

Easy Read

## Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study (Wales)

### What we found out from the first part of the study September 2020 to March 2021



Who has been doing this study?



April 2021

## What we know so far from Wales (March 2021)

### What is this study about?



This study is about coronavirus (also called COVID-19) and people with learning disabilities. It is a UK study, but this report is only about the situation in Wales



We talked to 149 adults with learning disabilities living in Wales. 7 people lived with a partner, 31 people lived alone (with or without support), and 69 lived with their families. 6 were in Shared Lives and 36 lived with other people with a learning disability (with or without support)



77 family carers or paid supporters of people with severe or profound multiple learning disabilities also gave us information through an online survey.

71 people completing the survey were family carers but only half of the people were living with their relative with a learning disability.



This report is about what we have found so far.

## People with learning disabilities who had COVID-19



67 people with learning disabilities had been tested for COVID-19.



10 of those tested said they had a positive test result.

Another 12 people said they thought they had had COVID-19 but had not been tested



About 1 in 4 of the people who tested positive or thought that they had had COVID-19 went to hospital.

## Many people with learning disabilities knew someone who died from COVID-19



32 people told us that they knew people who had died from COVID-19.

## COVID-19 and physical health



Around 1 in 4 people with severe or profound learning disabilities now had poorer physical health than before March 2020.



Over half the people (130 people) had a health condition that made them worry about getting COVID-19.

## Worries about COVID-19



Most people with learning disabilities were worried about getting COVID-19.

Most people with learning disabilities were more worried about their family and friends getting COVID-19.

1 in 3 people with learning disabilities were very worried about going out.

## COVID-19 vaccine



People with learning disabilities in Wales can now have the COVID-19 vaccine.

More than 8 out of 10 people with learning disabilities said they would have the vaccine.

## Support in the last year



People with learning disabilities are getting less help with their health.

My  
health check



Only 4 out of 10 people with learning disabilities in this study had their annual health check.



About 1 in 4 people with learning disabilities had health appointments cancelled.



Community activities, day and respite support stopped for nearly all people with learning disabilities.



## Wellbeing



Many people with learning disabilities felt angry or frustrated.



Many people with learning disabilities felt sad or down.



Many people with learning disabilities felt worried or anxious.



Family carers and paid support staff told us they were finding life hard.



Family carers and paid support staff said it was hard to sleep.



Family carers and paid support staff said they were stressed.

## Employment



About 1 in 5 people said they worried a lot about work in the future.

43 people we spoke to said they had a job before going into lockdown. Only half of those were still working.

## Friends and family



Most people had fewer visitors.

People were not allowed to visit because of COVID-19.



Most people with learning disabilities we talked to were keeping in touch with family and friends.



Most people with learning disabilities we talked to used the internet.

## What happens next?



We want to find out more about people with learning disabilities and COVID-19.

We still will talk to people and for people to complete our online survey. If you would like to help us or want to know about the study you can contact:



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For more information or advice about any aspect of this study, you can also contact:

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