challenging behaviour
Learning Disabilities and Autism
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life
mental capacity   **research**
health information
intellectual disabilities   **carers**

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

8 October 2024

Studies

[Constructions of "female autism" in professional practices: A Foucauldian discourse analysis](#)
The rapid rise of literature concerned with "female autism" warrants critical analysis due to its implications for women and girls and understandings of neurodiversity. We sought to explore these implications, as well as broader institutional and ideological ramifications, through examining how female autism is constructed in professional practices.

[Online Parent-mediated Home-based Intervention for Children with Autism During COVID-19 Pandemic, Caregiver's Experience](#)
During the COVID-19 pandemic, many caregivers of children with autism faced significant challenges when it came to providing interventions. Studies done so far have proven the efficacy of parent-mediated interventions in children with ASD. COVID pandemic forced to use online platforms for training parents in various parent-mediated interventions. Therefore, we conducted a study on the utility of online parent-mediated home-based intervention for children with autism.

[Autistic individuals benefit from gestures during degraded speech comprehension](#)
Our study explored how meaningful hand gestures, alongside spoken words, can help autistic individuals to understand speech, especially when the speech quality is poor, such as when there is a lot of noise around.

[Stitching Together a PAR Project: "Work Active"—Supporting the Journey to Work for People With an Intellectual Disability](#)
Critically reflecting on research practice can be an uncomfortable process for any researcher as you expose actions, and decision-making, reflect on some of the research assumptions you may have fallen into, and acknowledge your limitations. Yet, engaging in reflexive practice keeps us in check and is particularly important for researchers exploring the experiences of marginalization and oppression. This article presents our reflections on "Work Active," a participatory action research (PAR) project that sought to improve employment outcomes for people with intellectual disability (ID).

[Video-audio neural network ensemble for comprehensive screening of autism spectrum disorder in young children](#)
A timely diagnosis of autism is paramount to allow early therapeutic intervention in preschoolers. Deep Learning tools have been increasingly used to identify specific autistic symptoms. But they also offer opportunities for broad automated detection of autism at an early age. Here, we leverage a multi-modal approach by combining two neural networks trained on video and audio features of semi-standardized social interactions in a sample of 160 children aged 1 to 5 years old.

[Autistic and schizotypal traits exhibit similarities in their impact on mentalization and adult attachment impairments: a cross-sectional study](#)
Deficits in mentalizing and attachment occur in the autism and schizophrenia spectrum, and their extended traits in the general population. Parental attachment and the broader social environment highly influence the development of mentalizing. Given the similarities in the symptomatology and neurodevelopmental correlates of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and schizophrenia (SCH), it is crucial to identify their overlaps and differences to support screening, differential diagnosis, and intervention.

Learning Disabilities and Autism
challenging behaviour
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life
mental capacity
intellectual disabilities
research
health information
carers

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

8 October 2024

[Anxiety in children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder: behavioural phenotypes and environmental factors](#)
Anxiety is the most prevalent comorbidity among children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), yet little is known about the associated risk factors.

[Screening tools for autism in culturally and linguistically diverse paediatric populations: a systematic review](#)
Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has varying prevalence rates worldwide, often higher in culturally diverse populations. Cultural differences can affect autism symptom recognition. Language barriers and differing healthcare attitudes may delay diagnosis and intervention. Most autism screening tools were developed in Western, predominantly Caucasian populations, and their appropriateness in culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) contexts remains uncertain. There is a lack of comprehensive data on the accuracy of these tools in identifying autism in culturally and linguistically diverse groups. Consequently, it is unclear whether current screening tools are culturally sensitive and appropriate.

[A 3D approach to understanding heterogeneity in early developing autisms](#)
Phenotypic heterogeneity in early language, intellectual, motor, and adaptive functioning (LIMA) features are amongst the most striking features that distinguish different types of autistic individuals. Yet the current diagnostic criteria uses a single label of autism and implicitly emphasizes what individuals have in common as core social-communicative and restricted repetitive behavior difficulties. Subtype labels based on the non-core LIMA features may help to more meaningfully distinguish types of autism with differing developmental paths and differential underlying biology.

