

Friday 3rd April 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your questions and comments. We have focussed on questions which summarise a key theme from stakeholders, if you do not think we have answered your question or we have missed anything please do come back to us at: england.learning.disability@nhs.net

We will provide an update on questions and answers each Friday for the next few weeks.

Working together

We are pleased that so many of you would like to collaborate with DHSC and NHSEI on upping capacity to support people with a learning disability and autism and to work with us on the identification of gaps in information and resources.

DHSC will be working alongside NHSEI to work with you and will be in touch with you very soon to talk about what that might look like. In the meantime, please see below steps that have been taken and some of our initial thinking:

- You may be aware of the funding for the mental health consortia, which DHSC announced on Sunday. This funding was allocated to them on the understanding that they will run a light touch competitive process of the entire grant for local and national organisations in their sector. The mental health consortia will convene a panel to set out the initial criteria for the applicants of the funding with DHSC participating in that process. We anticipate pulling something similar together for learning disability and autism partners.
- We have already asked several partners operating in the learning disability, physical disabilities, complex needs and autism space to provide details of their plans to scale up the services they provide to help vulnerable people managing social isolation. We plan to continue working with partners on this as part of ongoing collaboration:
 - Those who wish to register their interest in developing a collaborative proposal with other organisations focused on boosting online and helpline capacity please do get in touch with us at the following email address: VCSsupport@dhsc.gov.uk. One of the team will then be in touch in discuss.
- In addition to this, the team at NHSEI have been able to identify current gaps in information and resources by reviewing quality information and resources already published. We would like to work with stakeholders to further develop our assessment and to talk about how we can work together to fill those gaps. Please contact jo.skinner1@nhs.net to register your interest in working with us on this.

To support collaborative working across the voluntary and independent sector, health and social care there is a weekly webinar to raise and discuss key issues for people with a learning disability and / or autism with representatives from NHS England / NHS Improvement, the Department for Health and Social Care, Public Health England and voluntary and independent sector organisations taking part.

To receive details about the webinar please contact:
england.learning.disability@nhs.net

An online collaborative workspace has been set up: Mental health, learning disability and autism COVID-19 Cell Futures platform. It is not intended for the general public, but is a space for organisational partners, commissioners and key networks to develop and share information and resources.

To join the Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism COVID-19 Cell Futures Collaboration platform please go to: <https://future.nhs.uk/MHLDAcovid19/grouphome>

Issues raised by stakeholders

We also have families being challenged by police when out with their relatives who need 2:1 or more support... Despite having letters from social workers explaining the need to be outside, they are still told to go home.

This issue has been escalated to the Department of Health and Social Care and they have advised it is being looked into and will update shortly.

Why are some doctors allegedly applying DNAR (DNACPR) for groups of people with a learning disability?

There is a clear joint statement from the Royal College of GP's [here](#)

A further letter has been sent today [here](#). You will see more focus and clarification of this issue for people with a learning disability and autism (and other groups) in coming days.

We are also advised the Royal College of GP's has been in contact with practices whose correspondence has caused concern.

Hospital admission for Covid or not – how can families prepare to make sure people are safe & the issues we know happen at the best of times are mitigated at least?

NHSE/I are working with Learning Disability England, Dimensions, National Autistic Society, Mencap, the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, Oxford Family Carers Network and NDTi, to develop a two page “hospital passport” grab guide to support hospital admissions as a result of Covid 19. The grab guides are intended to be used in conjunction with the clinical guidance about supporting people with a learning disability or autism.

We would be keen to target this information for families, individuals, advocacy organisations and care and support providers.

There were additional questions in regard to support for families; shielding and associated support which we are actively seeking clarification on and will report back further next week.

Additional information

Previous week FAQs



200331 FAQ
updated FINAL.pdf

2nd April 2020 Webinar Slides



200402 learning
disability and autism