

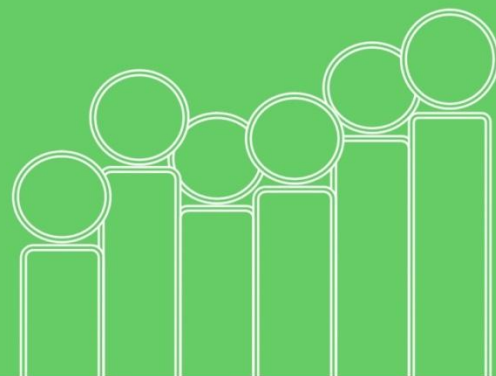


Improving Health and Lives:
Learning Disabilities Observatory

Health Inequalities and People with Learning Disabilities in England.

Health Checks. (Easy Read)

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Supported by the Department of Health





If people with learning disabilities get poorer health care than other people we say they face 'health inequalities'. This can mean people get less good health. This can happen to lots of people with learning disabilities.



One thing that can help is for people with learning disabilities to have health checks every year. Health checks can help identify health problems which can then be treated.



We wrote a paper for people who commission (buy) services to help them provide more and better health checks.



This is an easy read version of the guidance we wrote about health checks.



This report tells you about 4 big issues and what commissioners can do to make things better. You can ask your local commissioners what they are doing to get more people with learning disabilities good health checks.

Family doctor registers



Issue 1

Family doctors have a list of people with learning disabilities.



People on this list will be offered a health check.

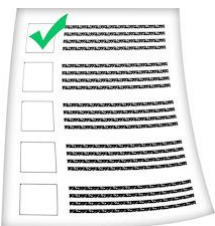


The Government pays doctors to do this under something called the Directed Enhanced Service (DES).



The list is not always very good. If people with learning disabilities are not on the list they will not get offered a health check.

What commissioners should do



Make sure that family doctor lists include everyone who should be on the list.

Make sure that health checks are offered to all people with learning disabilities on the list.



Make sure that children with learning disabilities are added to the list when they are 18.



Make sure that people with learning disabilities who move into the area are added to the list.



There is information on the Improving Health and Lives website about the numbers of people with learning disabilities in different areas.

Commissioners can use this information to check that the numbers of people with learning disabilities on family doctor lists look right for the local area.



Numbers of health checks

Issue 2

Over half of all people with learning disabilities who could get a health check have not been offered one.



What Commissioners should do

Make sure everyone is clear about what they should be doing, so it is easy to get a health check.



Help more family doctors to sign up to the DES so that they can offer health checks.



People with learning disabilities who are with family doctors not signed up to the DES can get health checks from another doctor.

Make sure family doctors offer health checks to people on their list.



Make sure that family doctors use easy read appointment letters and information about health checks.



Make sure that people, who can't go to the family doctor because of things like lack of equipment, get their health checks in a place that is right for them.



Numbers of health checks in different areas

Issue 3

Some areas are better at offering health checks than others.



What commissioners should do

Report to the Partnership Board about how many health checks are happening.



Show how many health checks are happening locally compared to other areas.

Use the Performance and Self-Assessment Framework to help give more health checks and show how the local area is doing.



Share good practice through health networks.



How good are health checks?

Issue 4

Some health checks are better than others.

What Commissioners should do



Think about the information they want from health checks, so that ways of getting this information can be put in place.

Make sure that the health checks in their area look at all the main health needs that people with learning disabilities have.



Make sure family doctors and practice nurses carry out the health checks.



Make sure that staff have easy read information to help people to prepare for their health check.



Make sure that there are reasonable adjustments so that people can use services.



Make sure that health checks lead to actions so that people have better health.



Check that people have health action plans.



For more information about improving health and lives please go to www.ihal.org.uk



Easy read version prepared with the aid of Photo Symbols 3



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