

# Greater London Community of Practice for Learning Disability and Autism Newsletter



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## EVENT CATCH UP: ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGIES

On the 7th October, the Greater London Community of Practice had its second event, questioning: "Can you balance digital technologies with the ethics of surveillance?". To explore the question, **John Patterson**, Assistive Technology Coordinator and dementia ambassador, and **Alexis Quinn**, Restraint and Reduction manager and autism campaigner lead the webinar.



*"Assistive Technology is an umbrella term for any device which assists a person in retaining or improving their independence, safety, security and dignity."*

John demonstrated how assistive technology devices have multiple usages from detecting falls, assessing environmental risks, reminder devices, safer walking technologies and epilepsy devices. Whilst exploring the empowering capacity of assistive technologies there are certain things to consider; if equipment generates an alert that requires a responder, who will this be? Who will supply and maintain the equipment? Despite this, assistive technology should be integrated into the person's care plan.

Drawing from her own experience, Alexis demonstrated how surveillance is a restrictive practice and has the capacity to infringe on people's rights, creating ethical dilemmas. Surveillance, when right's respecting, is a powerful tool that can improve the quality of people's lives and promote independence. These benefits are only realised when the use of surveillance is justified. Rights respecting surveillance balances protection with a right to privacy and potential benefits with harms. When considering using surveillance there first needs to be the consideration of people's rights.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

To find out more information on assistive technologies and the Restraint and Reduction Network, please follow the links:

[TSA - the voice of technology enabled care](#)  
[Restraint and Reduction Network](#)  
[Living Made Easy](#)

### MISSED THE EVENT?

The recording of the event can now be accessed. Click [here](#) to view.

### KEY DATES:

**9th December 2021, 1 - 3pm:**  
**Youth to Adult Transition Event**

Follow us on **Twitter** or **Facebook** to keep up to date on all key events within the Greater London Community of Practice.

