

# Coronavirus and people with a learning disability study

Newsletter – Summer 2021



University of  
South Wales  
Prifysgol  
De Cymru



Learning Disability Wales  
Anabudd Dysgu Cymru



CARDIFF  
UNIVERSITY  
PRIFYSGOL  
CAERDYDD

# What this newsletter is about



The **Coronavirus and people with a learning disability study** is a project to find out how coronavirus has changed the lives of people with a learning disability.

The project works across the UK, but this newsletter is just about Wales.



We want to say thank you for taking part in the study over the past year.



This newsletter tells you about what we have done, and what we are going to do.

## December 2020 – February 2021



We talked to 149 people in Wales with a learning disability.

We asked them about their lives and how it had changed because of Coronavirus.



90 family carers and support staff filled out a survey.

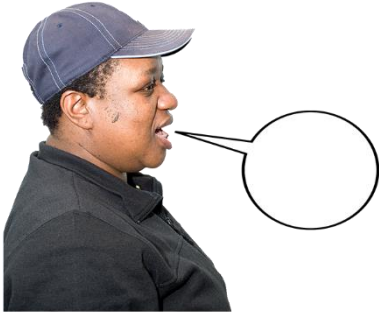
They told us how the lives of the people they support had changed because of Coronavirus.



We ran an event on Zoom in May 2021 to tell people what we have learnt about people's lives and Coronavirus.

The people who told us about what we have learnt were

- Professor Stuart Todd, from the University of South Wales
- Edward Oloidi, from the University of South Wales
- Doctor Stephen Beyer, from Cardiff University



Other people spoke at the event about how coronavirus had changed their lives and the lives of people they care about.

The people who spoke were

- 2 people with a learning disability
- 1 parent carer whose son lives in supported living
- Someone from a college for people with a learning disability
- Someone from a training organisation for people with a learning disability.

## March 2021 – May 2021



We talked to 184 people in Wales with a learning disability.

We asked them about their lives and how it had changed because of Coronavirus.



46 family carers and support staff filled out a survey.

They told us how the lives of the people they support had changed because of Coronavirus



We are still thinking about what we have heard from all these people.



We will tell you what we have learnt soon.



We have shared some other information, including information about

- Vaccines – click on link for more information <https://bit.ly/2X1ili2>
- Using technology – click on link for more information - <https://bit.ly/3yA9Aio>
- Health and social care
- Physical and Mental Health
- Caring – click on link for more information <https://bit.ly/3jxXhN9>
- Risks and Corona virus – click on link for more information <https://bit.ly/3xomoqp>



We ran an event on Zoom in June 2021.

We told everyone what we had learnt from talking to people with a learning disability and their families. We said that

- people with a learning disability, and their families, have had less support
- people feel that their rights have been ignored.



Other people that came to the event agreed with us.

They also said

- There is not enough **advocacy** for people to get their rights

**Advocacy** is when someone helps you speak up for yourself so you can

- Say what you want to say
- Get things done that you want to happen



- People with a learning disability are often ignored. Coronavirus has made this worse.



- People with a learning disability, and their families, should be included when new laws and rules are made.
- There should be a Learning Disability and Carers **Charter**.



A **charter** is a document that says what your rights are and how you should be treated fairly.



We will tell the Welsh Government, Members of the **Senedd**, and Local Authorities what everyone at the event said so that they can make things better.

**Senedd** is the parliament in Wales. Members of **Senedd** decide on the laws in Wales.

## June 2021 and in the future



We will go back and talk to all the people with a learning disability we spoke to before.

We will ask them more questions and find out if their lives have changed.



We will send a new survey to all the family carers and support staff who did our survey before.

We will ask them more questions and find out if the lives of people they care for and support have changed.



If we have not contacted you already about this, we will soon.



Thank you for being part of this project.



# How to contact us

If you want to talk to someone about this project you can contact any of these people.



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