



Coronavirus and People with Learning Disabilities Study

Wave 2 Results - June 2021

Briefing: Access to health and social care services

Background

- This study is designed to systematically and responsively track the experiences of adults with learning disabilities through the COVID-19 pandemic across the four UK nations.
- There will be three 'Waves' of data collection over a 12-month period. Wave 2 data were collected between April and May 2021.
- The data in this briefing are taken from Wave 2 of the study. If you want to find out more detail about the people who took part and the Wave 1 findings, you can download the full report [here](#).
- There are two 'Cohorts' of participants in this study. In Wave 2:
 - In Cohort 1, 598 adults with learning disabilities were interviewed by researchers.
 - In Cohort 2, family carers or paid support staff took part in an online survey about the experiences of 273 adults with learning disabilities who they supported/cared for. These were likely to be adults with more severe to profound learning disabilities.
- This document presents selected information about access to health and social care services from the Wave 2 results. You can download the Easy Read briefing about access to health and social care services [here](#).

Planned medical appointments, tests and operations

- 5% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had a planned hospital appointment cancelled in the last four weeks. In Cohort 2, 6% of people with learning disabilities had had a planned hospital appointment cancelled in the last four weeks.

- 4% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had a planned medical test cancelled in the last four weeks. In Cohort 2, 5% of people with learning disabilities had had a planned medical test cancelled in the last four weeks.
- 1% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had a planned medical operation cancelled in the last four weeks. In Cohort 2, 2% of people with learning disabilities had had a planned medical operation cancelled in the last four weeks.

Preventative health measures

- In Cohort 1, 69% people with learning disabilities usually have an annual health check. Of the 360 people who had theirs in 2021, these were either in person (24%), by telephone (11%) or by video call (3%). A further 20 people (6%) have not yet had theirs, but have an appointment booked.
- In Cohort 2, 21% of people with learning disabilities have had an annual health check. Of the 53 people who have had an annual health check, these were either in person (42%), by telephone (53%) or by video call (5%). A further 10 people with learning disability had not yet had theirs, but have an appointment booked.
- 66% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had received their flu vaccine in Winter 2020/21.
- 72% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to have received their flu vaccine in Winter 2020/21.

Contact with health and social care professionals

- Figure 1, below, shows the percentage of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 who had had contact with different health and social care professionals in the four weeks before their interview.

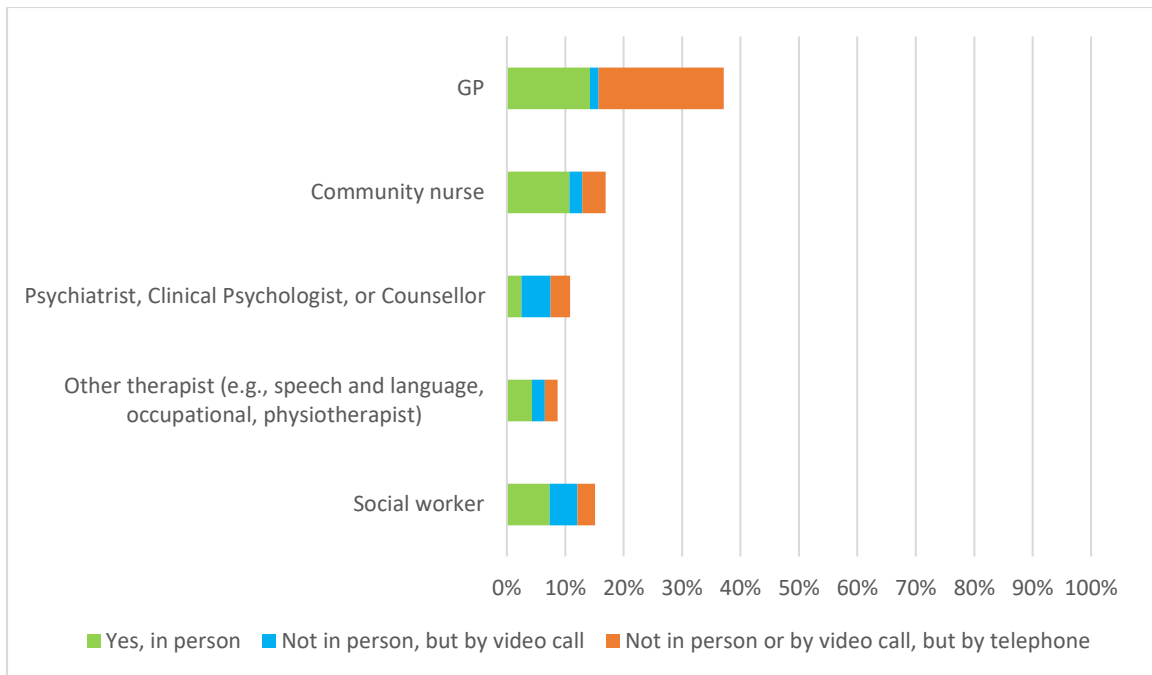


Figure 1. Contact with health and social care professionals for people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 in the last four weeks

