Improving health of people with learning disabilities

News - May 2019

Looking at the cause of death of people with learning disabilities

Hertfordshire is working with NHS England to look at the cause of death of people with learning disabilities.

They want to use this information to improve the health care of people.

Local health and social care services, people with a learning disability and their families have been helping.
So far, we have found that we could get better at working together across all services to:

- Support people better
- Communicate better with people

We also found that over half of people died from diseases that could be treated.

There will be a report on this programme in July 2019.

**Easy health information online**

There is a web page on the Hertfordshire County Council website which gives easy information to people with learning disabilities.

It gives useful information and advice to people with learning disabilities, their families, carers and health professionals.
Planning for winter
Hertfordshire County Council worked with health services to look at better ways to help people to stay independent at home in the winter.

We looked at better ways to prevent people from having to go into hospital.

Nose spray
Some people with learning disabilities cannot have a flu jab.

So doctors have been using a nose spray instead.

This means that more people are protected against flu and pneumonia.
Sepsis song
Sepsis is a serious disease which is sometimes called blood poisoning.

You can treat sepsis if you go to a doctor quickly.

Kate Harding and the Purple All Stars have written the Sepsis Song.
The song helps people to understand what to look for.

Purple Wrist Bands
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust are trying out giving people with learning disabilities a purple wrist band when they go into hospital.

The wrist band will help staff realise that the person needs a little more help.
The new NHS 10 year plan
There is a new 10 year plan for the whole of England.

This includes plans to keep people with learning disabilities healthy.

The Big Plan
Hertfordshire has a new plan about how we want to improve services for people with learning disabilities over the next 5 years.

Wheelchair accessible scales
Community nurses have been having difficulty in weighing some people.

They could use a wheelchair accessible weighing scale.
For more information

For more information please contact Elaine Scott by email at: elaine.scott@hertfordshire.gov.uk

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