

# Hearing the Voices of People with Learning Disabilities and Autism Through Simulation in the Preparation of Healthcare Students

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# Background

What can we say about  
the people with a learning disability  
who died in England in 2022?

2022



- People with a learning disability continue to have a much shorter life expectancy than the wider general public, with 6 out of 10 dying before age 65, compared to 1 out of 10 for people from the general population. (Kings College 2023 <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/leder> )
- 42% of deaths were deemed “avoidable” for people with a learning disability in 2022 compared to 50% in 2021.
- Health and Care Act 2022 mandates health and care staff to have training relating to people with learning disabilities and autistic people aligned with the relevant tier of the Health Education Core Capabilities Framework (Health Education England, 2019a&b)
- The NMC (2023) Standards for Pre-registration Nursing Programmes require nursing students to complete 2300 hours of learning in practice settings.

# Why use simulation



Simulation provides a realistic setting and safe environment for students to apply the knowledge they learned in class

Simulated activities can foster a safe and supportive learning environment where students can explore, experiment, take risks, and learn from mistakes, without fear of judgment or negative consequences

Reflective thinking during the debriefing steps has been found to effectively promote communication skills and confidence in nursing

Kolb's cyclical learning process posits that learners recognise and accept knowledge through specific experiences, reflective observation, and conceptualisation that can be linked to active application in the real world.

# What's been happening at CCCU



Simulated Hospital Admission session rolled out across all nursing undergraduate to teach Student Nurses about working with people with learning disabilities and autism

Interactive Sessions with Student Nursing Associate in re-living common experiences of using health care services



Inclusion of several external partners to support the running of the simulated hospital admission



Focus was on Student Nurses and Nursing Associates to understand what reasonable adjustments are available to support working with people with learning disabilities and autism within healthcare settings

# So what's the difference it makes .....



Reasonable Adjustments – understanding in verbal and non-verbal communication tools and resources



Increased confidence with communication



Opportunity to challenge negative behaviors and attitudes that have been demonstrated in practice.



Are we hearing the right voices .....

What do you want our nursing students to learn?

