

Annual health check exemplars for people with a learning disability

About this project

People with a learning disability have poorer physical and mental health than other people. 44% of people with a learning disability had a (medical) cause of death considered to be potentially avoidable.

Every year, people with a learning disability die sooner than they should. Only 37% of people with a learning disability live beyond 65. For the rest of the population that statistic is 85%.

There is some good work happening in primary care and NHS England and NHS Improvement are calling for STPs/ICSs across the country to become learning disability 'exemplars' who will develop approaches that drive forward improvements in care, reduce health inequalities and help to put the lives of people with a learning disability firmly on the agenda.

The seven exemplars (one in each region) will trailblaze improvements and access to care – key priorities for the NHS – their focus will include increasing the number of people receiving annual health checks, ensuring health action plans are properly understood and increasing the number of people with a learning disability getting their flu jab. Making reasonable adjustments is the key to ensuring accessible healthcare for people with a learning disability and exemplars must also ensure reasonable adjustments are properly implemented, with their learning being shared across the system.

The exemplars will bring together the NHS, local authorities and self-advocacy groups or experts by experience to help address complex issues known to adversely impact the health of people with a learning disability.

This national innovation project is intended to add value and complement existing work on annual health checks for people with a learning disability which is already happening. Funding is non-recurrent but offers the chance for local areas to work with partners to understand the barrier and opportunities to drive forward innovative practice to reduce health inequalities and help people with a learning disability to live healthier and happier lives.

Ensuring annual health checks and action plans are completed can make a significant impact and contribute towards your high-level outcomes:

- supporting public health ambitions
- tackling health inequalities

By the end of year ending 31 March 2021, participants will be:

- Improving the take up of annual health checks, identifying and following up on patients who do not attend, coordinating effectively between patients who haven't been offered an annual health check, reviewing the quality of the learning disability register, improving health action plans for all patients aged 14 and over, offering reasonable adjustments, and prioritising the number of people with a learning disability being offered a flu vaccination.

Participants will commit to:

- Demonstrate coproduction of their work with experts by experience.
- Demonstrate how they will have engaged with and encouraged young people aged 14-17 (who are often harder to reach) to get an annual health check.
- Demonstrate how they will have engaged with and encouraged people from higher areas of deprivation or BAME groups to attend the annual health check.
- Indicate how they have reached out to people living independently.
- Highlight innovative ways of working, which may include different models of delivery, such as working with community learning disability teams, and demonstrate real change.
- Act to identify people with a learning disability who are not on the register - addressing the gap between expected prevalence of people with a learning disability and register size.
- Actively share the learning and good practice across the system.
- Share relevant resources, guidance, learning and intelligence with NHS England and NHS Improvement as appropriate.

Exemplars will need to:

- Provide a named project lead.
- Provide a named senior responsible officer/accountable officer at system level for this work.
- Produce a mid-year and an end of year report on your plans and details about how annual health checks will be taken forward into 2021/2022 – we will work with you to agree the approach to reporting.

NHS England and NHS Improvement can offer:

- £35k non-recurrent seed funding via CCGs.
- National support to help achieve your aspirations.
- A dedicated learning and sharing network: a safe space to discuss challenges and identify solutions.
- Support to inform and share in good practice guidance.
- Opportunities to showcase your good practice, initiatives and approach.

Funding

This scheme offers non-recurrent funding for one year, available from September 2020 and ending September 2021.

This funding is distinct from and additional to the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service and the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (Contract Specification 2020/21 PCN Requirements and Entitlements, March 2020).

£35,000 is available per successful STP/ICS via CCGs. It is expected that a single award will be made in each of the seven NHSE/I regions.

We expect the STPs/ICSs to continue ongoing participation in the learning and sharing network to both inform and learn from your own plans and those of the other successful STPs/ICSs as these are developed and implemented. The aim being to share exemplar practice across the whole of the country.

Making an application

To make an application, please complete the expression of interest form below and submit by 10am on Friday 7 August 2020 to the health improvement team of the learning disability and autism programme at england.ledereoi2020@nhs.net

In this form you must:

- a) Demonstrate senior commitment to this project with named leads.
- b) Demonstrate how you intend to collect data and monitor the impact of the interventions you are proposing.
- c) Outline how you think the project could support your system to reduce health inequalities and address your local health priorities
- d) Commit to participation in a monthly learning network and agree to us sharing your project related information and project data across and between national organisations and your own partners as appropriate.

We are offering opportunities at webinars on the following dates to try to answer any questions you may have:

- 21 July 2020 9.30-10.30am
- 28 July 2020 12-1pm

Please contact Lyn.Hughes2@nhs.net to register your place for the MS Teams webinar and indicate your preferred date(s). We are developing a frequently asked questions document that will be available on our web pages shortly and the link will be shared with you. Please contact us if you have any questions and do try to join a webinar.