



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

From Maria Caulfield MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State  
Department of Health & Social Care

39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU

1<sup>st</sup> August 2023

Dear Caroline,

I would like to thank you and the members of the Women and Equalities Select Committee for recently providing an opportunity to discuss the ongoing work of the Department of Health and Social Care to support people with learning disabilities and autism.

During the oral evidence session of the inquiry into the National Disability Strategy, we discussed the importance of annual health checks for people with a learning disability. As you are aware, the NHS Long Term Plan sets out an ambition to improve the uptake of the existing annual health check in primary care for people with a learning disability aged 14 years old and over, so that at least 75% of those eligible have a health check each year.

I am writing to provide further information on the number of integrated care boards achieving the NHS Long Term Plan target of 75% or more for annual health checks. As of 10 July, 31 local areas had achieved 75%. This information was also provided in response to your written parliamentary question: <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2023-07-05/192559/>.

In addition, I promised to write in relation to the commitment to develop and test an autism public understanding and acceptance initiative. The Department is currently prioritising updating the Statutory Guidance on Autism, which will support the NHS and Local Authorities to deliver improved outcomes for autistic people. Following delivery of the Statutory Guidance, we will consider next steps on taking forward the public understanding and acceptance initiative.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the Committee and would be happy to discuss any further questions you may have on the government's ongoing work to support people with learning disabilities and autism.

Yours sincerely,

**MARIA CAULFIELD**