

# A NATIONAL RESPONSE TO THE ABUSE OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

## What this paper is about:



We all work so that people with learning disabilities have better lives.

We were shocked by the Panorama programme about abuse at a place called Winterbourne View.



We think abuse will often happen when people are in the wrong type of services.



Some of us have met to agree what we think should be done about this abuse.

This paper says what we think government and local people should do.



We ask Government to listen and do these things.

### Four important things to start with:



- A lot of our ideas are already government policy. Research shows those ideas work. But policy is being ignored by some people.



- There should be no learning disability hospitals like Winterbourne View. There are better ways of supporting people that challenge. There needs to be a big plan to replace them with local services, based on what people want and need.



- Lots of people involved in learning disabilities agree with the things we are saying - including people with learning disabilities and family carers



- The people who were involved in things going wrong at Winterbourne View need dealing with



But, there is a bigger issue of why there are any services like this.

There needs to be a big change in how services are planned and provided **not only in England but other countries in the UK**

This paper will just give the headlines of what we want to happen.

We will meet with people who want to hear more detail.



**Problem 1:** The people who were abused at Winterbourne View and their families have been the victims of crime



### **What should be done**

1a: People who have been abused, and their families, must be given support to help them deal with how they feel about the abuse.

Other families could help with this.



1b: The police should look at whether the abuse was a hate crime and, if it was, use those laws against the people that did it.



**Problem 2:** There should be no learning disability hospitals.

**There are better ways of supporting people that challenge.**

### What should be done

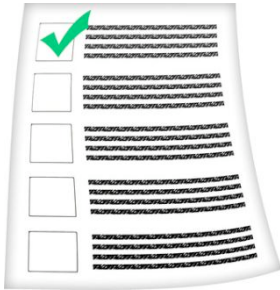


2a: Commissioners should not be allowed to buy places in learning disability hospitals.

There should be government rules that say they can only buy services that we know will work.



2b: The people who run the NHS nationally should plan a 2 year action plan for change.



2c: We should check and count when people go into learning disability hospitals so people know when it happens.



### **Problem 3: People are put in learning disability hospitals because**

- (i) other local services are not good enough
- (ii) local commissioners do not know how to buy better services

### **What should be done**

3a: The 2 year plan to make change happen should help people buying services locally to do these things.

- (i) do person centred reviews for everyone in a hospital
- (ii) stop using learning disability hospitals
- (iii) develop good local services to replace the hospitals
- (iv) plan for people so their local services work better

**All this should start from when people are children throughout their life**





3b: CQC should check that Social Services and the NHS are doing what it says in the Mansell Report – and tell Government Ministers the answer



3c: There should be research to check whether services that cost a lot of money are doing things better or not.



**Problem 4:** The way services are inspected is not working.

To look after people's human rights, it should ask more questions about the quality of people's lives.



**What should be done**

4a: CQC should have new ways of checking services that help them do things better



4b: CQC should have more staff that know about learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities and families should be listened to more and involved in inspections.



4c: PCT commissioners, GPs and Social Services should check they have people that know about learning disabilities.

CQC should check these people are doing things well more than they do at the moment.



**Problem 5:** There would be less abuse if people with learning disabilities and families were listened to more.

## What should be done



5a: Everyone placed in a service away from home should have an independent advocate.

The people buying the service should pay for this.



The service should have to listen to that advocate and the family.

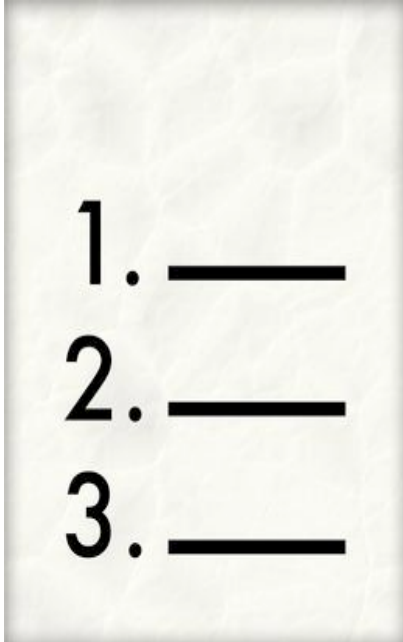
5b: There should be advice given to families about their rights when people are placed in a hospital type of service.



**Problem 6:** Until the learning disability hospitals are closed, they should do things to stop any more abuse happening there.

## What should be done

6a: There should be a list of things that CQC checks are happening:



- A lot less use of restraint
- People, including families and advocates should be able to go in and out of the hospitals to see what is happening;
- People with learning disabilities and families are being listened to by the service;
- The service is working better with local NHS staff and social workers
- Any treatment people are given is the right treatment and is working
- There is proper training for staff and managers



6b: The organisation that looks after training in health services (Skills for Health) should say what skills and training the staff in these hospitals should have.

## Other Things

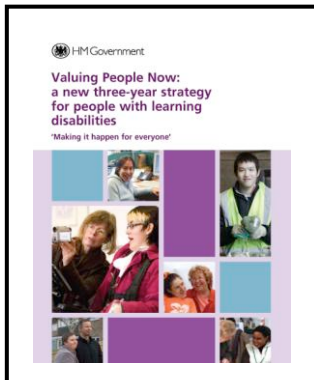
There are three other things we want to say:



1. Abuse like this happened a few years ago in Cornwall and Merton and Sutton.

We changed some things then.

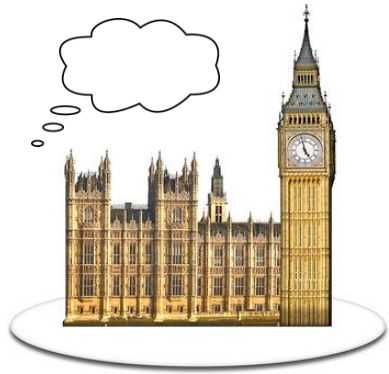
Why did those changes stop as they might have stopped this abuse happening.



2. Although the Government says Valuing People is still the policy, some people are not taking any notice of it now there is not money and a team to help make it happen



3. Older people and people with mental health problems also have some bad services and get abused. We think something should be done about this as well.



## The Ending

We hope these ideas will help Government know what to do.



We would like to meet people to talk about the ideas more.