



Learning Disability and Autism Programme

Friday 2nd July 2021

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 if we have missed anything, please do come back to us at: england.learning.disability@nhs.net

Key topics this week:

- COVID-19 Vaccination
- Health Inequalities

Updates from NHS England and NHS Improvement:

- **COVID-19 Vaccination:**

The vaccination of children is still being considered by JCVI and we are awaiting the results of their deliberations. At present the only children usually recommended to be vaccinated are those as outlined in the Green Book. Once a policy announcement has been made regarding this, NHS England will enact its plans on how to vaccinate this cohort and if CEV children are recommended to be vaccinated, it would be primarily through general practice supported by pharmacy and vaccination centres.

Question and Answer:

Question from webinar: Is there any correlation between annual health check rates and a decline in avoidable/ premature mortality?

- **Answer from NHS England and NHS Improvement:** The below extracts are copied and pasted from the LeDeR annual report
“Information about whether the person had received an annual health check was reported for 5,850 deaths of adults for whom a review of their death had been completed.
- Overall, approximately three-quarters of adults had had a learning disability annual health check in the year before they died. There was little variation across the years.
- Whether a person had received an annual health check was significantly associated with their age and their level of learning disability.
- People aged 18-24 years, or those with mild learning disabilities were less likely to have received an annual health check in the year prior to their death.

- Several variables were significantly associated with the likelihood of dying aged 18-49 years: Not having had an annual health check in the previous year (1.5 times greater).”

Question from webinar: One of the things we've been concerned about during the pandemic is whether people got the treatment they needed for COVID - for example we have seen a few worrying examples which suggest people may not have got treatments due to either assessment of their care needs, or assumptions that they may not 'tolerate' particular treatments. We couldn't see anything in the report about these issues - do you know if they came up at all in reviews? Or if this is something that reviewers looked for at all?

- **Answer from NHS England and NHS Improvement:** Additional points for exploration and clarification relating to the episode of care prior to the person's death were introduced for LeDeR reviews of all deaths which occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. This includes questions about whether there were any issues with service provision and what reasonable adjustments were made. The University of Bristol report includes a summary of indicators of the quality of care provided, including examples of good practice and problematic aspects of care provision. The report does not specifically reference examples such as those you have provided. Other useful sources of information about the deaths of people with a learning disability from COVID-19 include the [University of Bristol COVID-19 report](#) and [Public Health England COVID-19 report](#)

Question from Webinar: Could we be linking into the NHSEI health inequality observatory

- **Answer from NHS England and NHS Improvement:** In our recently published [NHS England and NHS Improvement LeDeR Action from Learning report](#) we made the following commitment: “We are concerned about the health inequalities that the University of Bristol continues to identify in its LeDeR annual reports, and will be commissioning the Race and Health Observatory to work with us to understand what further action we can take to tackle these health inequalities.”

Question from Webinar: We are seeing a number of people through our local LeDeR of people not known to the GP, so not on the register and therefore not called for health check

- **Answer from NHS England and NHS Improvement:** Improving accuracy and completeness has been specifically highlighted in the Quality Outcomes Framework. We are focused this year on improving quality, particularly for those people who haven't been called for a health check. Our expression of interest offer for secondary and primary care Annual Health Check exemplars seeks to reach out to those living independently, not known to local practices.

Updates from the Department of Health and Social Care:

Question and Answer:

Question from Webinar: Are we able to have sight of the regulations on mandatory vaccinations for staff in care settings?

- **Answer from the Department of Health and Social Care:** Yes – the regulations are online here:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2021/9780348224993>

Question from Webinar: Is there any chance of all easy read guidance being collated or shared coherently? A systematic approach would be very helpful.

- **Answer from the Department of Health and Social Care:** We are currently looking at the best way to collate and share all social care related easy read guidance.

Question from Webinar: When is there likely to be guidance for families of clinically extremely vulnerable disabled children, who are still isolating?

- **Answer from the Department of Health and Social Care:** Shielding was paused on 1 April 2021. Clinically extremely vulnerable people are advised to take the extra precautions provided by the Government to reduce their chance of infection, and must continue to follow the regulations that are in place for everyone. While we advise all clinically extremely vulnerable people to continue to be cautious, this is particularly important for individuals who are immunocompromised or immunosuppressed as they are less able to fight infections naturally.

Published resources:

- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/reasonable-adjustments/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/if-you-cannot-get-an-nhs-covid-pass-letter-easy-read>
- Easy read guidance on "How to stop the spread of Coronavirus" - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-stop-the-spread-of-coronavirus-covid-19>
- [Care home residents can stay overnight as visiting restrictions ease - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-home-residents-can-stay-overnight-as-visiting-restrictions-ease)
- Link to information on mandatory vaccination for care home workers (not easy read): [Everyone working in care homes to be fully vaccinated under new law to protect residents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/everyone-working-in-care-homes-to-be-fully-vaccinated-under-new-law-to-protect-residents)

Future webinars

The next webinar will be on 21st July. If there is a specific theme you would like to discuss or present please let us know.