

Has health information for people with a learning disability got better?



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What this report is about



We are the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.



In 2006 we looked at health information for people with a learning disability.



Health information can be lots of things like

- things a doctor or nurse or other health person tells you about your health
- leaflets and letters about health.



We found that some health information for people with a learning disability was good.



But some things needed to get better.

We made a list of things that health people needed to do.



This year we looked again at health information for people with a learning disability.



We wanted to know if things had got better.

We talked to people with a learning disability and other people.



This report tells you what we found out.

What we found out

What is getting better



The government made a big plan about making life better for people with a learning disability.

The plan will help to make health care better.



People with a learning disability are having more of a say about their health care.



Some health staff from different places are working better together.



Health care is getting better for people with a learning disability who need a lot of support.



There are new health people who are there to support people with a learning disability.

They make sure that health staff work with people with a learning disability in the right way.



There will be more people like this in Northern Ireland in the next few years.



There is some information to help health staff in hospital.

It helps them know how to tell people with a learning disability things in a good way for them.



There will be checks to see how well this is working.



There will be more health information in easy words and pictures.



There is some new information for all health and care staff.

It tells them how to make their information easier for everyone to understand.



People with a learning disability helped make this information.



It should help health and care staff in all parts of Northern Ireland know what to do.



There will be some new websites with easy information about health and care.



Some people with a learning disability have had a say about what health information they want.



More health staff know how important it is to give people information in the right way.



There is better training and information for doctors and nurses about this.

It helps them know how to tell people with a learning disability things in a good way for them.



Health staff are thinking more about how to work with people with a learning disability in a better way.



Some people with a learning disability say that health staff are good.

They talk to them in a way they understand.

What needs to get better



There needs to be more easy information in writing.

For example, easy letters that tell people when their health appointment is.



People said they want information to take away with them after their health appointment.



We hope there will be more easy information like this soon.



Some people with a learning disability say health staff do not tell them things in a good way.



Some people say they do not have enough time with their doctor when they go.



People with a learning disability should have more time with their doctor.



There should be more training for health staff.

It will help them know how to tell people with a learning disability things in a good way for them.



People with a learning disability could help with the training.



It is good there will be some new websites with easy health information.



It is important that lots of people know about the websites when they are ready.



Lots has been done to make health information better for people with a learning disability.

But there is still lots more to do.

There will be lots of checks to see if health information is getting better.

For more information



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