



**The Covid-19 Support and Action Group is run by and for People with learning difficulties / disabilities and autistic people**

**Our Position Statement on Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs)**



We are a group of people with learning difficulties/ disabilities and autistic people.



We have been meeting regularly to support each other during the coronavirus crisis. (Coronavirus is also called Covid-19)



We are very worried about people who are in 'segregation or long-term seclusion'.

Places like Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs) and Psychiatric Hospitals.



The Government set out plans to improve care for people with autism and learning difficulties.

The Government said it would halve the amount of people in these settings by 2024 and improve community support.

There have been too many scandals in these settings.

The existence of ATUs has been accepted for far too long.

We are particularly worried about:

- The importance of family life and how some people in ATUs are not able to see or speak to family and friends.
- People being treated disrespectfully and at the very worst suffering abuse and death.
- The lack of accountability and scrutiny in these institutions.
- The lack of basic emotional and physical health care.
- Peoples' human rights not being respected or upheld.
- People being threatened with hospitalisation if they don't take their medication. No choice!

- Autism and learning difficulties/disabilities being treated as disease or illness that can be cured by drugs and therapy.
- More people who are from Black and minority communities being in these institutions.
- Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Transforming Care Programme not doing enough to help people move out of ATUs.
- The lack of alternative support in the community.
- How strong the law is around locking people up and how weak it is around providing support in the community.
- People in ATUs not having their voices heard.
- The lack of independent advocacy and support so that ALL people can get out of ATUs.

**This is our struggle for liberation and a fight for freedom  
FREE OUR PEOPLE NOW.**

