



# Stopping the abuse of people with learning disabilities

## Introduction



Since we found out about the abuse that had been happening at Winterbourne View in Bristol a group of people from different organisations have been sharing ideas on how we stop such abuse happening again.



The people involved are campaigners and leaders who come from groups led by people with learning disabilities, family members, as well as training and development or provider organisations.



We wrote a letter to the Prime Minister that included proposals on how we can stop this happening again.

This national response was supported by 84 organisations and leaders.



You can find a copy of this on the Inclusion North Website by visiting:

[www.inclusionnorth.org/useful-documents/](http://www.inclusionnorth.org/useful-documents/)



## Signing up to the Letter

On line at the NDTi website by:



1. Go to the NDTi website ([www.ndti.org.uk](http://www.ndti.org.uk)) and click on 'Forum Login'



2. Click on 'guest login' at the top of the page

3. Type in the user name and password that are given on the screen for the Forum about the PM letter



4. Click on 'A National response to the abuse of people with learning disabilities'

5. Click on 'Letter to Prime Minister'



6. Follow the instructions in the note – essentially clicking on 'post reply' and people then typing their name, role/job or whatever and then posting it.

Or if you prefer you can contact us at Inclusion North by:



7. Sending an e-mail to [info@inclusionnorth.org](mailto:info@inclusionnorth.org) or call us on 0113 262 6409 and we will forward your details to the Challenging Behaviour Foundation (CBF) who has the full list of everyone who is supporting it. They will add your name to the letter on their website



The big question we have been asking ourselves and people have been asking us is ...



What can we do to stop this happening again and to make sure that people from our area are not in services like Winterbourne View?



We were asked for ideas on the questions everyone could be asking to hold the people responsible for buying or inspecting services or co-ordinating support for people to keep safe to account.



We have worked together to do this list of questions that we hope will help people ask questions of:



- Learning disability Partnership Boards



- Adult Safeguarding Boards



- People who buy services (commissioners) from the NHS or Councils for children or adults

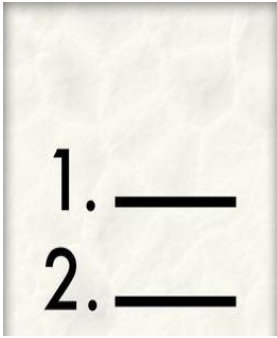


- Elected Members



- Members of Parliament, or Assembly Members, or Members of the Scottish Parliament, or Members of the Legislative Assembly

These questions are in 2 parts



**Part 1** - is a short set of questions we think cover the main issues

**Part 2** - is a longer list that goes into more detail on the main issues



These questions focus on people living in hospital settings but we think they are good questions to ask about all kinds of support.



It is up to you how you use these questions but please do let us know if you think we can make them better or how you get on using them. We would really like to keep sharing progress and ideas across the country.



If you are contacting a local Board or representative we suggest you tell them when you will be getting in touch again (a few months) to check how the work is going on these issues. We suggest that you ask them for evidence about their answers.



If you are contacting an elected representative you may like to invite them to be very focused by replacing references to 'our area' with 'your constituency' or 'your ward' and say that this includes people who lived there before being placed away or whose family live in the constituency/ward.

## Part 1 - Questions on the main issues



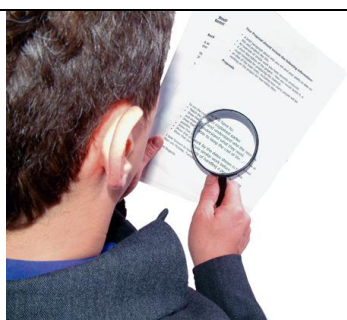
### Placements

1. How many people from our area have been placed in private or charitable hospitals or NHS residential units (including assessment & treatment units?)
2. What is being done to bring these people back to their home communities?
3. Is there an action plan to develop local services with the right skills to support people who challenge like was set out in the policy report written by Jim Mansell?



### Safety

4. Since the Panorama programme about Winterbourne View, what has been done to make sure that people from our area that are placed in private hospitals or NHS residential units are safe and being properly supported?
5. When people are being placed in specialist units how do we check that they work safely and have good policies and training on things like physical restraint?



### Quality

6. What is being done to reduce the number of people being placed in hospital or specialist units often out of their own Council area or Borough?
7. How many of the people living in one of these units and their family have access to effective, independent advocacy?

## Part 2 – Questions with more detail on the main issues

### Placements



1. How many people from our area are currently placed in:
  - private or charitable hospitals
  - NHS units
  - other 'specialist units'
2. How many young people are placed by children's services from our area in out of area places monitored by OFSTED?
3. How many people are placed in these units are voluntary patients or have to live there because of a legal requirement?
4. How many of the people living in specialist hospitals or units are outside our area or borough?
5. How many people have been in their current placement for:
  - More than a year
  - More than two years
6. How many times has a commissioner or social worker been to visit those people in the last year to check that placement is working well for them?

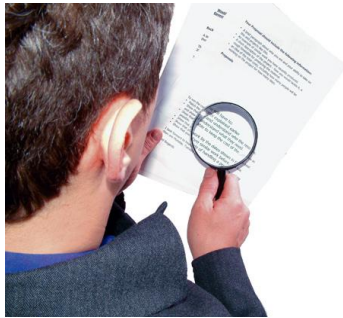


7. What plans do we have in our area for having good person centred support that means that:

- a. Fewer people are sent to live in or spend time in these units
- b. We are bringing people back from these units to local services that meet their needs
- c. We know, as early as possible, people (including young people) who are at risk of their home /residential service/supported living breaking down?

8. How many people have plans to bring back home?

## Quality



✓ Do we make sure people are linked to local Independent Advocacy services and how do we know that this is effective?

✓ Friends are important, how do we make sure that people are supported to develop and maintain friends and relationships with unpaid people?

✓ Have our local services been audited against the recommendations of the Mansell reports and, if so, what was the outcome and action plan?

✓ How do you check that placements are the right place for people before they go there and when they are living there?

✓ How do you involve the person and their family when you are choosing a placement?





- ✓ How are people & families involved in choosing which providers / kinds of support commissioners will buy from?
- ✓ How can the people & their families easily get advocacy support when they are living in out of area?
- ✓ How do we know that people delivering services have the skills to do it? What training is delivered?



## Safeguarding

- ✓ How does the commissioner or local safeguarding lead find out if things are not working in the hospital placements? Is there a system in place? How do you know is the system is working?
- ✓ What short term (and longer term) actions are the local Safeguarding Adults Board considering in partnership with their local Learning Disability Partnership Board?
- ✓ What has been done in our area so far to check that people are not experiencing the kind abuse that people were at Winterbourne View?
- ✓ What are the plans locally for involving people & families in making services better in our area so what happened at Winterbourne won't happen here in the future?





## Physical Intervention 'theme'

- ✓ What are our policies locally for supporting people who may have the label 'challenging'?
- ✓ What are the rules in our area regarding Physical Intervention?
- ✓ How are incidents reported? What happens when they are reported? Who do people report things to and how? Who checks the policy is working?
- ✓ Are the police involved in incidents in services? Are there any incidents that have resulted in prosecutions?



These questions include ideas from lots of people including the National Family Carer Network questions to ask commissioners.