

Mental and Physical Lived Experience (MAPLE) Network Bulletin

November 2024

The aim of this current awareness bulletin is to provide a digest of recent guidelines, reports, research and best practice.

A triple empathy problem? Exploring barriers to accessing healthcare for autistic adults

The [Mental Elf summaries](#) a qualitative study exploring the 'triple empathy problem' among autistic adults attempting to access healthcare, and how this can contribute to adverse outcomes.

Autism: Overview of policy and services

The [Autism Act 2009 requires the Government to introduce and keep under review an adult autism strategy](#). In 2021 the Government published a new strategy for 2021 to 2026 including children and young people, alongside adults, for the first time. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is working on updating the statutory guidance, subject to public consultation in 2024.

Building disability inclusive workplaces

This [updated guidance from the NHS Staff Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Group \(EDIG\)](#) outlines how staff, line managers, trade union representatives and staff networks can support disabled people in the workplace.

Manifesto for a disability inclusive UK

The [Business Disability Forum manifesto](#) sets out five key strategies that need to be seen from Government and business to create better experiences and opportunities for disabled people. It also sets out the key principles that we believe are critical to achieving those aims.

Missing millions: exploring hidden and unmet social care need for disabled people

This [research from Healthwatch into social care for disabled people](#) shows how transformative social care can be for those receiving it. However, extrapolating survey data to national-level data, it found that as many as 1.5 million working-age disabled people in England are not receiving social care support, despite potentially being eligible for care. The report outlines the findings and sets out recommendations to decision-makers, including government, local authorities and integrated care systems.

The relationship between disability, long-term illness and financial wellbeing

Previous research has shown that financial wellbeing is lower among people with disabilities or long term health conditions. This [study from the Money and Pensions Service](#) examines how this varies for people with different types of disability or condition. It finds that financial wellbeing varies considerably between people with different types of disability. It also finds that within the disabled population, wellbeing is lowest for women, single parents, unemployed people and those living in deprived areas. These are some of the same groups that have lower financial wellbeing among the non-disabled population. This suggests that there is some intersectionality, i.e. that these other characteristics can compound the financial impact of disability.

UK disability statistics: Prevalence and life experiences

An estimated 16.1 million people in the UK had a disability in 2022/23, [accounting for 24% of the total population](#).

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