



## Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

### What we know about

### Access to Health and Social Care Services

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.

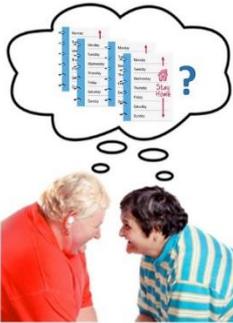


Nearly 300 family carers or paid supporters of people with severe or profound multiple learning disabilities also gave us information.



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



5% of people with learning disabilities had hospital appointment cancelled



5% of people with learning disabilities had health tests cancelled

## Health checks and flu vaccines



Nearly 70% of people with learning disabilities we talked to had had an annual health check since the start of 2021

Only around 20% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had an health check since the start of 2021



Around 70% of people with learning disabilities had their flu vaccine in Winter 2020/2021

## Seeing doctors, therapists and social workers

### People with learning disabilities we talked to told us:



37% of people with learning disabilities told us they had seen or talked to their GP in the last four weeks



17% of people with learning disabilities told us they had seen or talked to their community nurse in the last four weeks



11% of people with learning disabilities told us they had seen or talked to their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor in the last four weeks



9% of people with learning disabilities told us they had seen or talked to a therapist in the last four weeks



15% of people with learning disabilities told us they had seen or talked to their social worker in the last four weeks

## Seeing doctors, therapists and social workers

### People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



37% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their GP in the last four weeks



25% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their community nurse in the last four weeks



16% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor in the last four weeks



25% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their therapist in the last four weeks



15% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had contact with their social worker in the last four weeks

## Day services, community activities and college

### People with learning disabilities we talked to told us:



21% of people with learning disabilities told us they had been to day services in the last four weeks



52% of people with learning disabilities told us they had taken part in community activities like a club or a quiz in the last four weeks



9% of people with learning disabilities told us they had been to college in the last four weeks



6% of people with learning disabilities told us they had short breaks or respite in the last four weeks



41% of people with learning disabilities told us they had taken part in advocacy groups online in the last four weeks

## Day services, community activities and college

### People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



25% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had been to day services in the last four weeks



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



15% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had been to college in the last four weeks



10% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had short breaks or respite in the last four weeks



13% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had taken part in advocacy groups online in the last four weeks

## Changes to support

### People with learning disabilities we talked to told us:



We asked people about changes to services

We wanted to know about services before lockdown and services after lockdown



20% of people with learning disabilities said their services were going to go back to normal



5% of people with learning disabilities said their services were going to be less than normal



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



People with learning disabilities wanted to meet with their social workers and other professionals



People with learning disabilities wanted access to activities and the community

## Changes to support

### People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



We wanted to know about services before lockdown and services after lockdown



Services were going back to normal for 14% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities



Services were going to be less than normal for 14% 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

People with severe or profound learning disabilities wanted access to activities and the community



## Personal budgets

### People with learning disabilities we talked to told us:



24% of people with learning disabilities told us they had a personal budget or direct payment



Some people with learning disabilities (15%) were paying for services that they were **not** getting

## Personal budgets

### People with severe and profound learning disabilities:



49% of people with severe or profound learning disabilities had a personal budget or direct payment



Nearly a third people with severe or profound learning disabilities (32%) were paying for services that they were **not** getting

## What happens next?



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



We will talk to people again from July.

## Research team contact details

### England

Sue Caton:

Email: [s.caton@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.caton@mmu.ac.uk)

Telephone: 07425 374068



### Northern Ireland

Peter Mulhall:

Email: [p.mulhall@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:p.mulhall@ulster.ac.uk)

Telephone: 028 90366318



### Scotland

Roseann Maguire:

Email: [Roseann.Maguire@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Roseann.Maguire@glasgow.ac.uk)

Telephone: 0141 211 3902



### Wales

Edward Oloidi:

Email: [edward.oloidi@southwales.ac.uk](mailto:edward.oloidi@southwales.ac.uk)

Telephone: 01443 483 042

