

# **Evidence on Scotland's adult social care system for people with learning disabilities**

A report by the Fraser of Allander Institute

Easy read version



February 2021

# Who are the Fraser of Allander Institute?



We are a group of researchers who want to know more about life for people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



We wrote this report.

# What is this report about?



We all need help to live a happy life.



People with learning disabilities are no different.



People with learning disabilities who live in Scotland can get help from the government and society.



This help tries to give everyone with a learning disability the chance to live a happy life.



We want to know if this help is working well.



We want to know if it can be made better.

# What help is available?



Every person with a learning disability is different.



So the help they get will be different.



Some people get help with daily life at home.



Some people go to day centres.



Some people live in supported housing.



Some people get help finding a job.



Some people get help looking after their money.



Young people can get help when they decide what to do when they leave school.



There are lots of other ways people with learning disabilities can get help.



We want to know if people have the right help so they can live a happy life.



# How did we make this report?



We listened to people with learning disabilities.



We listened to people who work with people with learning disabilities.



We used reports that other people have done.



We looked at the money that the government spends on people with learning disabilities.



# What is The Keys To Life?



The Scottish Government wrote **The Keys to life.**



It is a plan for the future.



It tells us what the Scottish Government wants to do for people with learning disabilities.



It plans to make things better in lots of ways.

# What is self directed support?



**Self directed support** gives people more control and choice over the help they get.



Local governments have money to spend to help people with learning disabilities.



People can now choose how to spend the money available for them.



Or their local council can choose how to spend it for them.

# What has changed?



In the past a lot of people with learning disabilities lived in hospitals for a long time.



Now most people get help in the community or their home.



**The Keys To Life** came out in 2013.

**The keys  
to life**



But local government has less money to spend today than in the past.



This means some of the help people with learning disabilities used to get is not there any more.



**Self directed support** started in 2013.

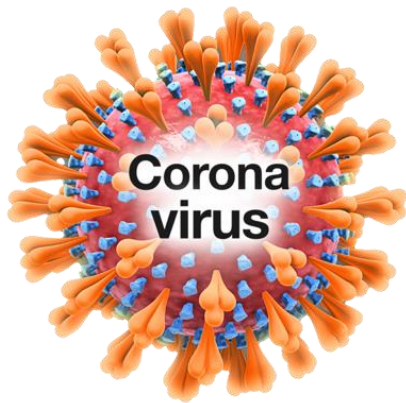


This gives people more control and choice over the help they get.

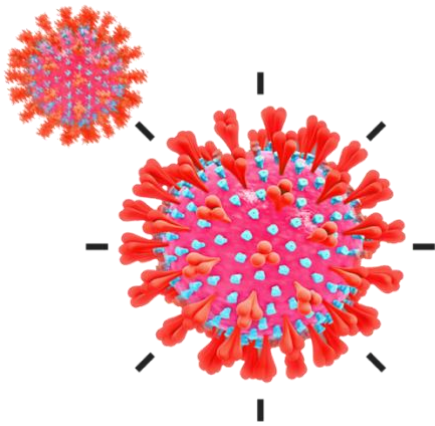


But people with learning disabilities do not have the right information or help to make these choices.

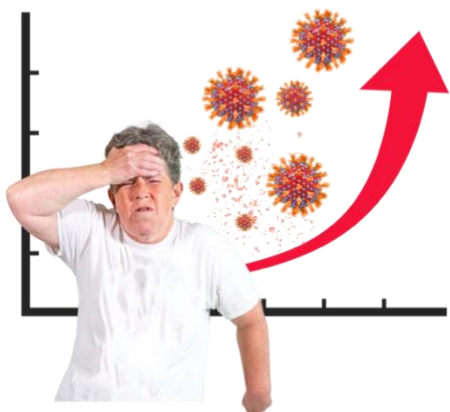
# What is the Covid-19 pandemic?



A new virus is in Scotland.

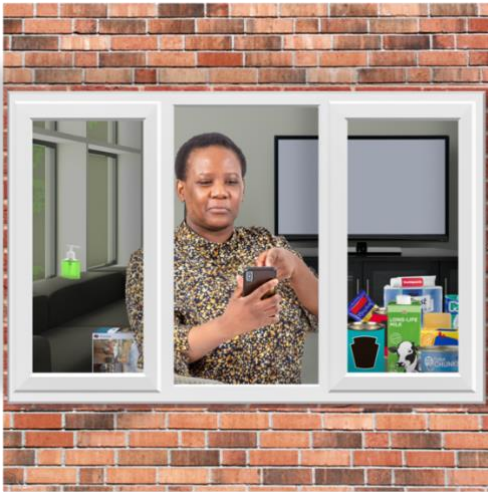


This virus is called **Covid-19**.



When the virus spreads to lots of people we call it a **pandemic**.





The **pandemic** means we need to stay at home more.



It has changed the way we meet other people.



This has made life very hard for lots of people.

# How has the pandemic changed things?



Sadly people with learning disabilities are more likely to die from Covid-19 than people without learning disabilities.



A lot of people with learning disabilities cannot get help like they did before.



People's physical and mental health is getting worse.



A lot of people are lonely.





Some people are worried that the human rights of people with learning disabilities have not been respected.



But some good things can come out of the pandemic.



Some people with learning disabilities like some of the new ways they get help.



If you are worried about the pandemic you should talk to someone about it.



You can talk to a family member or a friend or a support worker.

# What will happen after the pandemic?



We all hope the pandemic will end soon.



But will life go back to normal or will life be different?



Some people with learning disabilities want the help they get to go back to normal.



But others want to change the way people get help.



Some people are worried this means things like day centres won't be open in the future.

## What else do people want to change?



Lots of people told us that people with learning disabilities need better housing.



People with learning disabilities need more help finding a job.

**jobcentreplus**  
Work Coach

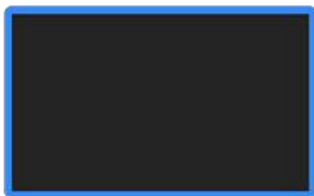


There is not enough respect or money for some people who work with people with learning disabilities.

# Transitions to adulthood



When young people with a learning disability leave school it can be hard to know what to do.



People can get help when they choose what to do after school.



But not everyone gets the right help at the right time.

## Our website



You can read more information on our website.

Our website is

**[www.fraserofallander.org/learning-disabilities](http://www.fraserofallander.org/learning-disabilities)**

