# Skills for Care Mapping Study: What development activities exist for parents of children with learning disabilities and/or autism to support successful transitions into adulthood?

## Research Briefing

Skills for Care have commissioned Research Partners to conduct research into the role of learning and development for family carers of a child or young person with a learning disability and/or autism, and the impact of that learning and development on young people's transition to adult support services.

A regular message given to Skills for Care is that if families caring for a child or young person with a learning disability and/or autism had access to tailored learning and development then those families would better equipped to support their family member as they move from children's services to adult life. However, Skills for Care wanted to examine the published evidence available to support or not support this idea.

We have conducted a rapid evidence review and were unable to find any studies which tracked the long-term outcomes of children whose parents had received targeted interventions earlier in their lives. We therefore set about reviewing the available literature on 2 things:

1. What parenting interventions achieve in the shorter term, and what are the elements of parenting interventions which are likely to make them successful?

*The evidence is mostly from interventions targeted at parents of younger children.*

1. What are the needs/concerns of parents as their child moves into adulthood and what training/development/support exists for parents during this specific period?

*The evidence demonstrates that families have a range of institutional, personal and familial concerns and that whilst there have been a number of specific, time limited or local initiatives designed to work with/around parents, very few actively target parents and aim to develop their knowledge/skills.*

Skills for Care are also interested in mapping what support is currently available to parents. We are therefore contacting a range of organisations to determine what:

* learning and development is currently available for this group
* support/development parents really need and/or has been successful
* the gaps are in current provision
* factors assist or act as a barrier to parents accessing learning and development.

We're hoping you can help us with some of these questions.

## Consent information

Please be aware that:

* Your participation is entirely voluntary. You don't have to answer questions you don't feel comfortable with and you can end the discussion at any point.
* We will take notes during the interview and may record it so we can accurately represent your views and the information you give us. You can request us not to record it if you prefer.
* We want to know about your organisation and the services it provides and may wish to publish this information. We're also interested in your views and opinions but will not identify these with your/your organisation's name without your explicit consent.

## Contact information

The research is being led by Claire Tyers at Research Partners, claire@research-partners.co.uk, 01273 806466

The research has been commissioned by Jim Thomas at Skills for Care, jim.thomas@skillsforcare.org

Please contact either of us if you would like further information or to take part.