

Learning from Lives and Deaths of People with
a Learning Disability and Autistic People (LeDeR)

Briefing for Care Providers

November 2025



This briefing outlines positive practice and improvement areas identified for care providers who care for people with learning disability, from LeDeR reviews completed by Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care Board in Quarter 2. It highlights the importance of improvements required by care providers and provides useful resources to support with these improvements. Themes of positive practice and learning identified this quarter are consistent with those identified in the Quarter 2.

Positive practice identified:

- Care and treatment in the majority of reviews was described as good including concerns escalated to relevant healthcare teams for support.
- Good communication and collaboration between care staff and the various community professionals involved in the person's care.
- Ongoing support to families and individuals following a person's death.
- Very thorough and detailed care plans produced for all the person's needs and conditions.

Communication/Documentation:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- Ensure discussions with GP's/other healthcare professionals are recorded and any risk triggers are clearly recorded in the individuals notes.
- If there are changes in a person's care needs, the care provider needs to communicate any additional support required to commissioners as soon as possible.
- Improve communication pathways to ensure a multi-agency approach.

Useful resources:

[NHS England » Providing proactive care for people living in care homes – Enhanced health in care homes framework](#)

Screening, vaccinations and medication reviews:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- Importance of ensuring that individuals are provided with an annual check by their registered GP practice.
- Importance of raising with the GP Practice, LD Nurse or screening services if an individual has not received their age-appropriate screening, vaccinations, long term condition reviews and medication reviews.
- Ensuring that reasonable adjustments are made for people to understand the reason and benefits of receiving vaccinations and screening.

Useful resources:

[Flu vaccination supporting people with LD](#)

[Easy read resources Cancer Screening and Immunisations including Covid](#)

Pneumococcal vaccine: [Easy read guide to the pneumococcal vaccine \(practice365.co.uk\)](#)

Cervical Screening: [Easy read guide to Cervical Screening](#)

[Video for people with LD to support their understanding of cervical screening](#)

Breast Screening: [ICS video - what happens at breast screening appointments](#)

[Pneumonia Prevention Leaflet](#)

[Staffs and Stoke on Trent ICS Pneumonia video](#)

Deterioration:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- Ensure DISDAT tool in place if required, used to identify an individual's pain by looking for non-verbal communication.
- Consider staff training and education in the use of validated tools to help recognise and respond to signs of deterioration and escalate concerns.

Useful resources:

How social care staff can recognise and manage pain in people with learning disabilities

Microsoft Word - DisDAT-15.doc

Instructions for Use - Wong-Baker FACES Foundation

Useful training: Social Care Academy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent | Sepsis Training

End of Life Care:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- People to be supported to remain in their home in older age, especially when their health needs deteriorate.
- Consideration to be given for End-of-Life Care Planning to take place sooner for individuals.

Useful resources:

NHS England End of Life Care Plan Easy Read

ReSPECT Guidance

Palliative Care Co-Ordination Centre

Learning Disability (LD) Register:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- Not all individuals were registered on the GP Practice LD register.
- Importance of ensuring that care providers register individuals on the GP practice LD register.

NHS England » Find out about the Learning Disability Register

Additional useful resources

The [resource bank](#) is of use to healthcare professionals supporting people with a learning disability or people who are autistic with their health or care.

Useful webpages for more information about the LeDeR programme:

- [LeDeR - Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, ICS](#)
- [NHS England LeDeR webpage](#)
- [Keele careLeD tool](#)

You can report a death at: [Report the death of someone with a learning disability or an autistic person](#)

Staff training/escalation:

Learning/Improvement areas:

- Training for nursing and care staff on communication, reasonable adjustments, health checks and health passports.
- Consider staff training and education in the use of validated tools to help recognise and respond to signs of deterioration and escalate concerns.
- Importance of escalating to specialist LD services for support for individuals.

Reasonable adjustments for people with Learning Difficulties

Better Health for people with Learning Difficulties

Important advice for staff who support people with a learning disability or autistic people.

Improving healthcare access for people with learning disabilities - GOV.UK

Annual Health Checks (AHC):

It is important for individuals to attend their AHC. The AHC is a chance for the doctor, the person with a learning disability and those who support them (if relevant) to review the individual's physical and mental health.

Health Action Plan:

As part of an individual's AHC, practices will be required to produce a health action plan. A health action plan identifies the individual's health needs, what will happen about them (including what the individual or care providers needs to do), who will help and when this will be reviewed.

Useful resources:

Annual health checks Easy Read (mencap.org.uk)

NHS England » Annual health checks

Annual Health Checks | Mencap | Easy Read