Briefings
[Mental health and learning disabilities services: the role of the independent sector](#)
A look at the role and value of the independent sector in mental health and learning disabilities services, with examples of initiatives developed.

Webinars
[Webinar recording: The UK PBS Alliance – How we support communities](#)
The UK PBS Alliance is a partnership of organisations focused on improving quality of life of people whose behaviour may challenge services, and those providing support. Facilitated by Bild, the PBS Alliance is a network of the Association for Positive Behaviour Support.

News
[Number of autistic people in mental health hospitals: latest data](#)
The latest monthly Assuring Transformation NHS Digital data shows that in August 2024:
- In total 2,015 autistic people and people with learning disabilities are in inpatient mental health hospitals in England
- 1,365 (68%) of these people are autistic
- There are 190 under 18s in inpatient units that are autistic or have a learning disability. Of these, 95% are autistic.

Learning Disabilities and Autism
challenging behaviour
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life
mental capacity
health information
intellectual disabilities
research
carers

NHS
Mersey Care
NHS Foundation Trust

8 October 2024

[Self-reported disability rate among care leavers double that recorded by councils, finds research](#)
Charity also finds widespread disparities in recorded disability rates among children in care and care leavers and warns under-recording means young people's needs are not properly understood.

[NHS rolls out free eyesight, hearing and dental checks for children at residential special schools](#)
Autistic children and young people and those with a learning disability are often more likely to experience eyesight, hearing and dental problems than their peers and may also find it much harder to tell people if they are having any problems, or whether it is getting worse or causing them pain.

["We speak a lot about what it means to lead good lives but not much about what it means to have a good death"](#)
We speak a lot about what it means to lead good lives but not much about what it means to have a good death. People find death more difficult to talk about.

[New guide to increase awareness of autism and menopause](#)
It's Menopause Awareness Month. To help increase understanding of autism and menopause, we are launching a new downloadable guide offering advice and guidance for autistic people who are going through menopause or perimenopause.

[The first season of Spectrum Sessions is out now!](#)
This season's guests include Lewis Gribben (Actor), David Nicholson (Musician), Chris Carse Wilson (Author), Katie Forbes (Founder of Autistic Flair), and Nuala MacDonald (BBC Documentary Star) Tune in for some candid discussions about the guests' diagnosis journeys, experiences in school, and their reflections on what it means to be autistic.

[Ombudsman's review of adult social care complaints highlights "systemic problems that cannot be ignored"](#)
The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review of Adult Social Care Complaints for 2023-2024 has revealed that the Ombudsman received 2,982 complaints over the past year, with over 80% of complaints upheld. Key areas of concern over the past year have been delays in the assessment of people's needs, and a failure to put people at the centre of their care, instead fitting that care in with council and providers' systems.

[Relationships and intimacy](#)
Navigating relationships as an autistic young person can be challenging and for some, this can have a negative impact on mental health and wellbeing. It is important for autistic young people to have their social needs met and to be able access information about intimacy and sex education. On this page, we have gathered blogs and resources to explore relationships and intimacy.

[Disabled children in care missing out on vital support, report reveals](#)
Disabled children in care and those who have recently left care are missing out on vital support and are widely overlooked in national statistics, according to a new report published by the Coram Institute for Children.

Learning Disabilities and Autism

challenging behaviour
Asperger Syndrome
quality of life
mental capacity
health information
intellectual disabilities
research
carers

NHS Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust

8 October 2024

[Government urged to put disabled children at the heart of new policies](#)
The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) and the Disabled Children's Partnership are calling on the government to put disabled children and young people at the heart of government policy making.

[Programme launches to support those innovating for the disabled and neurodiverse communities](#)
Tech Nation and Motability Operations have launched Creo, the first dedicated UK programme for founders with disabilities and those innovating for the disabled and neurodiverse communities.