



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

What we know about

Access to Health and Social Care Services

Wales June 2021



What is this study about?



This study is about coronavirus (also called COVID-19) and people with learning disabilities.



We talked to nearly 600 adults with learning disabilities. We talked to people living in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. **We talked to 183 people in Wales**

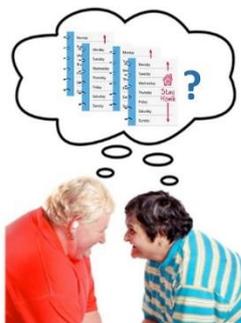


Nearly 300 family carers or paid supporters of people with severe or profound multiple learning disabilities also gave us information. This includes 51 people in Wales



This report is about what we have found so far.

Going to see a doctor



We asked people what had happened in the last 4 weeks



8% of people with a learning disability had hospital appointment cancelled



5% of people with a learning disability had health tests cancelled

Health checks and flu vaccines



40% of people with a learning disability we talked to had had an annual health check since the start of 2021.
33% people with severe or profound learning disabilities had an health check since the start of 2021



About two third (63%) of people with learning disabilities had their flu vaccine in Winter 2020/2021

Seeing doctors, therapists and social workers

People with a learning disability we talked to told us that in the last four weeks:-



33% of people with a learning disability told us they had seen or talked to their GP



13% of people with a learning disability told us they had seen or talked to their community or learning disability nurse



13% of people with a learning disability told us they had seen or talked to their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor



36% of people with a learning disability told us they had seen or talked to their social worker

Seeing doctors, therapists and social workers

Family cares or support staff said in the last four weeks:



38% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their GP



25% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their community nurse



19% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor



23% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their social worker

Day services, community activities and college

People with a learning disability we talked to told us that in the last four weeks:



37% of people with a learning disability who usually used a day service told us they had been there



61% of people with a learning disability told us they had taken part in organised community activities like a club or a quiz



10% of people with a learning disability told us they had been to college



7% of people with a learning disability told us they had short breaks or respite



51% of people with a learning disability told us they had taken part in advocacy groups online

Day services, community activities and college

Family cares or support staff said in the last four weeks:



23% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had been to day services



17% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had taken part in community activities like a club or a quiz



19% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had been to college



13% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had short breaks or respite



15% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had taken part in advocacy groups online

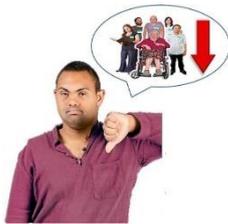
Changes to support



We spoke to 138 people who said they used services before lockdown. We wanted to know about services before lockdown and services after lockdown.



Most, 71%, said they did not know what might change but 17% of people with a learning disability said their services were going to go back to normal.



9% of people with a learning disability said their services were going to be less than normal.



2% of people with a learning disability said their services were going to be more than normal.



People with a learning disability wanted to meet with their social workers and other professionals.



People with learning disabilities wanted access again to day and community activities.

Changes to support

People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



48 people said the person they cared for used services before lockdown. We wanted to know about services before lockdown and services after lockdown.



About two thirds said they did not know what might change now but services were going back to normal for 15% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities



Services were going to be less than normal for 19% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities



Services were going to be more than normal for 2% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities



People with severe or profound learning disabilities wanted day care or access to activities in the community

Direct payments

People with a learning disability we talked to told us:



24% of people with a learning disability had a direct payment



About one in five people with a learning disability (17%) felt they were paying for services that they were **not** getting

Direct payments

People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



40% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had a direct payment



Half the people told us they felt the person with severe or profound learning disabilities was paying for services that they were **not** getting

What happens next?



We are still talking with people with learning disabilities about COVID-19

September 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

We will tell people what we found out in September

Research team contact details

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