

6. Reasonable adjustments in community dental services

What is this work about?



Going to the dentist is very important



People with a learning disability and autistic people can find it hard to go to the dentist if reasonable adjustments are not made



Community dental services are dental services that can be very good at making **reasonable adjustments** and changing care to meet people's needs



Reasonable adjustments are changes that services must make so that someone with a disability gets the right care



Sometimes autistic people can find going to the dentist difficult when their needs are not met

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What did they find out?



In the South East they found community dentists were not always writing down reasonable adjustments.



They found that people with a learning disability and autistic people sometimes:



- missed appointments



- found appointments upsetting



Sometimes people had problems with their teeth and mouth because of this.

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What did the team do?



Staff who work in this area made a document that people can write down their needs in. They called it a 'reasonable adjustment passport'



People can give the passport to staff at the dentists to say what reasonable adjustments they need



The passport was sent to people before their appointment. This means that staff at the dentists could get ready before the appointment



The passport was used by people with a learning disability, autistic people and other people who are worried or need extra support

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How did they make things better?



People did not have to keep telling staff what they needed because it was already written in their passport



People said the passport helped with their worries



Staff also felt more confident supporting people with their reasonable adjustments



The passport will help staff to write down reasonable adjustments in the Reasonable Adjustment Digital Flag (RADF). You can learn more about this in the [RADF Easy Read guide](#)