



MAPLE Staff Network Current Awareness Bulletin

January – March 2023

News

BBC News, 5th March

[US Disability rights activist Judy Heumann dies aged 75](#)

Heumann was an internationally recognised leader of the disability rights movement whose activism led to the implementation of major legislation in the United States.

Self Help UK and Macmillan

Self Help UK have received additional funding from Macmillan to develop our Deaf Cancer Support project - <https://deafcancersupport.org.uk/> The funding will be for a 2 year pilot scheme. This funding enables us to:

- provide virtual emotional and practical support for Deaf people going through cancer;
- signpost people to other appropriate services;
- support the establishment of new peer support groups, so that Deaf people affected by cancer can meet other people with similar experiences.

Guidelines, Policies and Reports

City & Guilds Foundation

[Supporting neurodivergent employees in the workplace](#)

Our new research has found that employers are currently failing to support neurodivergent employees, and there is currently a lack of training available and awareness in most workplaces.

Department for Work and Pensions

[Shaping future support: the health and disability Green Paper: consultation outcome](#)

This Green Paper explores how the benefits system can better meet the needs of disabled people and people with health conditions. As such, it forms an important part of the government's wider plans and is this Department's main contribution to the National Disability Strategy.

[Transforming support: the health and disability White Paper](#)

Following the consultation Shaping future support: the health and disability Green Paper, this White Paper sets out proposals to help more disabled people and people with health conditions to start, stay and succeed in work.



House of Commons Library

[How is health affecting economic inactivity?](#)

The number of working-age people who can't work because of long-term sickness has been increasing since before the coronavirus pandemic. It rose from 2 million at the start of 2019 to 2.5 million as of November 2022 to January 2023. This Insight explores how people leaving the workforce because of ill health affects economic inactivity.

Office for National Statistics

[Disability by age, sex and deprivation, England and Wales: Census 2021](#)

Insights into disability prevalence in England and Wales in 2021, broken down by age and sex. Main findings are presented at country, regional and local authority level.

NHS Employers

[Understanding disability infographic](#)

Access our infographic to understand what a disability is and learn how organisations and managers can support disability in the workplace.

NHS England

[Supporting people with a learning disability and autistic people to live happier, healthier, longer lives: bitesize guide for local systems](#)

This guide contributes to delivering this commitment. It draws together a number of resources and provides a one stop shop for professionals who put in place services and approaches to support children, young people and adults who have a learning disability or who are autistic to lead healthier, happier, longer lives.

Resolution Foundation

[Costly differences: Living standards for working-age people with disabilities](#)

This briefing focuses on the living standards of people with disabilities, including results from a new survey of just under 8,000 working-age adults, over 2,000 of whom reported a long-term illness or disability, to offer insight into their experience of the current crisis. People with disabilities are more vulnerable to rising costs of essentials because energy and food make up a greater share of their budgets than for the non-disabled.



Research briefings

The Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology

[Invisible disabilities in education and employment](#)

Disability occurs in many different forms. An invisible disability, or non-visible disability, is an impairment or health condition that is not immediately obvious. This POSTnote provides an overview of invisible disability in the UK. It outlines types of invisible disabilities and relevant legislation and policy. It also discusses the experiences of adults with invisible disabilities, and strategies aimed at increasing access and inclusion for adults with invisible disabilities, focusing on employment, and higher and further education.

Published research

‘In the picture’: perspectives on living and working with cancer

Medical Humanities, February 2023, 49, p.83-92

We explored working and living with cancer at a large research-intensive National Health Service hospital breast cancer service and adjoining non-governmental organisation (NGO). The project had three elements that were largely autonomous in practice but conceptually integrated through a focus on personalised cancer medicine. Di Sherlock held conversations with staff and patients from which she produced a collection of poems, *Written Portraits*. At the same time, we conducted interviews and observation in the hospital, and hosted a public series of science cafés in the NGO.

Click here for full access: [Medical Humanities](#)

Oliver McGowan programme aims to address health inequalities and prevent avoidable deaths

Nursing Management, February 2023

All health and care staff in England are receiving training on supporting people with learning disabilities, and autistic people. The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training programme, run by Health Education England (HEE), is designed to provide staff with the knowledge and skills to make reasonable adjustments as well as challenge their preconceptions of learning disabilities and autism.

Blogs / Commentary / Editorials / Opinion Pieces

BMJ

[Improving flexible working in the NHS](#)

Employers often fail to provide sufficient information to people about flexible working in terms of what they can request and what they might be entitled to, she added. “People feel that if they ask for something like an amended working pattern during pregnancy, for example, they will be perceived as weak [and] unable to do their job,” she said.



NHS Employers

[I don't want to be called disabled](#)

The Workforce Disability Equality Standard (WDES) report contains the latest analysis of data collected across the NHS. In many respects, the data is very positive, with many of the indicators showing an improving trend.

Nursing Times, February 2023

['No one should feel ashamed of their disability'](#)

I have reasonable adjustments in place to make the playing field more level. However, early on in my training, I had a nurse question my reasonable adjustments. They told me that there was no point in me being there if I needed adjustments and that maybe I should consider a different career.

Multimedia

[BBC Sounds: 1800 Seconds on Autism](#)

[Podcast] From home and family to humour and epic geekiness, this is a funny and enlightening podcast about thinking differently. With autistic hosts Robyn Steward, Jamie Knight and guests.

[BBC Two: Inside our Autistic Minds](#)

[TV series] Chris Packham helps autistic people illustrate how their minds work, helping them connect with their friends and family in a new, more authentic way.

Library Services

Would you like to keep up to date with the latest evidence on topics of your choice? Sign up for a current awareness alert: <https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/knowledgeshare-request/>

Can't find the information you need? We can do literature searches for you: <https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/search-request/>

We can provide training on how to search healthcare databases and resources as well as showing you how to appraise the information that you find: <https://www.nhslincslibrary.uk/training/>

Online Resources

BMJ Best Practice is a clinical decision support tool that provides step-by-step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention of a wide variety of conditions: <https://bestpractice.bmj.com/oafed>

ClinicalKey is a database which supports healthcare professionals by providing access to the latest evidence across specialties: <https://www.clinicalkey.com/>