






Report to the Learning Disability Programme Board

	<h2>Good news</h2>
 	<p>Even in very difficult times, families are still finding ways to support each other. We are hopeful that the Carers with Learning Disabilities Network will be able to continue their work.</p>
 	<p>We had very positive talks with CQC at our recent national meeting about how they want to engage with families</p>



Strategies to improve support for children and young people are being included in the Post-Winterbourne Joint Improvement plan.



Issues that families are worried about





Welfare changes and cuts are affecting families very badly. Some people are having their benefits cut by mistake and then waiting a long time for them to be sorted out.

Some people are not having annual reviews of their support. Those that do are having their support cut without any change in circumstances. People cannot afford to pay for legal challenges to these decisions.



Families are telling us that they are very tired, stressed, and they are feeling more isolated because they are spending longer providing care to make up for cuts.

 <p>Improving Health and Lives: Learning Disabilities Observatory</p>	<p>The Learning Disability Health and Social Care Self Assessment Framework has not been validated in co-production with self-advocates and families in many areas. This would help to ensure that the data given by councils is correct. We want people to be able to trust the data.</p>
	<p>Winterbourne View - the Concordat promises have not yet had the effects we hoped for at local level. There is still a lot to do to make the improvements real for people. We are worried that new secure units and hospitals are still being built, when the main Concordat focus was to reduce in-patient numbers and get people closer to home.</p>

For the future, the National Valuing Families Forum is looking forward to our meeting on 15th January, to renew our commitment to joint working with the National Forum. We also offer our continued support to ensure that their independent voice is clearly heard.