Press Release: 29th July 2019

**Improving the Uptake of Annual Health Checks
for People with Learning Disabilities**

***National Organisations work together to help more people with a learning disability have an Annual Health Check.***

A partnership of 4 organisations are looking into what things are getting in the way of people with a learning disability having their vital Annual Health Check. Current evidence already shows that these checks identify unmet health needs and reduce inequalities however, only [53% of people with a learning disability](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/learning-disabilities/annual-health-checks/) are having their Annual Health Check. The partnership will be investigating if there are particular barriers that can be overcome before coproducing a range of resources to improve the uptake.

Funded by Health Education England (HEE South), the 4 organisations: [The National Development Team for Inclusion (NDTi)](http://www.ndti.org.uk/), [Learning Disability England (LDE),](http://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/) [Skills for Care (SFC)](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/) and [Voluntary Organisation’s Disability Group (VODG)](http://www.vodg.org.uk/) will be working together to find out what the uptake of Annual Health Checks are across the south region, and if any particular groups of people are having difficulties in getting their check.

Madeline Cooper-Ueki, Programme Lead for Learning Disabilities at NDTi, explained why the partnership feel so strongly about furthering the impact of Annual Health Checks;

***“Health inequalities are still rife, and yet, many cases are preventable, which is why Annual Health Checks are essential for people with a learning disability to find out about any health issues they may have early. Some barriers can be complex, so it’s important that we work together on this issue to fully understand how we can embed best practice in supporting people’s rights to equal healthcare”***

The research will be looking into what various groups of people already know about how to support health checks for people from age 14 onwards. This will include staff in health, education and social care, people with learning disabilities and their families or PAs as well as volunteers and community groups. Where people are aware of Health Checks the partnership will be trying to find out what support already works to help people overcome any barriers in getting to their appointments. The findings will help test out new ways to enable support that will inform a range of free best practice resources available in Summer 2020.

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**Notes to Editors:**

About the partnership organisations

**NDTi (the National Development Team for Inclusion)** is a social change organisation working to enable people at risk of exclusion, due to age or disability, to live the life they choose. Through change and development work, research and evaluation and best practice examples, they inspire and support policymakers, services and communities to make change happen - change that leads to better lives. [www.NDTi.org.uk](http://www.NDTi.org.uk)

**Learning Disability England (LDE)** exists to make life better for and with people with Learning Disabilities and their families. Led by their members, they bring together people with learning disabilities, families, friends and professionals from all over the country. [www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk](http://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk)

**Skills for Care** supports adult social care employers to deliver what the people they support need and what commissioners and regulators expect. They do this by helping employers get the best from their most valuable resource - their people. [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk)

**VODG (Voluntary Organisations Disability Group)** is a national charity that represents leading not-for-profit organisations who provide services to disabled people in ways that promote independence, choice and control. They work on behalf of members to influence the development of social care policy, build relationships with government and other key agencies, promote best practice and keep members up to date on matters that affect service delivery. [www.vodg.org.uk](http://www.vodg.org.uk)