A short report on Coronavirus, disability and getting services
Problems

Disabled people found it difficult to get services even before the Coronavirus came along.

Disabled people often have extra health and learning support needs.

The Government must ask experts to look at why disabled people have suffered more since Coronavirus started.

This should happen when Coronavirus is under better control.
Being fair and equal with food

The Government must ask disabled people what they think about support to get food in emergencies like Coronavirus.

The Government must make the rules clear about how shops must make getting food the same for everyone.
Keeping safe and Shielding

Shielding is when you need to keep away from other people to keep safe.

If the Government tells disabled people to shield there should be money to help them manage.

This means helping disabled people to choose how they can get food.
Getting help in hospital for coronavirus

**Resuscitate** is getting treatment to stop you dying.

It happens when you stop breathing or your heart has stopped.

Some people can ask not to be resuscitated, that is to be allowed to die if they want to.

Doctors need to agree but it must be the person's choice.

If it is agreed a rule can be written down for you to say **Do not resuscitate**.
During Coronavirus it was found out that some disabled people had **do not resuscitate rules** put on them without their proper permission.

There was other advice to doctors, that could have made it harder for disabled people to get help in hospital.

Disabled people and their families felt that their lives were not as important as other people.

The Government needs to make new rules so disabled people are treated the same as everyone else when they need hospital services and other services.
Health checks

People with learning disabilities with health problems have had more problems during the Coronavirus outbreak.

It is important that this is looked at and that yearly NHS health checks start again.
Mask wearing

Wearing masks during the Coronavirus outbreak makes it difficult for some disabled people to understand what people are saying.

Deaf people need to lip-read and they cannot see people’s mouths if they wear a mask.

Some people need to see people’s faces to understand them.

To help disabled people the Government needs to buy more clear face masks.
Extra money

It is very important that the Government gives extra money to all social care areas to make sure services are much more person-centred and meeting people’s needs.

Special educational needs and disability

The Government needs to give more money for children and young people who have special educational needs and a disability.

These children and young people have not had the same chances as other young people to catch up on their education during Coronavirus.
Accessible ways to talk to disabled people

The Government has not done a good job with accessible information during Coronavirus.

One of the biggest problems was that there was not enough British Sign Language information.

It should be the law that everyone can get information they understand about emergencies like Coronavirus.
Involving everyone

During Coronavirus some disabled people and organisations felt they were not asked for advice.

The Government must ask disabled people what they think about how they do things.

Ministers and people working for the Government should have training in how to talk best with disabled people to understand how they feel and what they need.
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