



**NOTE OF LEARNING DISABILITY PROGRAMME BOARD MEETING
27 NOVEMBER 2012 – CATHEDRAL ROOM RICHMOND HOUSE
2.00–4.00PM**

In attendance

Chair

Norman Lamb, Chair, Minister for Care and Support

Fora

Gavin Harding (Supported by Lyn Gregory) (Co-Chair National Forum)
Karen Flood (Supported by Paula Cambourne) (Co-Chair National Forum)
Viv Cooper, (National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF))
Vicki Raphael (National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF))

Other Government Departments

John Skinner (DWP)
Howard Bines (BIS)
Karen Lucas (DfE)

External Partners

Andrea Pope-Smith (ADASS)
Mark Goldring (Mencap)
Scott Watkin (Mencap)
Tim Hind (LGA)
Bill Mumford, Providers Forum and TLAP
Ivan Ellul, NHS Commissioning Board
Alan Rosenbach, Care Quality Commission
Alick Bush, LD Professional Senate

Department of Health

Shaun Gallagher, DG Social Care, Local Govt and Care Partnerships (DH)
Bruce Calderwood (DH)
Patience Wilson (DH)
Rachel Holynska (DH)
John Crook (DH)
Zawar Patel (DH)
Michael Swaffield (DH)
Gareth Jones (DH)
Sheila Evans (DH)

Pam Nixon (DH)
Anita Wadhawan (Secretariat to the Board) (DH)
Kim Dhadda (DH)

Guests

Lyn Griffiths, Co-ordinator, VoiceAbility who support the National Forum

Apologies

Tim Breedon, NHS Confederation

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

1.1 The Minister welcomed members to his first meeting of the Programme Board. Members introduced themselves and apologies were noted. The Minister explained that he was only able to attend the meeting for the first hour.

1.2 The Minister opened the meeting with comments on the DH Review of Winterbourne Hospital, highlighting a number of key messages, which reflected his commitment to ensure the events at Winterbourne View Hospital are avoided in the future.

1.3 The Minister said he was committed to supporting the work to take forward an agreed national plan of action with many organisations, stakeholders, and others so that Winterbourne would not happen again. He said that he looked forward to working with members and others to take forward a programme for change to improve care for children and adults with learning disabilities, and to make sure that people with learning disabilities and their families are listened to properly.

1.4 The Minister let members know that the final report would be delayed into early December to make sure it was the right report for everyone - most of all for people with learning disabilities. He said that there would be a statement in the House of Lords on the day of publication and a press briefing with key stakeholders, families and people with learning disabilities. He thanked members of the Board who had played their part in contributing to the report.

1.5 He said that alongside the work coming out of Winterbourne View, he was committed to addressing the scale of the problem exposed. He would make it a national priority for the whole care system to make fundamental changes in attitude. The Minister said there needed to be strong national leadership to get things right and that it was not just a matter for local commissioners. A very clear steer about the scale of change needed was required at national level.

1.6 The Minister said that in the DH report there would be a clear programme of work to end the inappropriate placing of people in the wrong types of settings. A Concordat would be published alongside the report between all of the key people, which would commit to a timetable of action to make change happen. He said that he would be requesting regular information on progress published so that areas of poor practice would feel the pressure of the public eye on them to make improvements. The Minister said that the Department has given a very clear steer that there should be a presumption of pooled budgets and local commissioners would be asked to explain when this did not happen.

1.7 The Minister said that an element of the programme of change in the report would be to address the problem that the Boards of Directors of companies that run private hospitals and care homes are not held to account when things go wrong. He explained that there is a need for more accountability at Board level and he and officials, including the CQC will be considering the options and making proposals.

1.8 In addition, the Minister said that the level of skills, training and the character of people working with people with learning disabilities needed to be addressed. Whistleblowers should have the opportunity to raise their concerns and be listened to by the CQC and by others in the care system.

1.9 A brief discussion followed, and members had the opportunity to ask the Minister questions. The following actions were noted:

Action point 1 - in response to concerns raised by Gavin Harding the Minister said he wanted it noted that he was in favour of a confidential helpline (with a short easy to remember number) for people with learning disabilities to report concerns or issues of possible abuse. **Action for: Sheila Evans and John Crook**

Action Point 2 – the Minister asked for an update for everyone who had been placed at Winterbourne View following the meeting. He said he was alarmed to have heard there were 19 safeguarding alert cases in March this year. This was down to 6 in September. 6 was too many but he noted that not every alert means there has been an incident. He would maintain close monitoring in this area.

Action for: Sheila Evans and John Crook

Action Point 3 – the Minister's intention is that the Programme Board should take responsibility for implementation of the change programme. There is a united front about the action needed for change but implementation would be critical. **Action for: Pam Nixon and Sheila Evans**

2. Updates from: The National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities and the National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF)

2.1 The Minister was keen to hear presentations by key stakeholders: The National Forum of People with Learning Disabilities (NF) and the National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF).

The National Forum

2.2 Gavin Harding presented a DVD to the Board with a few National Forum members giving their views on the work of the Forum and Winterbourne View. He then gave a short report back on their last national meeting in September (held quarterly). The meeting covered the Winterbourne View Concordat and the Good Practice Project (The two Fora are leading on this work with ADASS, LGA and the NHS). The National Forum had a discussion about how the Forum is involved with the LD Professional Senate.

