

## What did we do?



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



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.

We looked at 3 areas:



1. We looked for research about learning disability awareness training for staff in hospitals.



2. We looked for research about other training hospital staff get. This might be something like dementia training.



3. We looked for research about learning disability awareness training that people who do not work in hospitals get. This might be the training Police get.



How did we know if the training was good?



1. Did people enjoy it?



2. Did people learn new things?



3. Did people start doing things differently after the training?



4. Did the training mean people with learning disabilities get better care and treatment?



5. If Experts by Experience helped to deliver the training, did this help them? Did they earn money or learn new skills?

## How good was the research we found?



We found 14 bits of research about learning disability awareness training for staff in hospitals.



We do not think all these studies were very good.



Some research only included a small number of people.



Most of the research only asked people what they thought of the training as soon as it ended.



Not much research looks at if people started doing things differently after the training.

This is important. Training should help people to do their jobs better.



We did not find any research that looked if training led to better care and treatment for people with learning disabilities.

## What did the training cover?



There were 10 main things the training we found covered:



1. What having a learning disability means.



2. What we know about people with learning disabilities having poorer health than other people.



3. How people with learning disabilities can be treated unfairly.



4. Communication.



5. Going into hospital.  
Being in hospital.  
Leaving hospital.



6. What support there is for people with learning disabilities.

This might be support in hospital or in the community.



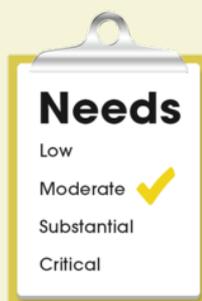
7. The law and what it says about people with learning disabilities.



8. Reasonable adjustments.



9. The mental health needs of people with learning disabilities.



10. Personalised training to help hospital staff do their jobs well. This might be training on how to assess someone with a learning disability or how to help them understand the results of a test.

## What does the best training look like?



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

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



People with learning disabilities should help deliver the training.



Using real-life stories makes the training better.



People with learning disabilities should be paid to be trainers.



Staff who do different jobs in a hospital can do the training together. This can help their learning.



It is better to do the training altogether. People learn more when they are in the same room. This is better than learning on a computer.



People working in hospitals are very busy. It is important that the training does not take too long.



It might be a good idea to develop training for all staff who work in hospitals. This might be doctors and it might be receptionists.



If training is done like this, then hospital staff learn more about supporting people with learning disabilities. And after the training, some staff will feel more confident they can do this well.

## What do we still need to find out?



We think there is more research needed. This should answer these questions:



How long should training sessions last?



Do people find it helpful to be given information to take away from the training?



What can hospitals do to help people use their training in their jobs?



Do people remember what they learnt a long time after the training?



Are people with learning disabilities getting better care and treatment after staff have training?

## What next?



We have done 2 surveys asking hospital staff about learning disability awareness training. We will write a report about what they said.



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 share what we find. We hope to have an event where we tell people what we found.

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

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**Health Education England**