
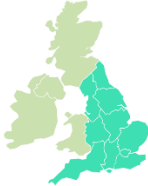









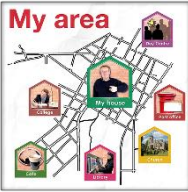





## Mental Health Act Reforms

 	<p>There are over two thousand people with learning disabilities and autistic people in mental health hospitals in England.</p>
 	<p>Many of them have been in a mental health hospital for many years.</p>
	<p>They are often far away from their family.</p>
 	<p>We hear a lot of worrying reports. Things like people being given a lot of medication and <b>restraint</b> and people being abused.</p> <p>This should not happen.</p> <p><b>Restraint</b> is where people hold you to stop you doing something or stop you going somewhere.</p>
 	<p>This is a big human rights issue for autistic people and people with a learning disability.</p>
	<p>The last government promised to reduce the number of people with a learning disability and autistic people in mental health hospitals by half from the year 2015.</p>


## Mental Health Act Reforms

	<p>But this has not happened.</p> <p>The progress for people with a learning disability and autistic people has been slow and targets missed.</p>
	<p>Some local areas have made more progress than other local areas.</p>
	<p>Most of the people in mental health hospitals are there under the Mental Health Act.</p>
	<p>The Mental Health Act is a law that says when someone can be <b>detained</b> in a mental health hospital for assessment and treatment.</p> <p><b>Detained</b> means you have to stay in a mental health hospital.</p> <p>Detained is also called being sectioned.</p>
	<p>At the moment the Mental Health Act does not work for people with a learning disability and autistic people.</p>



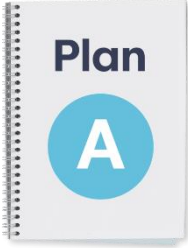

## Mental Health Act Reforms

	<p>Too many people get sent to mental health hospitals because there hasn't been the right support for them in the community.</p> <p>Things like good housing and social care support.</p> <p>There also is a big issue where people are stuck in hospitals for a long time because there is not enough good support in the community for them to come out.</p>
	<p>People with learning disabilities and autistic people can be stuck in mental health hospitals even if they don't have a mental health problem.</p> <p>This needs to change and people should be able to be part of their community.</p>
	<p>We welcome that the government has promised to bring in a Mental Health Bill to change mental health law.</p>
	<p>As well as changing the law there must be good support in the community, like social care and the right housing.</p>
	<p>It's important <b>both</b> these things happen to stop people being in Mental Health Hospital when they shouldn't be there.</p>

## Mental Health Act Reforms

	<b>What Changes we want to see in the Mental Health Bill</b>
	<p>Here are some changes we want the Mental Health Bill to make.</p>
	<p><b>People with a learning disability and autistic people cannot be kept in mental health hospitals for treatment when they don't have a mental health problem.</b></p> <p>It's better for people to be part of their community with the right support.</p>
	<p><b>Other reasons must not be used instead to keep people in mental health hospitals when they don't need to be there.</b></p> <p>People with a learning disability and autism must not be given mental health labels they don't have as a reason to try and keep them in a mental health hospital.</p>
	<p><b>Strong rules to provide community support.</b></p> <p>The rules to make sure local areas provide good community support must be stronger.</p> <p>Local areas must know who is at risk to go in a unit and provide the right support in the community to help stop it happening.</p>

## Mental Health Act Reforms

	<p><b>Care, Education and Treatment Reviews (CETRs) must be good quality, and the actions said in meetings must be followed.</b></p> <p>It is important Care, Education and Treatment Reviews work well and make sure people are not in mental health hospitals when they don't need to be there.</p>
	<p><b>Good independent advocacy</b></p> <p>There must be enough independent advocates to help people with a learning disability and autistic people in mental health hospitals know their rights and speak up.</p> <p>It is important they have good knowledge and skills about learning disability and autism.</p>
	<p><b>Make Care and treatment Plans Accessible</b></p> <p>People with learning disabilities and autistic must get clear and accessible information and support to understand and follow their care and treatment plan.</p>
	<p><b>Make sure the worries from families are being listened to and good actions taken.</b></p> <p>This is important to make sure the person is getting the right quality care.</p>

## Mental Health Act Reforms

	<p><b>Having the right community support is very important</b></p>
	<p>There needs to be a new government plan to make sure the right community support is there for people.</p> <p>The plan we had before is now out of date.</p>
	<p>The Challenging Behaviour Foundation has worked with people with a learning disability, families, charities and people working with people with a learning disability to make a plan together.</p> <p>Find out more about this plan here: <a href="http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/action-plan">www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/action-plan</a></p> <p>We want the Government to look at this plan and use it to make their plan!</p>