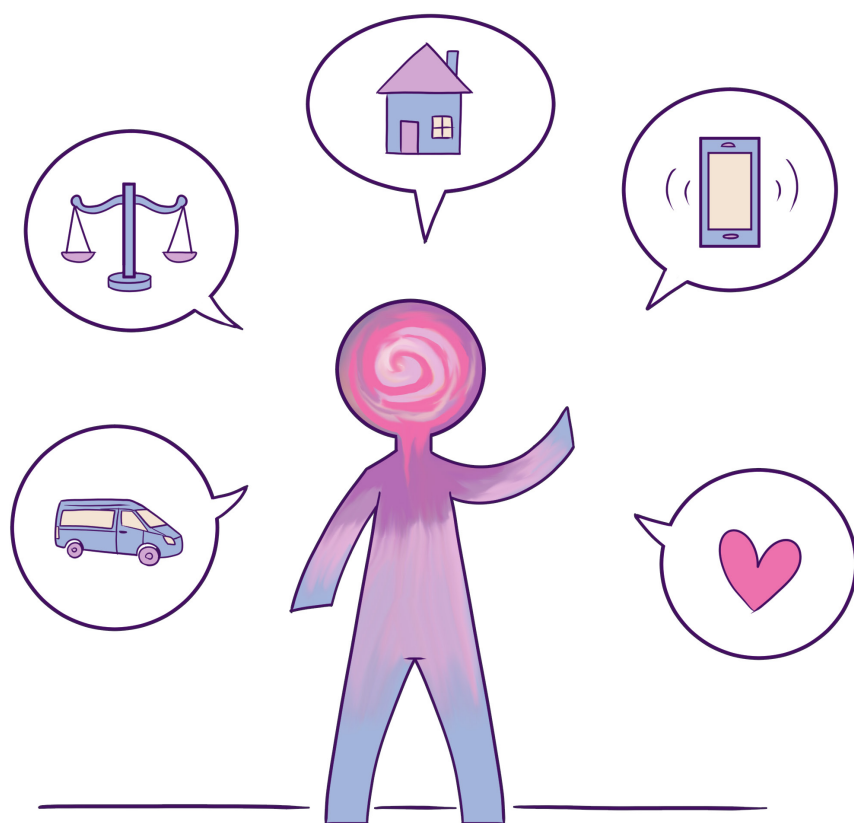


Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill: **Health and Wellbeing**



Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill

Health and Wellbeing



Easy Read



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have the right to good health.

But that is not what happens now.



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities as a group have worse health than other people.



People with learning disabilities die 20 years earlier than other people on average.



People with learning disabilities are two times more likely to die from illnesses that can be cured.



Bad health means neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities might not be active in their communities, get a job or have relationships.



Autistic people die on average 16 years earlier than other people.



Laws are already in place to help people stay well and healthy, though these laws cover everyone in society.



There are no laws only helping neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have better health and wellbeing.

What did the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) think?



The **Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP)** is a group made up of neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to help advise the Scottish Government on this Consultation.



LEAP thought training should be **mandatory** for health and social care workers.

Mandatory means that workers must do the training.



Mandatory training should be up-to-date and checked that its being done well.



LEAP said Annual Health Checks for people with learning disabilities must be the same across Scotland.



LEAP said neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities should be able to choose how they see a doctor.



For example, by phone or online



LEAP said neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities should be able to get a **diagnosis** quicker and easier.

A **diagnosis** is when a doctor confirms a condition or illness.



Doctors and health and social workers should have better awareness and understanding of neurodivergence and learning disabilities.



LEAP think that there needs to be more accessible information about how to get support.



LEAP said there needs to be more information about the challenges for people who are looking for diagnosis and other support.

Where do the Scottish Government want to get to?



The Scottish Government thinks there should be more services and support available for neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



The Scottish Government want to improve the health and wellbeing of neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities in the following ways:



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities live longer.



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities are healthy enough to be active members of society.



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities access health care, services and supports without stress or risk of discriminatory or other bad experiences.



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have knowledge and understanding as well as choice and control over their own health care and treatment.

What happens now?



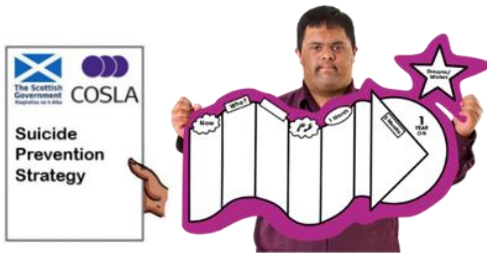
The National Care Service



The National Care Service will be how people in Scotland get health and social care services in the area they live.



[Click here](#) to find out more about the new National Care Service (easy read).



Suicide Prevention Strategy



SUICIDE PREVENTION



Suicide Prevention Strategy is the Scottish Government's plan to reduce the number of people who end their own lives.

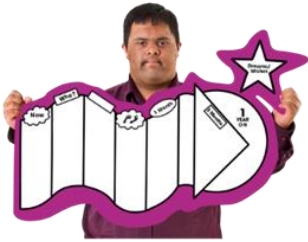
Suicide is when somebody ends their own life.



