



Learning Disability and Autism Programme

Friday 29th May 2020 Updated 2nd June

Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you for your questions and comments. We have focussed on questions which summarise a key theme from stakeholders. If you do not think we have answered your question, or if we have missed anything, please do come back to us at: england.learning.disability@nhs.net

We will continue to update and re-issue FAQs however this will now be fortnightly and will upload a copy to the Future Collaboration platform.

To support collaborative working across the voluntary and independent sector, health and social care there is a weekly webinar to raise and discuss key issues for people with a learning disability and autistic people with representatives from NHS England and Improvement, the Department for Health and Social Care, Public Health England and voluntary and independent sector organisations taking part.

To receive details about the webinar or to suggest agenda items please contact: england.learning.disability@nhs.net

We have set up a [Future NHS Collaboration workspace](#) to support the work of NHS England and Improvement Mental Health, Learning Disability and Autism Covid-19 Response Cell. We use this platform to share guidance and information, and encourage mental health, learning disability and autism leads and providers to share advice and feedback on how best to look after patients and staff during these difficult times. The resources on this workspace are open to those working in mental health, learning disability and autism services and will include the voluntary and independent sector.

If you currently have a FutureNHS account, you can access the workspace directly through the homepage (<https://future.nhs.uk/MHLDAcovid19/grouphome>). Those without a FutureNHS account can either self-register to the platform if they have an nhs.net or nhs.uk email account, or directly request access by emailing our generic mailbox if they are from other organisations at: MHLDAcovid19-manager@future.nhs.uk

Key topics this week

- Restrictive practice
- Care (Education) and Treatments reviews
- Children and Young people
- Funding

will co produce any future changes at the appropriate time (previously published in
FAQS on 24th

children and young people takes place over a longer period of time. Using risk assessments to inform the return to school and college of children and young people with EHC plans will help educational settings and local authorities ensure that the right support is in place for them to come back.

However, this guidance should be read alongside other guidance that has been published (the links can be found in the published resources section of this document).

- **Completing risk assessments**

Our approach to vulnerable children and young people with EHC plans during the period of partial school closure has been to trust professionals to know each child or young person to make appropriate risk assessments based on individual needs taking into consideration the various risks set out in the [Supporting children and young people with SEND as schools and colleges prepare for wider opening](#) guidance.

We are clear that the key risk assessors are local authorities and educational settings, but it is essential that they take into account the needs and views of the child or young person, their parents or carers, social workers and virtual school heads, where appropriate. Where an educational setting makes a decision without being able to involve the local authority, for instance where circumstances are changing too rapidly, they should inform the local authority of that decision immediately. We are taking a similar approach in the first steps of transition back to normal educational provision. Particular care will be needed in planning for and supporting children and young people with EHC plans to return to their schools and colleges. In the spirit of coprod

Please e-mail DDU@dhsc.gov.uk with your contact details and a few lines of background as to your particular area of interest/expertise, with the subject line *earning Disability & Autism*

We are considering themes to focus on, including autism, children and young people, and health inequalities. If there is a specific theme you would like to discuss or present please let us know.

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Additional information

Public Health England weekly update [sign up here](#)