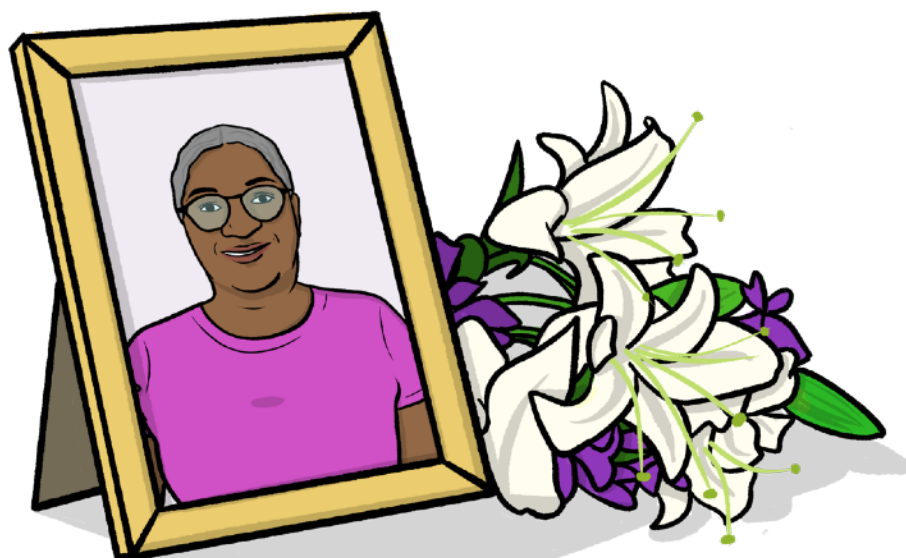


LeDeR

Learning from the lives and deaths
of people with a learning disability
and autistic people



**This is our
yearly report for
April 2024 to
March 2025**



**Easy
Read**

Easy Read

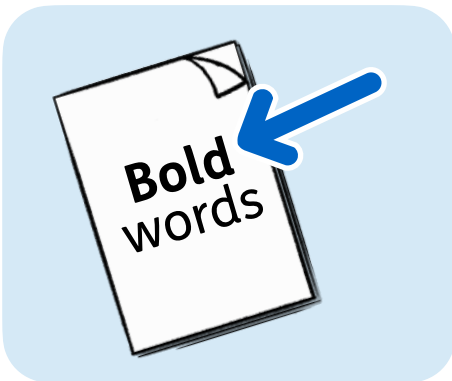


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

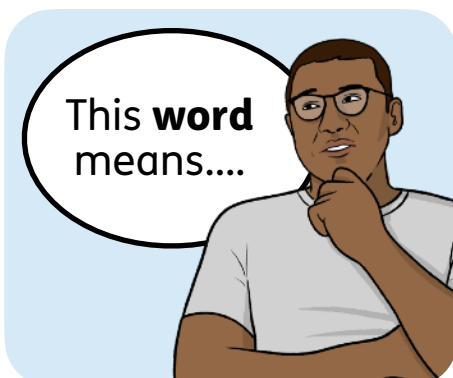
It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

What is in this report

About us.....4

About this booklet5

LeDeR in South East London6

Global majority14

Cancer18

What services have worked on since last year20

What we will do next year22

Find out more24

About us



We are NHS South East London.



NHS South East London oversees all the NHS services in:

- Bexley
- Bromley
- Greenwich
- Lambeth
- Lewisham
- Southwark

About this booklet



We write reviews about the deaths of people with a learning disability and autistic people in our area.



They are called **LeDeR reviews**.

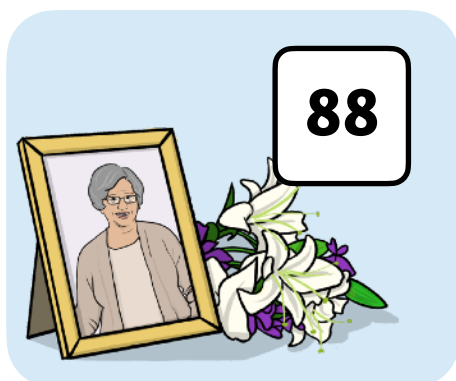
They help us to give people with a learning disability and autistic people better care.



