

## Government Response

### [Mental Capacity small payments scheme](#)

The results of the Mental Capacity Act small payments scheme announced. The consultation paper 'Mental capacity Act small payments scheme' was published on 16 November 2021. It invited people to give their views on the possibility of a small payments scheme. If agreed, the scheme would have made it easier to access small amounts of money (less than £2,500) of people who lack capacity but do not have a Court of protection Order (CoP) or Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA). This would have been beneficial, especially for family members and carers of people with learning disabilities and autistic people. It was decided that a small payments scheme would not be introduced.

## Review

### [SEND review: right support, right place, right time](#)

This update added 'Independent analysis of the consultation responses to the SEND review: right support, right place, right time' and a link to the SEND and alternative provision improvement plan.

## News

### [Improving voter turnout of people with learning disabilities](#)

A coalition of disability charities have come together to launch a new campaign, My Vote My Voice. The campaign comes after research revealed that voter turnout of people with learning disabilities is 40% lower than that of the general population. Now, with new legislation requiring voters to bring photo ID to the polling booth, disability charities are concerned that even more people with learning disabilities will not be able to vote. The campaign is run by a coalition of disability charities: Dimensions, United Response, Mencap and Ambitious About Autism.

### [Voting Resources](#)

Accessible resources and information to help you use your vote or support others to use theirs in the upcoming elections.

### [Doctors with autism speak out against stigma](#)

Autistic clinicians have long hid their diagnosis from colleagues, but some are beginning to share their stories to ignite change.

### [Autism assessment waiting times](#)

140,000 people were waiting for an autism assessment in England in December 2022, new [NHS data](#) has revealed. This is a 40% increase in the number of people waiting in just one year. NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidance states that no-one should wait longer than three months between being referred and first being seen. But this data shows that the vast majority of people 86% (121,000 people) have been waiting longer than 13 weeks.

### [“Thousands” of families being failed by SEND system](#)

Roughly a quarter (24%) of parents of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) described the support in their area as poor or very poor, according to a new survey. Under a third (30%) said the support they were receiving was ‘adequate’ while just 42% described it as ‘good’. The [polling](#), which was conducted by Opinium on behalf of ITV News Anglia, included responses from 500 parents.

### [Transformational reform begins for children and young people with SEND](#)

Children and young people across England with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) or in alternative provision (AP) will get high-quality, early support wherever they live in the country. The [SEND and AP improvement plan](#) confirms investment in training for thousands of workers so children can get the help they need earlier, alongside thousands of additional specialist school places for those with the greatest needs.

### [Thousands with learning disabilities trapped in hospital, some for years](#)

Thousands of people with learning disabilities are stuck in long-stay hospitals because of a lack of psychological support and overly complicated treatment systems, according to research. [The report](#) from the University of Birmingham and rights-based organisation [Changing Our Lives](#) has been released in conjunction with an exhibition from the subversive street artist Foka Wolf titled Why are we stuck in hospital?