

Health inequalities and the impact of COVID-19 on people with learning disabilities

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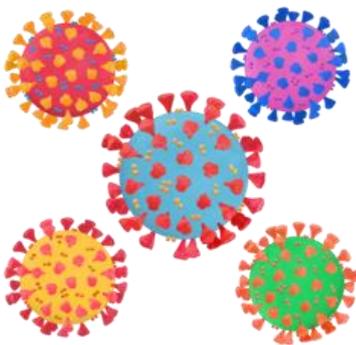


I am a campaigner and self-advocate from Kent.

I work with national and local organisations, like BeMix, East Kent Mencap and also sit on Mencap's Treat me Well steering group, on our health campaign.



I'm working with BeMix on a project about the Learning Disability Mortality Review (LeDeR)



Both me and my husband got Covid. We both ended up in hospital with breathing problems. My husband also had other health issues like diabetes, and he was very unwell.



He died in hospital. I was in hospital at the same time on a different ward, but never got to say goodbye to him because of the visiting restrictions.



I still think this was cruel and I should have been able to see him, as I also had Covid but was getting better.



I had no support with organising his funeral, and had to rely on friends and family to help me.



After my husband died, I couldn't stay in our council house any longer because of the Bedroom Tax, and I've just moved.



I also had to deal with moving on to Universal Credit, which has taken months to get right and get all the money DWP owe me.



My son, who has learning disabilities, is in an in-patient unit. He has been in some awful places that treated him badly.



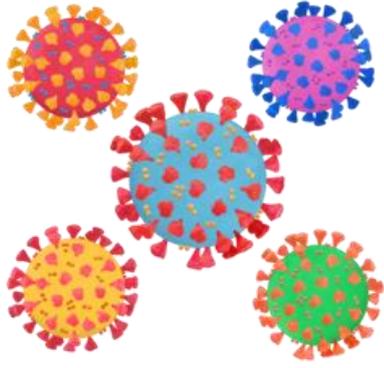
The government and local councils need to shut these private units and have the right social care services in the community.



My son is in a better place now, and hopefully he will come out and get his own home in the community next year. But it's taken too long.



During lockdown I couldn't see him, so we have lost lots of visits that we won't get back



I'm worried now about this new Covid variant that is here. I've had my booster and flu jab. But I know people who haven't



Now new rules are coming in there needs to be better support for people and clear information on how to be safe



People with a learning disability died much more from Covid than other people. We need to know why this was and the government needs to stop it happening again.



The government needs to get on with its inquiry and change things. They owe it to people like my husband, and all other people with a learning disability who have died.

Thank you