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## Learning Disabilities Mortality Review (LeDeR) programme

University of Bristol Bulletin | April 2020

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### Contents:

- [University's LeDeR team continues to operate with staff home working during COVID-19](#)
  - [Recording COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities](#)
  - [Reviews of deaths related to COVID-19](#)
  - [Support for people with learning disabilities during COVID-19 outbreak](#)
  - [Have you been forwarded this by email? Here's how you can receive LeDeR bulletins](#)
  - [How to unsubscribe if you don't want to receive further emails from us](#)
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University's LeDeR team continues to operate with staff working from home during COVID-19

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak remains a fast-moving and evolving situation, but the University's LeDeR team continues to operate with staff working from home. Whilst we endeavour to continue to support the LeDeR programme as normal during this period, our levels of service may be inadvertently adversely affected. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. Notifications of the deaths of people with learning disabilities can be registered as normal at [www.bris.ac.uk/sps/leder/notification-system/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/sps/leder/notification-system/).

The LeDeR team also continues to support the operation of the LeDeR Review System. If Reviewers and/or Local Area Contacts need help or advice, please email the University's LeDeR team at [leder-team@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:leder-team@bristol.ac.uk)

Further updates, as they happen, will be posted on the [LeDeR website](#).

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### Recording COVID-19 deaths of people with learning disabilities

The LeDeR Programme has adjusted its notification process to ensure any people with learning disabilities who die from a coronavirus-related cause are recorded appropriately. Anyone reporting a death to the University of Bristol's LeDeR team will be asked whether it is likely that the death was related to COVID-19. A supplementary question has also been added to the LeDeR Review System so reviewers and Local Area Contacts (LACs) can formally record deaths as being caused by COVID-19. Any reviewers or LACs who have questions about these changes should contact their Regional Coordinator. The University will be providing weekly updates to NHS England on the total number of COVID-19 deaths reported to the LeDeR programme.

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### Reviews of deaths related to COVID-19

It would be helpful if reviewers could include certain information when reviewing any deaths related to COVID-19. This includes: how the early symptoms of illness were identified and responded to; the treatment received, including admission to hospital and ITU; the decision-making processes that guided a person's treatment plan; DNACPR decisions made

and their rationale; and any reasonable adjustments required and made. It would also be helpful for reviewers to include information specific to risk factors for COVID 19 in the general population: if the person was obese; what, if any, underlying health conditions they had; if they were a smoker; if they had had previous episodes of respiratory disease; if they were being 'shielded'; and if they relied on others to help them to wash their hands and maintain social distance.

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#### [Support for people with learning disabilities during COVID-19 outbreak](#)

People with learning disabilities face considerable health inequalities and this will be no different during the COVID-19 outbreak. Below is a selection of resources which are available for people with learning disabilities, their families and paid-for carers: Public Health England has produced an [easy-read document](#) explaining why it's so important for people to keep their distance from others during the coronavirus crisis.

Beyond Words has produced this ['Beating the Virus' book](#) to help people to understand what to do if they have Coronavirus and how to keep themselves, and those who they care about, safe. It's available to download for free.

Photosymbols has produced [this poster](#) which explains how people can stay safe during COVID-19. It's available to print out so it can be displayed, as needed.

Learning Disability England has produced a [series of information on its website](#) designed to explain, provide essential information, and keep people in touch with each other.

A list of UK-wide Mutual Aid groups, who can assist with shopping and collecting prescriptions, is available [here](#).

As COVID-19 develops, we will be providing links to all relevant information for people with learning disabilities on our [@leder-team Twitter account](#). Please share them with family, friends and colleagues.

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If you've been forwarded this bulletin by a colleague, or friend, and want to have LeDeR bulletins sent direct to your inbox, you can add your name to our database by [emailing](#) the LeDeR team at the University of Bristol.

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The next LeDeR monthly bulletin will be sent out on Wednesday, **May 20**. Please email [leder-team@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:leder-team@bristol.ac.uk) when any information to include by Wednesday, May 6.

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