Easy-read summary

This report is about dysphagia. Dysphagia means swallowing difficulties.

Dysphagia can be dangerous. People can choke if they have difficulty swallowing. People can get chest infections if they have difficulty swallowing.

People with learning disabilities are more likely to have dysphagia than other people. They don’t always get the support they need to make sure they are eating and drinking safely.

If people don’t get the right support with their swallowing then they may need to go to hospital as an emergency. Some people may die from chest infections or from choking.
The law says public services should put ‘reasonable adjustments’ in place to help people with learning disabilities use the services. This means they need to change their services so they are easier to use.

This report has information about reasonable adjustments in dysphagia management. Professionals and carers can use them to get better services for people with learning disabilities who have difficulty swallowing.

The report contains examples of how local services have put reasonable adjustments in place so that people with learning disabilities and dysphagia get better care.

The pictures in this report are from Photosymbols: www.photosymbols.co.uk

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