2.3 Gavin also made a plea to DWP colleagues in the meeting to request more local events around the county where people with learning disabilities could learn more about recent benefit changes and about announcements for the future.

2.4 Karen Flood said it would be helpful if Board members could let the National Forum know how they can best use its expertise. Many Forum members have a lot to offer.

2.5 The Minister said he was looking forward to attend the next National Forum meeting on 12 March 2013.

The National Valuing Families Forum (NVFF)

2.6 Viv Cooper and Vicki Raphael introduced the Forum to the Minister. They explained the background to the Forum (which goes back to 2001 and the publication of the Valuing People White Paper) and some of the work undertaken (under the Valuing People Now 2009 strategy). They explained the Forum's connections with key organisation and plans for the future. They are keen to work in partnership with others to make change happen for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

2.7 The Minister thanked both Forums for their presentations. He said that the Forums had a lot to offer in guiding the transformation of change and building capacity at a local level to provide proper care and support to people. He thanked them for the valuable work they are doing, their commitment and determination to make a difference. Members of the Board were invited to ask Viv and Vicki questions.

2.8 Shaun Gallagher said that both presentations were very helpful. He picked up on the point about the Forum's involvement with the programme of work once the report on Winterbourne View had been published. He asked Ivan Elull to say a few words about the new Joint Improvement Programme the NHS Commissioning Board and its role in responding to the DH report. Ivan said that there would be an announcement next week about the Joint Improvement Programme. Someone from the Programme would make contact with the Forums about how they can get involved.

2.9 Ivan also mentioned the forthcoming report on the Mid-Staffordshire inquiry and the connections with Winterbourne View about failings in the care system. He said that to make real change it is necessary to start to look at organisations from the inside out.

3. Revised Learning Disability Programme Board and Terms of Reference (Revised) - papers LDPB(12)14 and LDPB(12)

3.1 Patience Wilson introduced the papers circulated to the Board, which set out proposals for a restructured Programme Board post Winterbourne View publication. Patience said it was important to use the expertise of Board members to help keep track of the actions coming out of the review and the Concordat. She said that to reflect this change of focus, a number of changes have been proposed. These included some additions to membership and revised terms of reference. Patience also told members that the Board's responsibilities will include wider issues which are important to people with learning disabilities.

3.2 During discussion, the following actions were agreed:

Action Point 4 - Viv Cooper raising the issue of research evidence. A variety of sources were mentioned, Eric Emerson's research, LD Professional Senate, and the Challenging Behaviour Foundation National Strategy Group which are all good academic sources. The Board agreed that there should be some future discussion on this item. **Action: Board secretariat to follow up.**

Action Point 5 - Karen Flood raised an issue about low BME representation on the Board. Both Fora said that they could also look at their membership to see what action they could take to increase membership from BME communities.

Action Point 6 – Gavin raised a point about people with learning disabilities and parenting. Gavin agreed to discuss this item outside the meeting with Karen Lucas from the Department for Education. **Action for Gavin and Karen**

Action Point 7 - Gavin asked about having a separate website for the Programme Board. Shaun explained that details on the Programme Board were already included on the learning disability page of the DH website. The Department is already considering accessibility for this page. It is possible to link

this to other relevant websites. It was agreed that a link to the DH pages would appear at the bottom minutes of the Board in future and members should consider links on their websites to the DH pages. **Action for the secretariat and Board members from other Government Departments.**

3.3 Board members agreed to the proposed changes to the Board and the Terms of Reference.

4. DH Review of Winterbourne View – Update

4.1 Sheila Evans as senior project manager for the DH Review said more about the report which will be published shortly. There would be easy read versions of the report and concordat. The report included an action plan with key dates to deliver outcomes. There was some discussion and members were invited to send Sheila any further comments by the end of the week.

4.2 Sheila highlighted some of the ways organisations involved in the programme of change are engaging with key stakeholders:

- CQC will involve self-advocates and families in their inspections;
- The NHSCB, LGA, and ADASS will involve self-advocates and families in planning and supporting changes in the way care is developed;
- The NHS Commissioning Board is setting up an event to meet people with learning disabilities and their family carers in December to start the process of engagement;
- DH programme of work (including a good practice project working with the National Forum and NVFF, work on advocacy and positive behaviour support/physical interventions where work has already begun with stakeholders).

4.3 Sheila explained how the documents will be published. There will be a limited number of hard copies. All documents will be placed on the DH website. Alan Rosenbach from the CQC mentioned that the latest data set from 2006 to 2010 on the *Count me in Census* will also be published alongside the final report.

5. Minutes of meeting on 19 June 2012 and matters arising - LDPB(12)12.

5.1 Members were asked for comments on the draft minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2012. There were no outstanding actions and the minutes were agreed without amendment.

6. AOB and next Meeting

6.1 There was no other business. The Board agreed to three meetings in 2013. The first of which will be held in March 2013. Members will be informed of the dates.

Action Point 8 - secretariat to book Programme Board meetings for 2013 and let members know. **Action for Anita Wadhawan**

Action Point 9 - members agreed to share their biographical and contact details with other members. **Action for Anita Wadhawan to coordinate and send out to details to members.**

For information:

This link will take you to the Learning Disability Programme Board's papers and minutes from previous meetings on the DH website.

<http://transparency.dh.gov.uk/category/minutes-2/ld-programme-board/>