

**Children with learning  
disabilities whose  
behaviour challenges.**



**making a difference  
to the lives of people with  
severe learning disabilities**



# Our concerns

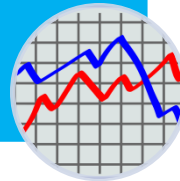
236 children and young people with learning disabilities in ATUs. At least 1360 in 52 week schools.

**Children's welfare**



Lack of meaningful and reliable data about these vulnerable children.

**Data**



Minimal use of evidence-based interventions, especially when children are young.

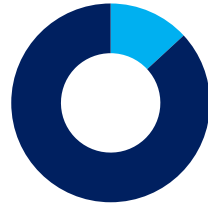
**Intervention**



# Children in ATUs

236

Children and young people aged 18 or under in ATUs in England (Sept 2013).



31 of these children were aged 10 or under.



Nearly a third were over 100km from home.

14

Children had already been an in-patient for 5 years or more.

**Young people in ATUs are more likely to have suffered physical restraint, seclusion, and self-harm than adults.**

**Learning disability census data**

# Preventing future admissions

## Learning disability and challenging behaviour

Children with learning disabilities are at a much greater risk of exhibiting challenging behaviour.

- In England, there are 40,000 children with learning disabilities whose behaviours are described as challenging.

Children displaying challenging behaviour face greater risks in a wide range of areas:

- Social exclusion, institutionalisation, deprivation, physical harm, misdiagnosis, exposure to ineffective interventions, and failure to access evidence-based interventions.

Parents or carers also face risks:

- Physical and mental ill health, physical injury, increased financial burdens, and reduced quality of life.

There is strong evidence that key factors causing/maintaining challenging behaviour can be changed.

- Change in these factors can be associated with marked reductions in challenging behaviour.

# Preventing future admissions

## Cost of residential care

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**£171,176**

Cost per year for a 52 week placement in a residential special school.

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Average cost per year for an inpatient (17 or under) in an ATU.

**£250,000**

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**£89,335-**

**£358,415**

Cost per year for an adult service catering for adults with severely challenging behaviour.

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# Evidence-based interventions

The CBF academic expert group recommends...

Early  
behavioural  
interventions

E.g. 'Stepping  
Stones' from  
Triple P  
parenting  
programme

Training for  
families

Emotional  
support

Early  
identification  
and rapid  
response

Systematic  
and family-  
centred

Positive  
behavioural  
support

Based on  
functional  
assessment  
and applied  
consistently



# Health and Wellbeing Partnership

**Agreed to take co-ordinated action on the issue of children with learning disabilities in ATUs.**

## Action 1

Education services are inputting to all Care and Treatment Reviews of children

## Action 2

Considering what needs to change in the system to prevent future admission of children

# Questions for CB-NSG

- Which key areas of the system need to change to improve local community support/prevent future admissions of children?
- How can CB-NSG members help provide expert/family carer/stakeholder input to inform this piece of work by the Children's Health and Wellbeing partnership as it develops ?