[Click here](#) to find out more about The Scottish Government's Suicide Prevention Strategy (easy read).



A **strategy** is a big plan with actions.



Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy



The **Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy** is the Scottish Government's plan to improve mental health and wellbeing in Scotland.



[Click here](#) to find out more about the Scottish Government's Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 (easy read)



Dementia Strategy



Dementia is a condition where problems with memory or other types of thinking make it hard for a person to do everyday activities.



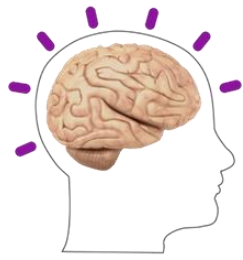
The Scottish Government is working with others to help get better treatment, support and care for people with Dementia.



Mental Health Law Review



The Scottish Government has done a lot of work to make the law better to protect people when their mental health is poor.



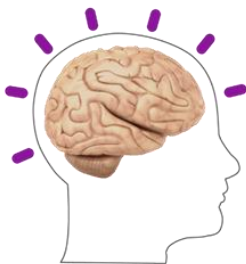
Adult Pathways



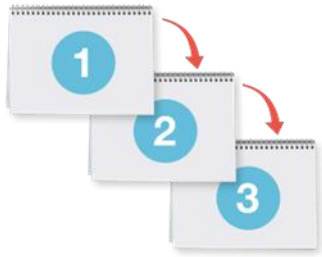
The Scottish Government has a commitment to improve people's health care experiences before, during and after diagnosis.



This uses something called **Adult Neurodevelopmental Pathways**.



Neurodevelopmental means differences linked to the way someone's brain has developed, since birth. We can also say Neurodivergent.



Pathways describes the journey that people should experience when they ask for help if they are neurodivergent or think they might be.



Adult Neurodevelopmental Pathways is a specialist service that tests for neurodevelopmental conditions. It will let someone know if they are Neurodivergent and what help they can have.



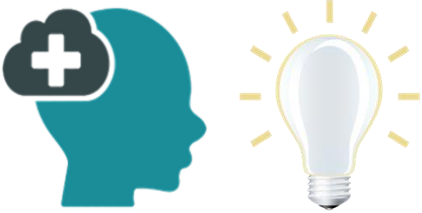
Annual health checks for people with learning disabilities



The Scottish Government is currently working to start making sure everyone with a learning disability in Scotland over the age of 16 is offered an annual health check.



[Click here](#) to find out more about Annual health checks for people with learning disabilities (easy read).



Better Mental Health Awareness



Neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities have helped create resources to raise awareness of their mental health and wellbeing.



These resources are for health and social care workers.



These resources will be tested in GP practices, NHS 24 and the Scottish Ambulance Service.

What can the Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence (LDAN) Bill do?



The Bill can help by making it easier for neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities to access good health care services and support across Scotland.



National and local strategies



The Bill could say there needs to be a **national** strategy on neurodivergence and learning disabilities.



National means covering all of Scotland.



The Bill could say local authorities and health boards need to create their own local neurodivergent and learning disabilities strategies.



This could ask how they plan for workers who have the skills to help with the health and wellbeing of neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



One example is having people who have the skills to communicate in an accessible way, as well as creating their own accessible information on health.



Mandatory training for health and social care staff.



Mandatory means something you must do.



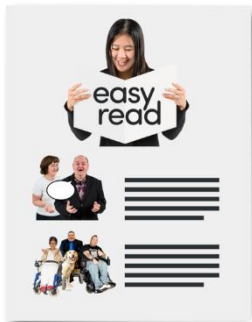
Health and social care staff will have to do training to learn more about neurodivergent people and people with learning disabilities.



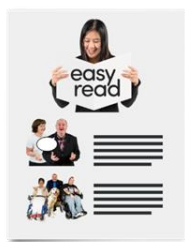
More accessible communications



An example of Improving communications is making sure all NHS appointment letters come with an **easy read** letter.



Easy Read is a way of making difficult information easier to understand using easy words in large type with images. This is one type of accessible communication.



There could be a guide to say what information needs to be in easy read and when someone can ask for information to be put into easy read.



Accessible Communication Passport



The Bill could place a **duty** on NHS Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs) to make sure that someone who has difficulty communicating has a **patient passport**.



A **duty** is a law which says an organisation or group must do something.



A **patient passport** has important information about how to communicate with someone in the way that is best for that person.



This can be very helpful for people who find it difficult to communicate when they go into hospital or a care home.



Annual Health Checks



The Scottish Government could put a duty on NHS Health Boards to offer **annual health checks** to people with learning disabilities.



Consider extending annual health checks to autistic people in the future.

What do you think?

A survey form titled 'Questions' in bold black text. Below the title are two speech bubbles, each containing a question mark. The first question is '1. What do you think about it?'. Below the question are three response options: 'Good' with an unchecked checkbox, 'Bad' with an unchecked checkbox, and 'Not sure' with a checked checkbox. A hand holding a black pen is shown pointing at the 'Not sure' option.

1. Which of these proposals do you agree with? Please tell us why.



2. Which of these proposals do you not agree with? Please tell us why.



3. Is there anything else that we should consider which is relevant to this topic?