

Adults with learning disabilities: supporting workforce development



The NHS Education for Scotland LD Team
Newsletter August 2024

Welcome to our newsletter!

Welcome to this edition of the Learning Disability team at NES newsletter.

Our aim is to support development of the learning disabilities workforce through education and training. In this issue you will find:

- an update on our new *Essentials of Learning Disability* resource
- upcoming resources and work in progress from the team

Essentials of Learning Disability

The first modules of the *Essentials of Learning Disability* resource were launched in May 2024, and we are delighted that over 3000 people have accessed the resource since then. The most popular modules are the first three in the series - *What is a learning disability?*, *Learning disability and society*, and *Stigma*. It's great that these core modules are underpinning learning in this area, and we hope that learners will continue to access individual modules to meet their specific learning needs.



What is a Learning Disability?

START COURSE

We welcome your views so please remember to complete the feedback form at the end of each module.

Feedback so far has been positive - when asked to rate the impact of the module on their practice from 1 to 10, 84% of respondents rated 7 or above. We hope that *Essentials of Learning Disability* continues to be a useful resource in promoting positive practice in supporting people with learning disabilities.

Coming soon

New Essentials of Learning Disability Trauma modules

The next modules which will be available soon in ***Essentials of Learning Disability*** focus on trauma. These include understanding how the experiences of people with learning disabilities can lead to increased risk of trauma, the impact of trauma, and trauma-informed practice. The modules will also consider the impact on those providing care and support to people with learning disabilities affected by trauma and how to support wellbeing.



Our animation **Common Ground** provides an introduction to trauma and people with learning disabilities, and is available on our Turas Learn page **Once for Scotland - Learning Disabilities** which is accessible to all.

Understanding Positive Behaviour Support - supporting resources

Understanding PBS was launched in April 2023 as a comprehensive online learning resource in level one PBS. The resource consists of 12 chapters including What is PBS, capable environments, communication and understanding behaviour.



The PBS Community of Practice are currently developing further resources to support learning from Understanding PBS into practice. These include:

- a toolkit of practical resources from Understanding PBS
- a workbook to support recording and reflection on learning activities
- a facilitators guide to support others' learning into practice.

If you are currently supporting others to implement learning using Understanding PBS and are interested in contributing to the development of these resources, please get in touch with us at LearningDisability@nes.scot.nhs.uk.

Other news from the team

- We are developing further modules for our *Essentials of Learning Disability* resource on TURAS. One of the upcoming modules will focus on dementia. It will cover the specific challenges individuals with learning disabilities encounter when it comes to assessment and diagnosis, as well as emphasise the significance of the environment. This module is designed for an informed level audience and will provide links to a more advanced skilled-level resource, which is currently under development.
- We are excited to have offered peer-assisted learning (PAL) placements in Physiotherapy and will explore how PAL experiences will shape the professional development and skills of physiotherapy students at NES.

You might be interested in.....



This easy read, interactive guide from the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities was developed to help people take care of their mental health. It includes helpful resources to support people with learning disabilities to manage their own wellbeing, and also to speak to their GP about their mental health.

Cancer incidence and mortality in adults with intellectual disabilities

Researchers at *The Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory* at the University of Glasgow found that while adults with learning disabilities were 24% less likely to be diagnosed with cancer, they are 20% more likely to die from cancer compared to the general population. Crucially, the study reports on all cancers and found increased premature death from cancers that are treatable and avoidable. Researchers are calling for increased awareness and support for people with learning disabilities, carers and health and care professionals to identify early symptoms of cancer, as well improved access to cancer screening for people with complex needs. You can read a summary of the findings on the SLDO website, as well as an Easy Read Summary.

The NES LD Team

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