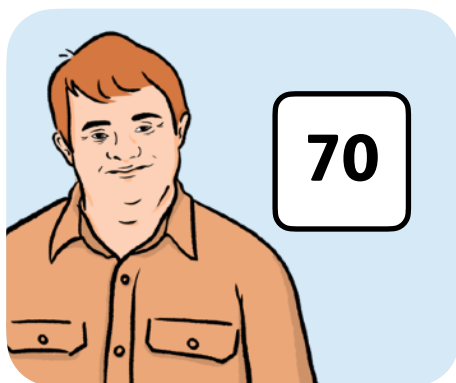
In this booklet, we look at our LeDeR reviews from 2024 to 2025.

This will help us to learn what we can do better in the future.

LeDeR in South East London



We were told about 88 deaths from April 2024 to March 2025.



70 were for people with a learning disability.



9 were for people with a learning disability and autism.



9 were for autistic people who did not have a learning disability.

LeDeR reviews



We wrote LeDeR reviews about 82 deaths this year.



This is more than we have done before.



This was because:

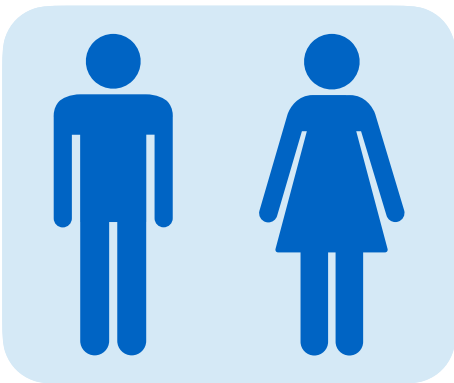
- We have more staff to work on this than we used to.
- We have had help from another organisation to work on LeDeR.



About the people who died



Most people who died were aged between 56 and 75.

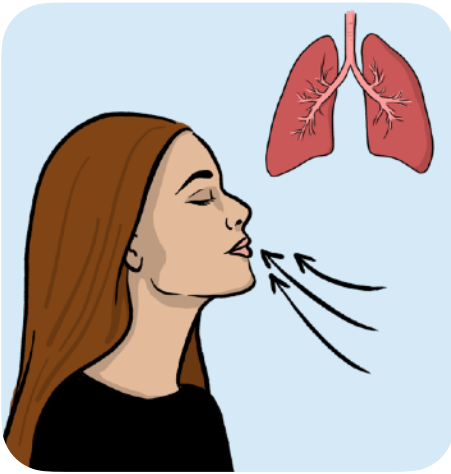


We heard about more men who died than women.



More people died in hospitals than in their homes.

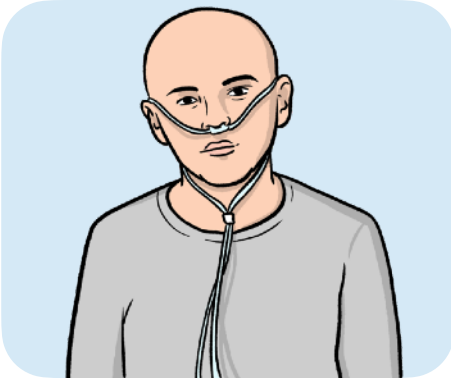
Why people died



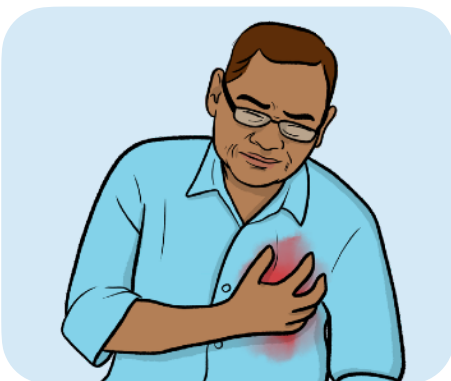
The biggest reason that people died was an illness called **pneumonia**.

This is an illness that affects your lungs and breathing.

