




Gateway Reference no. 16474

30 June 2011

To: All Partnership Boards  
Local Authorities  
NHS  
Social Care

Dear Colleague

Learning Disabilities – 2011/12

 A portrait of a woman with short, light-colored hair, smiling.	<p>I am leaving my job as National Director for Learning Disabilities at the Department of Health at the end of June.</p>
<p>Thank you</p>  A man in a dark suit and glasses, smiling and giving two thumbs up.	<p>Before I go I want to thank everyone who has helped me with work on Valuing People Now.</p>
 A group of six people and a dog. One person is in a wheelchair, and a dog is sitting next to them. The others are standing and some are giving thumbs up.	<p>People with learning disabilities, families, the NHS, local authorities and partnership boards have help achieve a lot.</p>



Everyone will be sad and shocked by what happened at Winterbourne View shown in the Panorama Programme. The things that happened remind us of the important things to get right for people with learning disabilities. Especially people with complex needs.



Local organisations and the Department of Health are all doing reports about what happened. I will be part of the DH team looking at what went wrong.



Valuing People Now is still the national policy for people with learning disabilities. There is a National Learning Disability Programme Board led by the Minister for Care Services. The Board makes sure all Government departments work together to help people with learning

 	<p>disabilities with their housing, health and employment.</p>
 	<p>We have all done a lot on the Valuing People Now programme. Lots of things have changed. People with learning disabilities and their families have more choice and control than before. Partnership Boards have completed an annual report in 2009/10 and will be doing another report for 2010/11.</p>
	<p>Other things will carry on changing. Annual health checks will continue this year. The last campuses are closing. People are being helped to find jobs.</p>
  	<p>Lots will be changing in health and social care. There are people in the Department of Health who will carry on working closely with people in partnership boards, the NHS and local authorities.</p>

**Anne Williams**  
**National Director for Learning Disabilities**