Starting in April 2021, the NHS has mandated that all health and social care staff participate in mandatory training programs to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism. The program is based on the 2019 Capabilities Frameworks that provide guidance for supporting people with learning disabilities and autism. As part of a pre-service training and professional development program, health and social care workers will be exposed to a curriculum that looks at:

i) Understanding learning disabilities and autism
ii) Personalized support
iii) Physical and mental health
iv) Risk, legislation, and safeguarding
v) Leadership and management, education and research.

The program was designed in collaboration with people with disabilities and will be delivered by individuals with lived experience through face-to-face delivery and blended learning approaches. The program is administered to different tiers of health workers in either two half-day sessions or two full-day sessions (or both).

LeDeR mortality review and Mencap reports demonstrated the need for better training to improve knowledge, skills and awareness of learning disabilities and autism among health and care professionals.

The UK Government decided to consult people with learning disabilities and autism to implement a mandatory training for health workers.

Over 5,000 people participated in the consultation process to develop the training. 1.2 million NHS staff and 1.5 million adult social care staff in England are expected to take part in the training, when it is fully implemented.