



Health Services Safety
Investigations Body



Easy
Read

Report about caring for people with a learning disability in hospital



Easy Read version of the
Executive Summary of a
report by the Health Services
Safety Investigations Body

Easy Read



This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



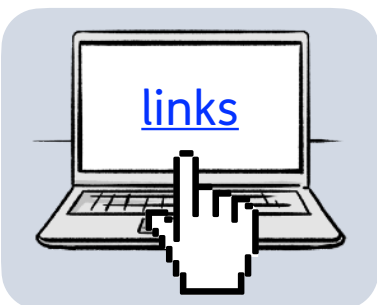
This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. You may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker.



These are words that some people will find hard. When you see a bold word, we will explain it in the next sentence.



Blue and underlined words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

What is in this booklet

About the Health Services Safety Investigations Body.....	4
About this report.....	5
What we found out	6
What should happen	9
Find out more	11

About the Health Services Safety Investigations Body



The Health Services Safety Investigations Body is an independent organisation.



We look into serious cases where there is a risk to NHS patients' safety.



We talk to patients, families and NHS staff to find out what has happened when things go wrong.



We write reports about what we find out to help NHS services learn what needs to be done better in the future.

About this report



This report is about caring for people with a learning disability in hospitals.



The report was written because of what happened to a man with a learning disability when he had to go into hospital.



Some of the things that would have helped keep him safe did not happen.



Health and care services need to find out about what people with a learning disability need and make changes to keep them safe.

These changes are called reasonable adjustments.

What we found out



To help us write this report, we looked at 10 **acute hospitals** across England, to find out how they cared for people with a learning disability.



An **acute hospital** is a type of hospital where people go for a short time to get help from doctors and nurses that they can not get at home or in the local community.



We think that health and care services need to do more to meet the needs of people with a learning disability, to help keep them safe.



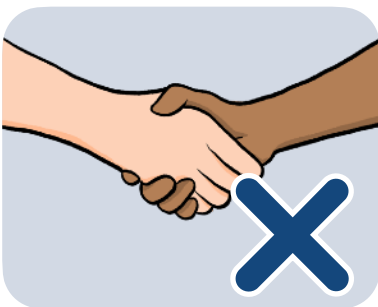
Health and care staff do not always have the right training and skills to look after people with a learning disability in the way they need.



Staff do not always have the time or help they need to look after people with a learning disability in the way they need.



Some hospitals have an **acute learning disability liaison service** - this is a team of people trained in caring for people with a learning disability.



There is no agreed way for these services to work, so they care for people differently in different hospitals.



Information about people with a learning disability and what they need is not stored in a single place for staff to look at.

Staff have to ask friends or family about what the person needs.

What should happen

We think that these things should happen to improve care in hospitals for people with a learning disability:



- NHS England should give advice and guidance to help hospitals look after people with a learning disability in the right way.



- NHS England should keep checking how hospitals are looking after people with a learning disability, to make sure they are looked after in the right way.



- NHS England should give hospitals advice and information about making decisions when looking after people with a learning disability, to keep them safe.

We also think these things should happen:



- NHS England should think about how to make sure staff know how to look after each person in the way they need.



- **Integrated Care Boards (ICBs)** should make sure that hospitals have the right staff to care for people with a learning disability, to give them the best care.



Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) are the group of people in each local area who plan and pay for most NHS services.



- ICBs should involve people with a learning disability in making health and care services better.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:
www.hssib.org.uk/

This Easy Read booklet was produced by easy-read-online.co.uk
The booklet includes images licensed from Photosymbols & Shutterstock.