- Overall, 37% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had some contact with their GP in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 17% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had some contact with their community nurse in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 11% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had some contact with their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 9% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had some contact with their therapist (e.g., speech and language, occupational, physiotherapist) in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 15% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 had had some contact with their social worker in the last four weeks.
- Figure 2, below, shows the percentage of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 who had had contact with different health and social care professionals in the four weeks before their interview.

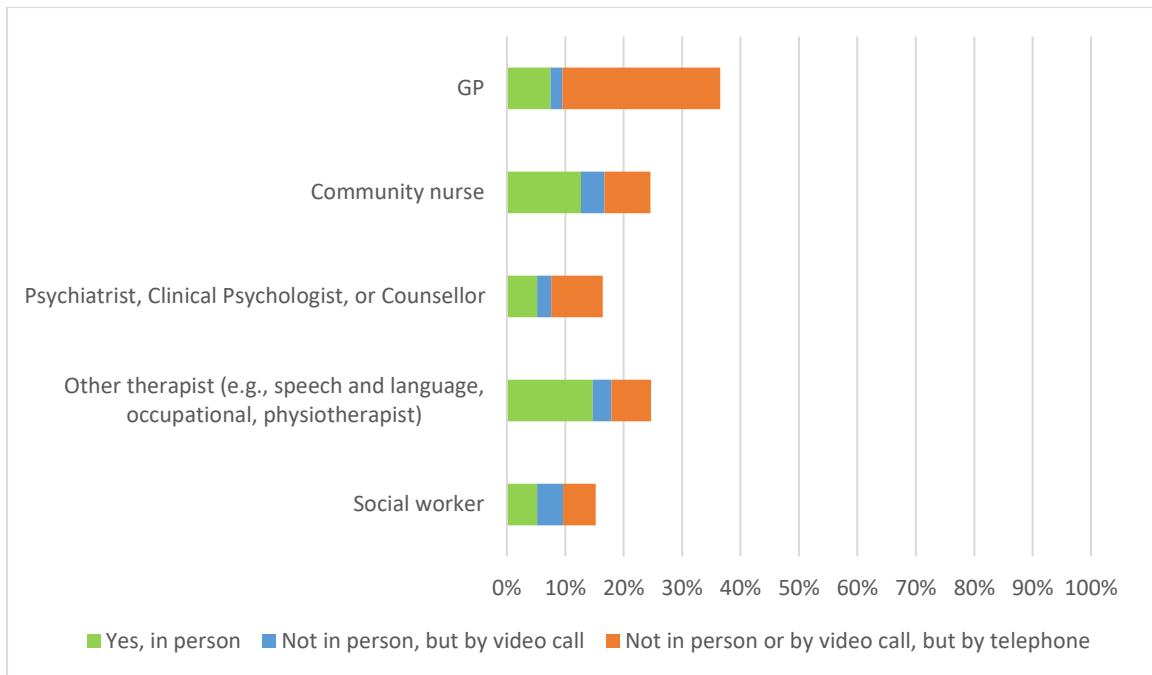


Figure 2. Contact with health and social care professionals for people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 in the last four weeks

- Overall, 37% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had had some contact with their GP in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 25% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had had some contact with their community nurse in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 16% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had had some contact with their psychiatrist, psychologist or counsellor in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 25% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had had some contact with their therapist (e.g., speech and language, occupational, physiotherapist) in the last four weeks.
- Overall, 15% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had had some contact with their social worker in the last four weeks.

Support and social care

- Figure 3, below, shows the percentage of people with learning disabilities in both cohorts attended day services, community activities, and further education, in person and online in the last four weeks.

