

Data on the lives of people with learning disabilities in Scotland: Short term actions for change

A report by the Fraser of
Allander Institute

Easy read version



May 2023

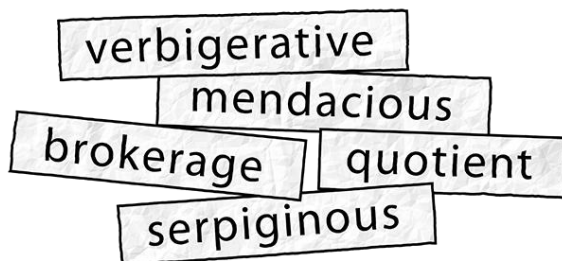
Who are the Fraser of Allander Institute?



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



We wrote this report.



In this report difficult words are in bold. We explain what they mean in the sentence after they have been used.

What is this report about?



We have been doing research into **data** collected about people with learning disabilities in Scotland.



Data is information that can be used to learn about or understand something.



When people tell us about their experiences this is data.



You can collect data by counting the number of people who have a learning disability in a town.



This data would be helpful to plan services for people with learning disabilities in that town.



We want to know if the data that is already being collected is helpful to support people with learning disabilities.



Data is important because it helps us make good decisions.



Without data we do not know what is happening or what needs to be done.



We use our research to come up with ideas for the Scottish Government.



We think these ideas will help the Scottish Government to help people with learning disabilities more.

**What ideas do we have
for the Scottish
Government?**



We have 3 ideas.

Idea 1



We think the Scottish Government should find a way to share a **dataset** called Learning Disability Statistics Scotland.



A **dataset** is a collection of facts and numbers about a group of people.



This Learning Disability Statistics Scotland **dataset** used to be shared but is not shared anymore.



We think this is a good idea because we will know more about the lives of people with learning disabilities.

Idea 2



We think the Scottish Government should try to link up data about people with learning disabilities to other data.



When we collect data we learn lots of things about people.



Linking up different bits of data means we can learn even more.

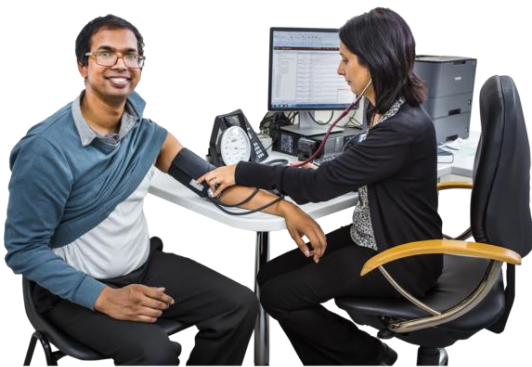


If data is linked up we will have more detail about the lives of people with learning disabilities.

Idea 3



We think the Scottish Government should think about how to use data from **annual health checks**.



Annual health checks are doctor check-ups that people with a learning disability have once a year.



We could learn more about people with learning disabilities if some of this information is shared.



This could include creating a register which lists people with learning disabilities.



This register would not be shared but would provide data which can be used to help people with learning disabilities.



But some people with learning disabilities might not want this to happen.



We think the Scottish Government should talk to people with learning disabilities about this.

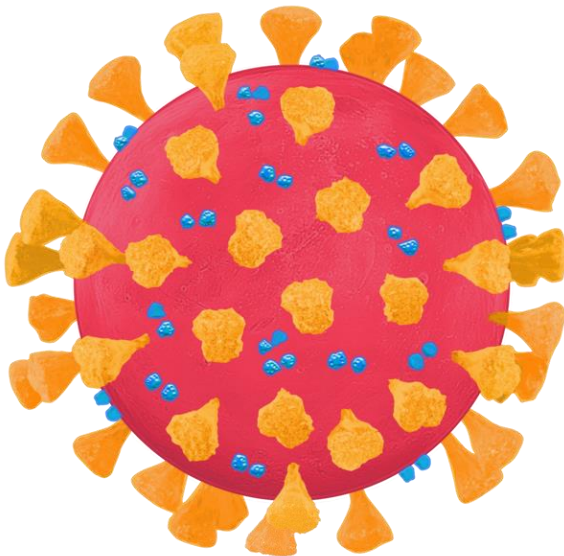


Then the Scottish Government can do what is best for people with learning disabilities.

What happens next?



We don't think the data we have on learning disabilities is useful enough.



COVID made the Scottish Government's job harder.



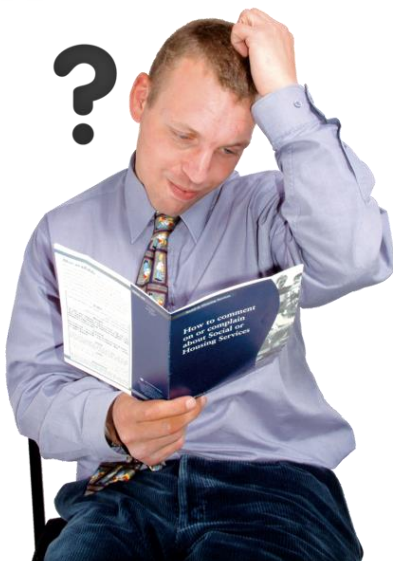
But now we think they can make improvements to help people with learning disabilities.



One way we can get better is by learning from other countries.



We have a second report all about data from other countries.



There are some things that all countries find difficult.



Our government could set a good example for other countries.



One good thing the Scottish Government is doing is **the Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill**.



The Learning Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Bill will protect the rights of people with learning disabilities.



But for the bill to work we need more useful data.



That is why we think the Scottish Government should listen to our ideas.

Our website



You can read more
information on our website.

Our website is

www.fraserofallander.org/learning-disabilities

