

## Studies

### [Autism spectrum disorder \(ASD\) presentations among referrals to a child and adolescent mental health service \(CAMHS\) inpatient unit in Ireland](#)

This retrospective chart review aimed to identify the intersection between young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)'s needs and CAMHS inpatient service needs.

### ['It's designed for someone who is not me': A reflexive thematic analysis of the unmet healthcare support needs in UK autistic adults aged 65 years and over](#)

Autistic people are more likely to experience physical and mental health difficulties across the lifespan, leading to an increased risk of premature mortality likely due to health disparities. At present, little is known about the healthcare experiences of autistic older adults.

### [Factors underlying differences in knowledge, explicit stigma and implicit biases towards autism across Hong Kong, the United Kingdom and the United States](#)

A growing literature suggests that there is cross-cultural variation in levels of autism-related stigma, which may partially be explained by differences in cultural orientation or autism-related knowledge between countries. This literature has relied heavily on self-report measures of explicit attitudes towards autism; little research has examined implicit biases, and whether these implicit biases vary across cultures.

### [Social Cognitive Processes in Children With Specific Learning Disorder: The Importance of Language](#)

Children with specific learning disorder (SLD) have poor academic skills, but they also experience difficulties with their peers, including an inability to recognize interpersonal conflict, infer emotion, and resolve social conflict. In addition, children with SLD are known to have problems with language. The importance of language to social cognition is well-established in research with children with typical and atypical development.

### [Care and choice architecture: Relatives' support for adults with intellectual disabilities in supported decision-making processes](#)

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) describes supported decision making as a fundamental human right. This study explores relatives' experiences, dilemmas, as well as key factors in supported decision-making processes with adults with intellectual disabilities living in municipal housing.

### [Parent-Led Applied Behavior Analysis to Impact Clinical Outcomes for Individuals on the Autism Spectrum: Retrospective Chart Review](#)

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can have traits that impact multiple domains of functioning and quality of life, which can persevere throughout life. To mitigate the impact of ASD on the long-term trajectory of an individual's life, it is imperative to seek early and adequate treatment via scientifically validated approaches, of which applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the gold standard. ABA treatment must be delivered via a behavior technician with oversight from a board-certified behavior analyst. However, shortages in certified ABA therapists create treatment access barriers for individuals on the autism spectrum. Increased ASD prevalence demands innovations for treatment delivery. Parent-led treatment models for neurodevelopmental conditions are effective yet underutilized and may be used to fill this care gap.

### [Adverse food reactions and alterations in nutritional status in children with autism spectrum disorders: results of the NAFRA project](#)

To assess the adverse food reactions (AFR) prevalence in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and in non-ASD healthy controls (NASD). Nutritional status alterations, food selectivity and adherence to Mediterranean Diet (MD) were also evaluated.

### [Outcome Measures in intellectual disability: A Review and narrative synthesis of validated instruments](#)

Outcome measurement is essential to determine the effectiveness of health interventions and improve the quality of services. The interplay of social, individual, and biological factors makes this a complex process in the psychiatry of people with intellectual disability (PwID).

### [Mobile App-Assisted Parent Training Intervention for Behavioral Problems in Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder: Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial](#)

In children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), problem behaviors play a dysfunctional role, causing as much difficulty with daily living and adjustment as the core symptoms. If such behaviors are not effectively addressed, they can result in physical, economic, and psychological issues not only for the individual but also for family members.

### [Assessment of Acceptability, Usage, and Impact on Caregivers of Children With Autism's Stress and Mindfulness: Multiple-Method Feasibility Study of the 5Minutes4Myself App's Mindfulness Module](#)

Caregiver wellness programs need to be easily accessible to address caregivers' constraints to participation. We aimed to assess the feasibility of 5Minutes4Myself app's mindfulness module (usability, usage, and impact on caregivers' levels of mindfulness and perceived stress).

### [Autistic traits foster effective curiosity-driven exploration](#)

Curiosity-driven exploration involves actively engaging with the environment to learn from it. Here, we hypothesize that the cognitive mechanisms underlying exploratory behavior may differ across individuals depending on personal characteristics such as autistic traits. In turn, this variability might influence successful exploration.

### [Acceptability testing of the Carers-ID intervention to support the mental health of family carers of people with profound and multiple intellectual disabilities](#)

Providing care and support for a person with intellectual disabilities can be challenging and may negatively impact on family carers' health and wellbeing. A online support programme was co-designed with charitable organisations and family carers, to help meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of family carers.

## Reports

### ['Not a Priority' highlights crisis in autism assessment and support](#)

A new report by Autistica illuminates a postcode lottery in autism diagnosis, waiting lists most commonly years long rather than weeks, and autistic people being sent away after diagnosis with a website in lieu of formal support.

