

Our new policy position on restrictive practices

We've set out our new cross sector policy position on restrictive practices. The new policy has been developed following feedback from our expert advisory group for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

In their blog outlining the policy, Rebecca Bauers, Interim Director of People with a Learning Disability and Autistic People, and Chris Dziki, Director of Mental Health, talk about what the policy means for providers and people receiving healthcare services.



As well as sharing the new policy, they discuss what forms restrictive practices can take, and explain how the use of blanket restrictions diminishes the therapeutic power of person-centred, trauma-informed care.

Our new policy position is clear; we expect leaders of services, systems, and all those working in health and social care to take immediate steps to identify and reduce restrictive practices in their services, where possible. They must understand the events that led up to any incidents where restrictive practice was used, report on them, learn from them, and actively work to reduce them in future.

- [Blog: Restrictive practice — a failure of person-centred care planning?](#)

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An update on our local authority assessment pilots

We have published an update on our pilot local authority assessments.

We have asked the local authorities taking part in the pilot to give us information that we will use to understand how they are delivering their adult social care functions. The information they give will also help us see what additional evidence we might need



to complete an assessment.

We also asked the 5 local authorities in the pilots to send us their self-assessment if they had completed one.

It is important that we test this process during these pilot assessments. This is to check that we're asking for the right information and taking a proportionate approach.

We are also testing how we:

- use feedback from providers, people receiving social care services and other stakeholders
- can effectively involve Experts by Experience in our assessments.

We're constantly evaluating our approach throughout the pilots. We will incorporate any learning into our formal assessments which will start later this year, rather than in September as previously planned.

- [News: Testing our approach to local authority assessments](#)
- [Local authority assessments](#)

Still time to give your views on learning disability and autism training for health and social care workers

There is still time to give your views about guidance covering learning disability and autism training for people who work in health and social care.

The Oliver McGowan code of practice sets out how providers of health and social care can make sure their staff receive learning disability and autism training suitable for their role. What you tell the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) about the code of practice will help shape the final version of the code.

The code of practice is named after Oliver McGowan, whose tragic death in 2016 highlighted failures in care that could have been prevented.

We believe that it is essential that autistic people and people with a learning disability have access to safe, high-quality care. We have worked with DHSC to shape this code of practice.

The consultation is open until 19 September 2023.

- [GOV.UK: Consultation - Oliver McGowan draft code of practice](#)

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