

## Flagging Project to Improve the Bowel Cancer Screening Programme Pathway for Participants with Learning Disabilities

### Learning Disabilities

People with one or more learning disabilities often have a shorter life expectancy than that of the general population (LeDeR, 2018). People with a mild learning disability have a median age of death of 62; this is 21-24 years younger than people living without a learning disability. Many of the comorbidities that are prevalent amongst people with one or more learning disabilities could be prevented if health services were fully equitable and accessible.

According to the British Medical Journal (2019), women with a learning disability in England have an average life expectancy of 65, GP data from NHS Digital has shown; this is 18 years lower than those without. Men experience similar inequalities in relation to life expectancy – 66 vs. 80.

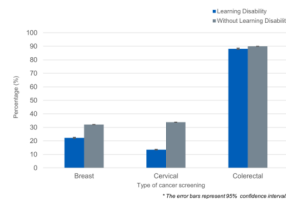


Figure 1 – Cancer Screening Participation, taken from Health and Care of People with Learning Disabilities, Experimental Statistics: 2019 to 2020

### Results

	Referred to LD Team	Known to the LD Team	Not known to the LD Team
Total	71	46	25

Date	No. eligible	No. screened	Uptake %
Q1 2021/2022	129	49	37.98%
Q2 2021/2022	88	36	40.90%
Q3 2021/2022	107	65	60.74%
Q4 2021/2022	133	79	59.39%

### Recommendations

- Can easy read information be sent out at the point of invitation
- Embedded into the role of the learning disability nurses who support adults with a learning disability
- Identify other organisations who support adults with a learning disability
- CSIL to work with general practice to flag and support adults with a learning disability who are not known to the learning disability team
- CSIL to train and support staff and organisations on the bowel cancer screening programme
- CSIL to work with the SSP nurse team to support participants who have a positive result
- Lead SSP to offer training to staff supporting the full pathway
- Report the results to the Better Health Manchester team commissioned by the Greater Manchester Screening and Immunisations Team

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### Conclusion

The numbers in the pilot project were a small sample and of the one's identified by the North West Bowel Screening Hub the sample size was even smaller. The project has had a positive outcome on the adults with a learning disability who have taken part. The uptake of those who were known to the learning disability service was 50% which is close to the acceptable target for uptake for the mainstream population. However, the uptake for the total participants who were identified was only 32%. It was also noted that the pilot required dedicated time from a member of the team in addition to their regular workload.

There were a significant number of participants who were not known to the learning disability team, so they did not receive any support. In this pilot there were 35% of the identified participants with a learning disability who did not receive any extra support. There was one incidence of a participant who had not confirmed their Specialist Screening Practitioner (SSP) appointment however they had been flagged as having a learning disability by their GP. Due to patient confidentiality the participant cannot be contacted by the programme prior to attending.



### Acknowledgements

Sarah Morgan, Patricia Daniels, Nicky Bennet, Angela Little  
Bury Learning Disability Team  
GM Screening and Immunisations Team  
Bury CCG