## Webinars

### [Webinar Recording: The Impact of Missed Opportunities](#)

IMPACT, in partnership with Bild, were able to host a free webinar to launch 'Homes not hospitals: the impact of missed opportunities' film. The film is a collaboration following a UK-wide Impact Network focused on long-stay hospitals. Bild, CAN (Compass Advocacy Network), In Control Scotland and MacIntyre acted as local Impact Network Coordinators across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with people with lived experience, family-carers, providers, commissioners and researchers coming together to identify practical solutions.

## Blogs

### ["Our NHS is broken, but not beaten. Together we can fix it"](#)

Blog by Ivan Olbrechts and James O'Rourke – Family and Friends Representatives of Learning Disability England.

## News

### [Positive assessment rates for autism vary widely between parts of England](#)

Children and adults seeking an autism diagnosis in England are up to almost seven times more likely to receive one in some NHS foundation trusts than others, according to research.

### [National Audit Office report: Support for children and young people with special educational needs](#)

A National Audit Office (NAO) report published today highlights that the special educational needs system is in urgent need of reform with declining confidence in the system.

### [Why we need to understand](#)

With public awareness of autism at an all-time high of 99% then surely, as the saying goes, our work here is done? Yet autistic people still face some of the greatest inequalities of any group in society.

### [Joint call to end an 'avoidable and devastating crisis' of autism diagnosis waiting times](#)

Autism charities have today made a joint call for urgent action to end the avoidable and devastating crisis affecting tens of thousands of people waiting for a diagnosis.

### [Our response to the Care Quality Commission State of Care report](#)

Tim Nicholls, Assistant Director of Policy, Research & Strategy at the National Autistic Society, said: "Today's Care Quality Commission report is yet more proof of the unacceptable health inequalities faced by autistic people."

### [Our top tips: Use your SENSES for an autism-friendly Bonfire Night](#)

The National Autistic Society is encouraging people to be sensory-aware during Bonfire Night celebrations this year by using your **SENSES**.

### [Our response to the Autumn Budget](#)

The National Autistic Society has welcomed several announcements made in today's Autumn Budget.



### [Working Together to Stay Well](#)

On 17th October 2024, co-chairs Viki Baker and Dr. Ashok Roy opened the Learning Disability Professional Senate Learning and Listening event "Working Together to Stay Well". The event focused on sharing research and best practice to improve health outcomes for children and adults with a learning disability with a focus on people working together.

### [CBF response to CQC State of Care report 2024](#)

Children and adults with severe learning disabilities, and their families, rely on education, health and social care systems to provide support and services to enable them to live a good quality of life. On 25th October 2024, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) published their most recent State of Care report, which looks at the state of health and social care in England in 2023/24. The report identifies that people with a learning disability are still facing significant health inequalities and many are not receiving high-quality, person-centred support. Failure to deliver the right support in the right place in the right time can result in inappropriate inpatient admission, with a high human and financial cost.

### [First-episode psychosis more likely in neurodivergent people](#)

Incidences of first-episode psychosis are higher in people with neurodivergent conditions, such as autism and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), according to new research.

### [New research highlights crisis in autism assessment and support](#)

More than 187,500 people are currently waiting for an autism assessment in England, with waiting lists reaching five-and-a-half years in some areas.

### [SEND system in urgent need of reform, says NAO](#)

The soaring demand for support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) has put the system in a 'financially unsustainable' position, according to a new report by the National Audit Office (NAO).

### ['Scandalous' gaps in autism care, finds State of Care report](#)

Four leading autism charities have joined forces to call on the government for urgent action to end the avoidable and devastating crisis affecting tens of thousands of people waiting for an autism diagnosis and who receive poor care.

### [People with a learning disability "written off" during pandemic, Mencap tells Covid Inquiry](#)

People with a learning disability were 'written off' during the pandemic, with many refused lifesaving care simply because of their disability, according to new evidence shared by Mencap at the Covid Inquiry.

### [Study reveals 'major lack of consistency' in service provision for people with epilepsy and learning disability](#)

There is a 'major lack of consistency' in service provision for people with epilepsy and a learning disability in England, according to new research published in BJPsych Open.

### ['Chronic' DoLS backlogs leaving many without human rights protections, warns CQC](#)

"Chronic" Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) backlogs are leaving many people without the human rights protections the system was designed to provide, the Care Quality Commission has warned.



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



**NHS**  
Mersey Care  
NHS Foundation Trust

5 November 2024

[Contribution of special needs schools to education sector focus of Lords debate](#)

On Thursday 24 October, members of the House of Lords considered the contribution of special needs schools and specialist education colleges to the education sector.

[New accessible clothing brand launches to address the lack of adaptive fashion choices for disabled individuals](#)

Former nurse and clothing upcycler Rachel Thompson has recently launched an adaptive fashion brand, Adapted Trends Clothing UK, to give wheelchair users and young people with special educational needs functional and fashionable clothing.

