

# Easy read summary of a survey asking Healthcare Experts about learning disability awareness training

## What did we do?



NDTi are doing some work about the training hospital staff get to support people with learning disabilities.

  
**Health Education England**

This work is being paid for by the South Regional Health Education England Intellectual Disabilities programme.



This report is a summary of what we found out when we sent a survey to a group of healthcare experts.



This type of survey is called a **Delphi Survey**. This is used in research to try to get an opinion from a group of experts.



We were asking their opinion about learning disability awareness training for hospital staff. In this report we will just call this “training”.



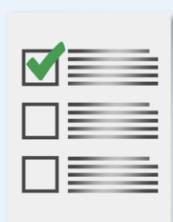
We had a group of 57 experts. They came from the United Kingdom and 8 other countries. These included South Africa, Australia and Norway.



Some of the experts work to support the health of people with learning disabilities.



Some of the experts work in hospitals or other healthcare places.



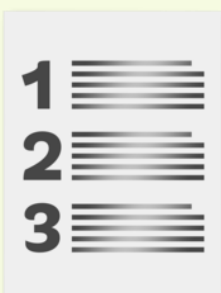
We wanted the experts to tell us what should be in the training.



We wanted the experts to tell us what hospitals can do to help their staff provide better care and support for people with learning disabilities.



We did some research about learning disability awareness training.



We used what we had found to write a list of questions about learning disability awareness training.



We asked the experts to say what they think is important for the training.



We asked the experts to say what they think is not important for the training.

## What did the experts tell us about the training?



We found there was good agreement among the experts about lots of things about training. These are things they agreed on.



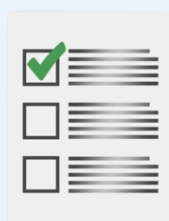
Training should explain the health needs of people with learning disabilities and why they do not always get good care.



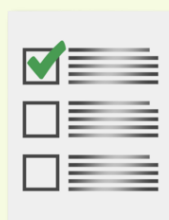
Training should talk about reasonable adjustments.



The training should give advice on better communication.



People with learning disabilities and their carers should say what is in the training.



Staff that need training should also say what is in the training.



The experts agreed that the training should cover 5 areas. These are:



**1)** Medical conditions – this includes conditions like epilepsy.



**2)** Communication – this should cover communication with people with learning disabilities and their carers.



**3)** Pain – it is important that staff know how to recognise and control pain.



**4)** The training should cover safeguarding and thinking about people's rights.



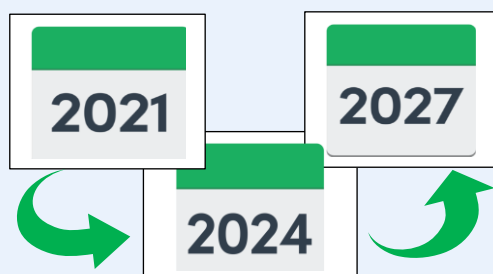
5) Information and resources – the training should tell people where they can get help or find out more information.



The experts agreed that all hospital staff should do the training.



The training should be delivered by hospital staff with people with learning disabilities and family carers.



People should do the training every 3 years.



The training may need to have some different information for staff depending on the job they do and where they are.

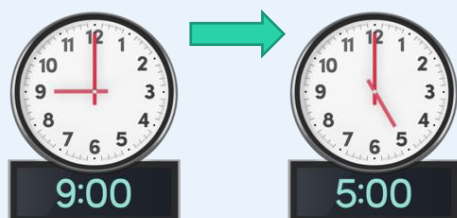




The experts did not agree on everything about the training. These are things they did not agree on.



Some people thought the training should be less than 2 hours.



Some people thought it should be a full day.



Some people thought the training should be online.



Some people thought the training should be done by a trainer in a room with you.



Some people thought the training could be done in both ways.

## What did the experts tell us about hospital settings?



We wanted the experts to tell us what hospitals can do to help their staff provide better care and support for people with learning disabilities.



These are some of the things they agreed are needed:



Staff need easy-read information to give to patients.



Staff should use hospital passports. These can help with communication.



Staff may need advice when they are supporting people with learning disabilities in their job.



Staff should think before someone comes into hospital about the reasonable adjustments they might need.





All hospitals should have a Learning Disability Nurse working in them.



Hospitals should look at what complaints they get from people with learning disabilities or their carers.



They can use this feedback to make things better.



Hospitals should review the number of deaths of people with learning disabilities.



We want to see that fewer people with learning disabilities are dying from things which could have been avoided.

## What gets in the way?



Training should help people to do their jobs better. We asked the experts what staff need to provide good care for people with learning disabilities. This is what they said:



Staff need clear guidance.



Staff need the right tools to give good support.



Staff need to understand what carers can do to support someone in hospital.



Staff need support to make reasonable adjustments.



Children and adults with learning disabilities must be seen as important.



Staff need more experience of working with people with learning disabilities.



Staff need to have learning disability awareness training.

## What do we still need to find out?



We now need to test out learning disability awareness training.



We need to find out if people with learning disabilities get better care and treatment after staff have training.

## What next?



We still have more work to do on this project.



We want to find out what is best practice in learning disability awareness training for hospital staff.



We will write an easy-read report about what we find.

The pictures in this report are from Photosymbols:  
[www.photosymbols.co.uk](http://www.photosymbols.co.uk)

