not get the reasonable adjustments** they needed.

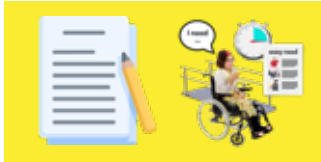


What we are doing about it



We are **working with doctors** so that they can put a **note** on the computer about the **kind of support a person with a learning disability needs**.

Reasonable adjustments



We call this **note** a **flag**. The **flag** means that other **NHS staff can read about the best way to look after you.**



During the coronavirus pandemic we made lots of information to remind **staff** who support people with a learning disability to make **reasonable adjustments.**



We made the **Grab and Go Guide** for **doctors** and **nurses.**



The **Grab and Go Guide** has information **doctors** and **nurses** will need if a person with a learning disability goes in to **hospital** because of **coronavirus.**

Reasonable adjustments



We made some **information** to help support **health services** to keep doing what they needed to during the **coronavirus pandemic**.



We sent a letter to hospitals to tell them that a **reasonable adjustment** for someone with a learning disability might be **having their family visit them**.



We have done some work to get more people to have their **flu vaccination** and their **annual health check** this year.



We have done some work to make sure that **all NHS organisations** look at **how good the care they give** to people with a learning disability is.

Reasonable adjustments



Every year the **NHS organisations** need to look at how well they are doing with **reasonable adjustments**.



The **NHS organisations** need to **ask** people who use the **services** and their families and carers, as well as staff, **what they think**.

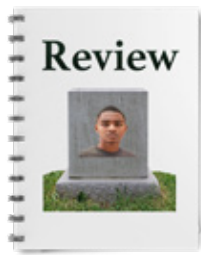


We are going to write to **NHS organisations** reminding them that they need to make **reasonable adjustments** for people with a learning disability.



We will tell **NHS organisations** that **learning disability nurses** are an **important way** of making sure that **doctors** and **nurses** make **reasonable adjustments**.

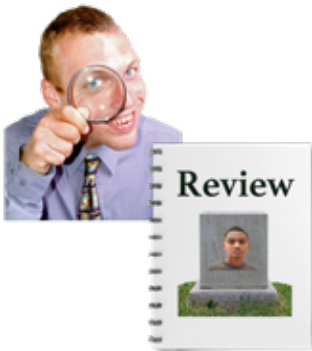
Find out more about our work



The University of Bristol work with us on the LeDeR programme.



You can find out more about their work at www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/leder



You can find out more about the NHS England and NHS Improvement learning disability and autism programme at:



www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities



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