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Health and Social Care Committee
Learning Disabilities Cross Party Group
SPICE

04 February 2021

Dear colleague,

Impact of COVID-19 on people with learning/intellectual disabilities in Scotland

I am writing to update you on the publication today of some summary findings from the Scottish Learning Disabilities Observatory (SLDO) on the impact of Covid-19 on people with a learning/intellectual disability living in Scotland.

As you may already be aware, SLDO were commissioned by the Scottish Government to conduct a data linkage exercise of the Census 2011 records with death registrations, hospital records and COVID-19 testing data to investigate infection rates and outcomes of hospitalisation and/or mortality.

A high level summary of early results has been published today on the SLDO website:

<https://www.sldo.ac.uk/our-research/life-expectancy-and-mortality/covid-19/>

An easy read summary is also available:

<https://www.sldo.ac.uk/media/1926/sldo-easy-read-summary.pdf>

I want to reassure you that the Scottish Government continues to work closely with SLDO while we consider implications of this research.

I remain grateful for your continued support. In the mean time our covid-19 vaccination programme continues to gather pace and, led by the JCVI guidance on vaccination prioritization, people with Down's Syndrome will be invited for vaccination during group 4, and people with severe and profound learning/intellectual disabilities and carers, will be offered vaccination during group 6.

Our 'roll up your sleeves' campaign continues to encourage everyone offered the vaccine to get it, as it is the best way to protect yourself, others and the NHS from COVID-19.

Clare Haughey

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