People also died from:



- Cancer.



- Illnesses in their hearts.

What services did well



When we looked into people's deaths, we found ways that NHS staff had worked well.

These included:



- Staff from different parts of the NHS worked well together to help people.



- Staff understood that they should not give people medicine that they did not need.

We also found that NHS staff worked well in these ways:



- Some members of staff were good at making **reasonable adjustments**.



Reasonable adjustments are changes that services can make to support disabled people.

For example, giving people Easy Read information so they can understand it.



- A member of staff called the **Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurse** worked well.



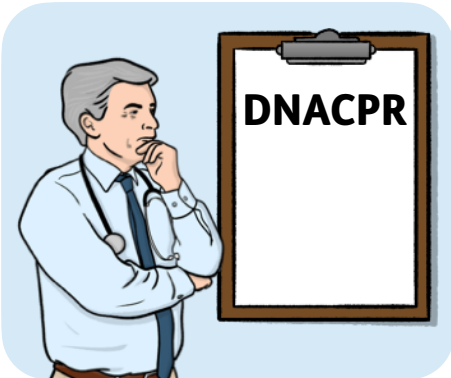
This person works in a hospital.

They make sure that all staff know what reasonable adjustments the person needs.

What services did not do well



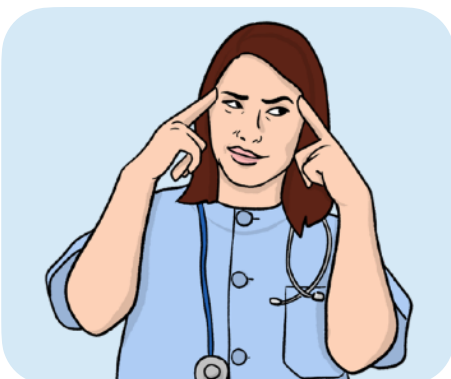
We found ways that NHS services had not worked well.



Staff did not always follow the rules about **DNACPR**.

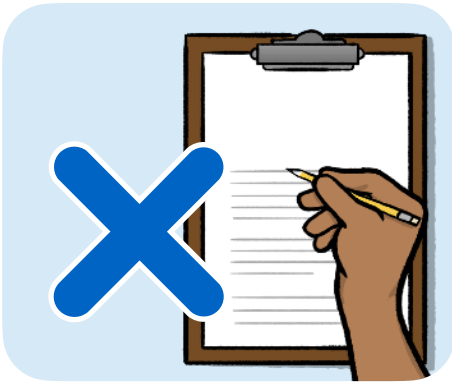


DNACPR means that someone does not want doctors to try to restart their heart if they die.



But doctors did not always know if people had chosen this.

There were other problems too, including:



- Doctors wrote that people had died of their learning disability.

People cannot die of a learning disability.



- Staff did not write down if they had checked whether people could make choices for themselves.



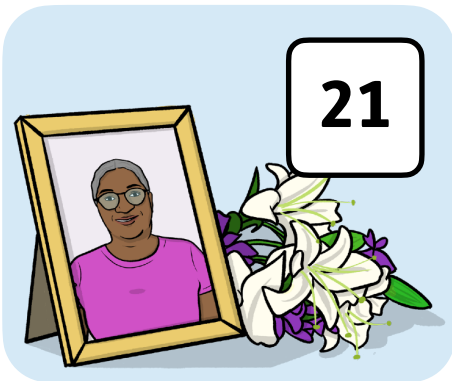
- Staff did not always write down who could make choices for people when they were ill.

Global majority



Global majority is used to describe people who are not white.

It includes people who are Black, Asian, mixed race, or from other backgrounds.



We were told about 21 deaths of people from the global majority.



These people may have had different issues with their care than white people.

What services did not do well

These are some of the things that went wrong:



- There was no **hospital passport**.

A **hospital passport** is a document that explains what health and care support a person needs in hospital.



- Staff were not quick enough to help people who were not safe at home.



- Family members did not feel like hospital staff listened to them.

These things also went wrong:



- Different parts of the NHS did not agree on what illnesses people had.



