



## **COVID-19 Emergency Law — advice for police on reasonable adjustments for people who are autistic and people with learning disabilities**

We are worried that people who have learning disabilities or autism will be disadvantaged by the public health powers. People may be scared and worried if they approached by the police – this might make it hard for them to engage. Risks include:

- People not understanding why they are being told to go home
- People being fined by the police, but still not understanding what they have done wrong
- People becoming distressed and situations with the police escalating
- People being an increased risk to themselves if they can't go out in line with their care and support plan
- People being challenged for being outside with carers, who are not in their household, even where it is necessary to keep the person safe.

### **Guidance and Adjustments:**

- Use easy to understand communication – be clear for people about when they can go out and also why they have to stay in.
- Use respectful and patient communication—give people time to process information and to ask questions.
- Use alternative communication— communication tools, including objects, pictures and drawings can help people better understand
- Use discretion— about whether to fine someone when it is clear they may not fully understand the current restrictions
- Make contact with love ones or support—helping the person make contact with someone who can offer more support . Sometimes people will carry a card with contact details.