**Lay Summary**

To support the Foundation’s communication and dissemination of the please can you complete a lay summary which answers the questions below? We will use this to explain the project and its findings and recommendations on our website.

**What is the story about?**

For many years writers have said that what learning disabilities nurses do to support people with learning disabilities is not clear.

* We wanted to find out what is already written about what learning disability nurses to support people with learning disabilities.
* We also wanted learning disability nurses to tell us what they did to meet the changing needs of people with intellectual disabilities at all stages of their lives.

**What did we do?**

We did two things.

* The first thing we did was to look for all that was already written about what learning disabilities nurses do to support people with learning disabilities. We used well known processes to choose and report on what we found.
* From what we found from what was already written about what learning disabilities nurses do, we made a form for them to complete on the internet.
* We asked learning disability nurses to tell us what they did to support people with learning disabilities.
* We asked learning disability nurses to tell us what difference what they did made to the people they supported.
* We asked the nurses what they thought about their work supporting people with learning disabilities.

**What did we find?**

From what was already written we found,

* 53 papers that told us some of the work that learning disability nurses did to support those they support across all age groups.
* We identified 154 interventions undertaken by learning disability nurses in a variety of settings across the lifespan. We put the 154 interventions into 3 groups:
  + Working directly with people with learning disabilities,
  + Supporting other services to improve how they work with people with learning disabilities, and
  + Supporting people with learning disabilities to improve the quality of their live.

From the nurses we found,

* We received information from 230 learning disabilities nurses from 7 countries.
* The nurses told us about 878 different things they did to support people with learning disabilities. This included (maternity (4), children (156), adults (384), older adults (129), all age groups (393) and end of life (19).
* We put the 878 interventions into 5 groups,
  + Working directly with people with learning disabilities,
  + Supporting learning disability services to improve how they work with people with learning disabilities,
  + Supporting mainstream services to improve how they work with people with learning disabilities,
  + Supporting people with learning disabilities to improve the quality of their live, and
  + Improving how learning disability nurses do their work.
* The nurses told us some of the work they do to improve the health of people with learning disabilities.

**What does this mean?**

* What is written about what learning disability nurses do does not always tell us what difference they make.
* Learning disability nurses do important work that improves the health and healthcare experiences of people with learning disabilities.
* The work of learning disability nurses is important to how others work with people with learning disabilities.
* Learning disability nurses do important work to improve the quality of life of people with learning disabilities.

**What happens next?**

* We recommend that a searchable online list of learning disability nursing interventions be developed (this could be like *The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures).*
* More work is needed to find out more about how people with learning disabilities benefit from what learning disability nurses do.
* More research is needed to tell us how effective what learning disability nurses do across the lifespan.
* More work is needed to better understand the reasons for the limited involvement of learning disability nurses with pregnant women and in end-of-life care.
* More work is needed to improve the public’s understanding of what learning disability nurses do in different areas and countries.