



A uniform approach: Easy Read literature review



This is an Easy Read version of the literature review for *A uniform approach*.



We have written some Easy Read information that tells you what the project is about.

You can read it on our website www.changingourlives.org/a-uniform-approach



Literature means reports that are written about research. In this literature review we also write about other reports, such as reports written by nurses about their job.



Review means to look back at something and find out what it tells us.

In a **literature review** we read lots of reports about a topic to find out what they tell us all together.



For this literature review we read reports about the care that people with learning disabilities get in acute hospitals.



An acute hospital is the type of hospital where you go for an operation or if you have an accident or emergency.



In this review we talk about health outcomes. A health outcome is something that we can measure about people's health, like how many people get better from an illness.



We also talk about acute liaison nurses. These are learning disability nurses in hospital.



In this literature review we tried to find the answer to 4 questions.



1. What are the ways that people with learning disabilities get poorer health care in acute hospitals?



2. What things change the health outcomes of people with learning disabilities in hospital?



3. Do some people with learning disabilities get poorer health care than other people with learning disabilities?



4. Do acute liaison nurses change the health outcomes of people with learning disabilities?



1. What are the ways that people with learning disabilities get poorer health care in acute hospitals?



The reports told us that people with learning disabilities die earlier than people who are not disabled.



People with learning disabilities are more likely to die in hospital than people who are not disabled.



They are more likely to go to hospital for something that can be treated at home like asthma or diabetes.



One report said that for more than 10 years people have been writing about health care for people with learning disabilities and not much has changed.



Lots of reports said that people with learning disabilities are not cared as well for or kept as safe as other people in hospital.



People with learning disabilities were more likely to go to hospital with COVID-19 or die from COVID-19.



One report showed that people with learning disabilities with COVID-19 got worse care in hospital than people who were not disabled.

This meant people with learning disabilities were much more likely to die of COVID-19.



Many people think this is because people with learning disabilities are not respected as much as other people in the UK.



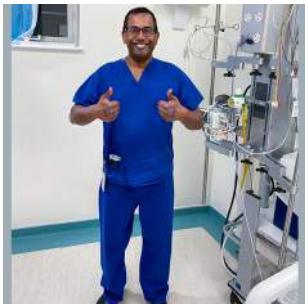
How can acute liaison nurses help?



They need to be part of the work that is happening to make healthcare fairer for all people with learning disabilities.



They need to work with healthcare workers in the community, like GPs or community learning disability nurses.



They need to help make sure that all staff in hospitals, not just learning disability nurses, give good care to people with learning disabilities.



They need to use human rights in their work and speak up about the way that people with learning disabilities are treated.



2. What things change the health outcomes of people with learning disabilities in hospital?



The way that staff in hospitals think about people with learning disabilities leads to poorer healthcare.



Some staff think that people with learning disabilities are more difficult to care for.
Some staff are not confident to work with people with learning disabilities.



Some staff do not know about people's rights, or the law that protects disabled people's rights.



Things like hospital passports are not being used in the same way for all people.



This means that some things which are meant to make health care fairer for people with learning disabilities don't work very well.



One study said that Annual Health Checks help people to stay healthy and stay out of hospital.



It is also important for hospital staff to know how to communicate with people with learning disabilities.



Family carers and paid supporters help hospital staff to communicate with people.
Carers and supporters also help because they knew lots about the person and their health.



How can acute liaison nurses help?



They cannot be the only experts in the hospital. Everyone needs to know about good care for people with learning disabilities.



They need to train other staff in the hospital about the rights of people with learning disabilities.



They need to help with research about making healthcare better.

They need to use this research to make care better in the hospitals where they work.



They need to train other staff about how to communicate with people with learning disabilities.



They need to help carers and supporters to share what they know with other hospital staff.



3. Do some people with learning disabilities get poorer healthcare than other people with learning disabilities?



People who don't have a family carer or a paid support worker with them in hospital may get worse health care.



They often find it difficult to understand their care, or speak up for themselves.



People who live in the North of England have worse health outcomes than people in other parts of England.



People from minority ethnic communities are less likely to be included in research about health.



This means we know less about the health of people with learning disabilities from minority ethnic communities.



People get worse healthcare because of their disability and because of racism.



People with profound and multiple disabilities have worse health outcomes than other people with learning disabilities.



People who are labelled as having 'challenging behaviour' or 'complex needs' get worse healthcare than other people or get sent home from hospital without being treated.



Some reports said that children with learning disabilities got better healthcare than adults with learning disabilities.



But they still got worse healthcare than children who are not disabled.



What does this mean for the *Uniform Approach* project?



This project will focus on

- people with learning disabilities from minority ethnic communities,



- people with profound and multiple learning disabilities,
- people whose care is labelled 'complex' or 'challenging' by staff



- and people who go to hospital alone.



We will look at hospital care all over England.



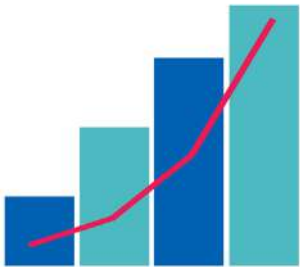
We will look at the difference between hospital care for children and adults.



4. Do acute liaison nurses change the health outcomes of people with learning disabilities?



Most people with learning disabilities and family carers who had met an acute liaison nurse said that they were helpful.



Lots of reports said that there need to be more acute liaison nurses in hospitals.



One report said that hospitals with acute liaison nurses are better at treating people with learning disabilities well.



But it is difficult to tell from the research what difference acute liaison nurses make to people's health.



This is partly because acute liaison nurses in different hospitals do their job in different ways to each other.



Some health staff, like other nurses, feel more confident to give good care to people with learning disabilities if they are trained by an acute liaison nurses.



But it is important that hospital managers respect the work of acute liaison nurses.



Some reports said that if other health staff don't listen to acute liaison nurses, then it is difficult for them to make health better for people with learning disabilities.



What can hospital trusts and acute liaison nurses do to help?



They need to help with research that finds out if acute liaison nurses make healthcare better for people with learning disabilities.



There needs to be clear information about the job of the acute liaison nurse that is shared across England. This is what *A Uniform Approach* is going to do.



Hospital trusts need to include the work of acute liaison nurses in their plans for making patient safety and health outcomes better.



Acute liaison nurses need support to become leaders in hospitals.