- Staff were not checking if people were getting the care and support they needed.



- Staff did not always tell the Acute Learning Disability Liaison Nurses when people went into hospital.



- Staff did not always follow the rules about supporting people to make choices about their care.

What services did well



We also found ways that NHS services had worked well.

These included:



- Making sure people could see the same doctor each time they were ill.



- People could get support from staff who knew them well.



- Acute Hospital Learning Disability Liaison Nurses helped people when they went to hospital.

Cancer

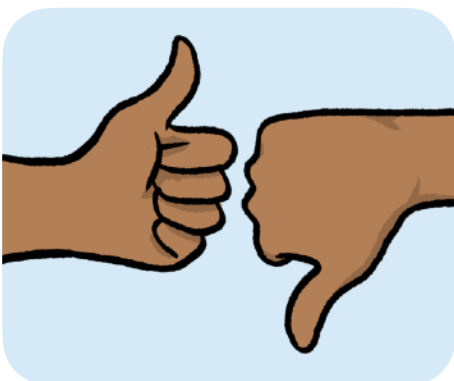


We wanted to find out more about how to help people with cancer.



So we looked carefully at the deaths of 5 people who had cancer.

They all had a learning disability.



We found that services had done some things well, and other things badly.

We think cancer care could be better for people with a learning disability. These are our ideas:



- Get better at finding cancer early, before people get ill.



- Always use reasonable adjustments.



- All parts of the NHS should work together.



- Help people to plan what will happen at the end of their lives.

What services have worked on since last year



Last year, we found that people with **epilepsy** died younger than other people.



Epilepsy is an illness that affects your brain.



So Bexley community learning disability team have started working on a project to support people with epilepsy in Bexley.

The South East London Alliance have worked on:



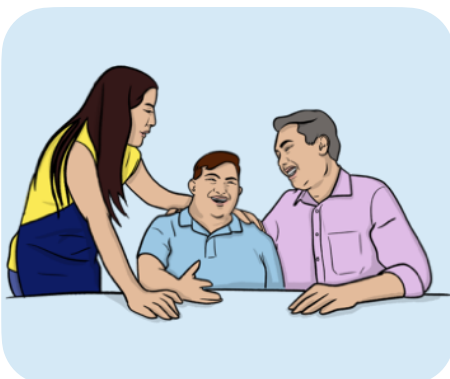
- Training health staff to support people with a learning disability who have cancer.



- Training health staff to notice when a person with a learning disability is becoming more ill.



- Making sure people with a learning disability and autistic people get the right support when they are seriously ill.



- Writing a new plan to support autistic people and their families.

What we will do next year

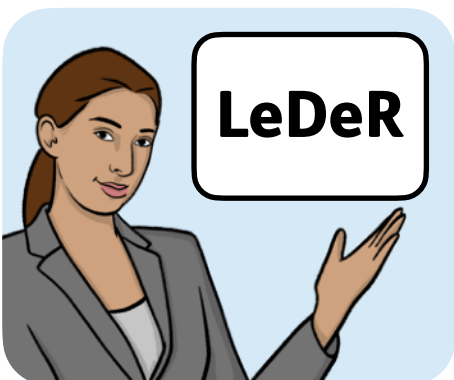


Over the next year, we will keep learning from the deaths of people with a learning disability and autistic people.

This will include:



- Looking into people's deaths as soon as we can.



- Telling NHS and care services about LeDeR, so we can learn from more deaths.

Our work will also include:



- Making sure that services learn from our reviews.



- Helping people to learn about supporting people with a learning disability and autistic people.

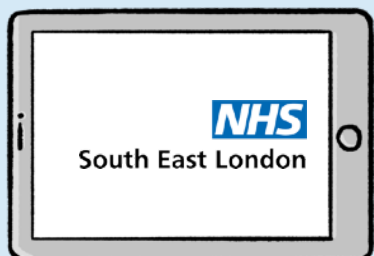


- Working with NHS services to help stop people from dying younger than everyone else.



- Making sure that everyone has the chance to live longer, healthier lives.

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.selondonics.org/icb

If you need more information,
please contact us by:



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