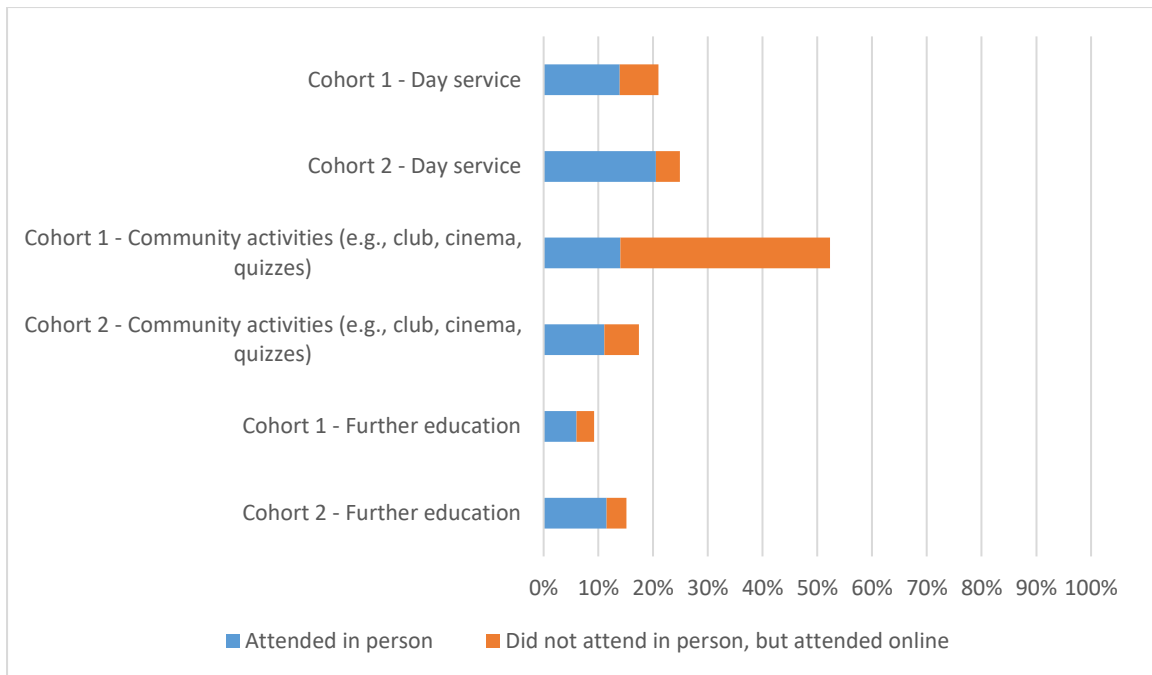


Figure 3. Attendance of day services, community activities, and further education for people with learning disabilities in Cohorts 1 and 2 in the last four weeks

- 6% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had short breaks or respite in the last four weeks.
- 10% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had short breaks or respite in the last four weeks.
- 41% people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had been involved in online activities organised by a self-advocacy group in the last four weeks.
- 13% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 had been involved in online activities organised by a self-advocacy group in the last four weeks.

Changes to support

- 20% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 1 reported that they had been told that their services will stay the same compared to how they were before the first lockdown. A further 5% reported being told they would receive less services, and 2% reported that they were told they would receive more services.
- 14% of people with learning disabilities in Cohort 2 were reported to have been told that their services will stay the same compared to how they were before the first lockdown. A further 14% were reported to have been told they would receive less services, and 2% were told they would receive more services.
- When asked about the services that they need but are not getting at the moment, most people in Cohort 1 said access to their social worker and other professionals, followed by reduced access to day care and community

activities. In Cohort 2, the most common response to the same question was having no or significantly reduced access to day care, followed by limited access to activities and the community.

Personal budgets

- In Cohort 1, 24% of people with learning disabilities reported having a personal budget or direct payments that they could use to pay for services. Most frequently, people in Cohort 1 were using this budget/these payments to pay for shopping/household items and for paying care, support workers and personal assistants.
- Of the 143 people receiving a personal budget or direct payments in Cohort 1, 15% of people were currently using this to pay for services that they were not getting at the minute.
- In Cohort 2, 49% of people with learning disabilities were reported to receive a personal budget or direct payments that they could use to pay for services. Most frequently, people in Cohort 2 were using this budget/these payments to pay care and support workers and personal assistants.
- Of the 124 people receiving a personal budget or direct payments in Cohort 2, 32% of people were currently using this to pay for services that they were not getting at the minute.

What happens next?

The Wave 3 interviews and surveys will be starting in late July 2021 for people who took part in the Wave 1 and/or Wave 2 interviews and surveys.

When we have finished the Wave 3 interviews and surveys, we will be able to complete some more detailed analyses about change of health and social care service use over time.

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