

BBC News

Watchdog says hospitals fail people with learning disabilities





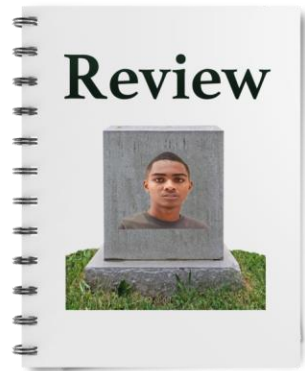
The Health Services Safety Investigations Body (HSSIB) reviewed the care people receive in hospitals



It said there are risks to the safety of people with learning disabilities in England when they are admitted to hospital



It warned staff are not trained with the skills, or have the support, to meet the needs of patients with learning disabilities.



The review took place after a report about a 79-year-old who died two weeks after being admitted to hospital.



Communicate

The man had a mild learning disability and struggled with speaking and hearing. Staff struggled to communicate with him



Things were made worse as there was only one specialist learning disability nurse at the hospital and they were on leave.



The report warned the systems in place to share information about them were not reliable



learning disability liaison services were not always in place in hospitals to support general staff



NHS Providers, which spoke on behalf of hospitals, said services were committed to "stamping out" the inequalities people with learning disabilities face



They said there needed to be investment in training programmes



and a more consistent approach to specialist learning disability support.