

Supporting the Contraceptive Choices of People with Learning Disabilities – 19th May 2021

About the Session

Jodie Rawles is a PhD student in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge. She is part of the Wellcome-funded initiative, 'Mental Health and Justice', which explores how we can both protect people in contexts where they may be vulnerable and respect their agency and autonomy.

Jodie is researching how adults with learning disabilities are supported to make, and be involved in, decisions about their contraception-use. Previous research has found that while many people with learning disabilities use contraception, they are not always involved in the decision-making process.

As part of her research, Jodie has surveyed over 160 people who support adults with learning disabilities in different ways, including family members, support workers, GP's, and nurses. In this webinar, Jodie will present what she has found about peoples' experiences of contraceptive decision-making, addressing questions such as:

- What are the characteristics of the people with learning disabilities who reportedly receive, and do not receive, support with contraceptive decision-making?
- What are some of the barriers people say have encountered when trying to support the contraceptive decision-making of people with learning disabilities?
- How do the practices reported in the survey match up with the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act 2005?
- How do different groups of supporters say they would assist a person with a learning disability with a contraception decision? What are the differences between the groups?

Come along to hear about the latest research in this area and reflect on how the findings relate to your own experiences of people with learning disabilities and their contraceptive choices.