

Sent on behalf of: Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Department of Health, Local Government Association, NHS England

To:

Health and Wellbeing Board chairs
Cabinet lead Members for Adult Social Care
Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services
CCG Accountable Officers
NHS England Sub-Regional Directors
Providers of in-patient care for people with learning disabilities and autism
NHS Confederation Chief Executive

29 January 2015

Publication of *Winterbourne View Two Years On* and *Transforming Care: Next Steps*

Winterbourne View was a scandal that shocked and appalled us all. Our review, [Transforming Care: A national response to Winterbourne View Hospital: Department of Health Review Final Report](#) (2012) set out a programme of work to take every step we can, to ensure this does not happen again. We are writing to inform you about two publications today:

- The [Winterbourne View Two Year On Report](#) sets out a collective account from partners across the health and care system of the progress up to now
- [Transforming Care: Next Steps](#) sets out the plans for the next stage of this work.

The Government and leading organisations across the health and care system are committed to transforming care for people with learning disabilities, autism and who have a mental illness or whose behaviour challenges services. We have made some progress but much more needs to be done.

Recognising this, NHS England commissioned Sir Stephen Bubb to produce a report on how to accelerate the transformation we are looking for.

Following Sir Stephen's report, we (NHS England, the Department of Health, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care, the Care Quality Commission and Health Education England) are now committing to strengthen the delivery of the Transforming Care programme. NHS England will take the lead in co-ordinating delivery within a single programme, with stronger governance arrangements and a focus on driving the actions that will have the most impact in effecting transformational change. At the heart of the programme will be our collective determination to see far more people living independently within their communities and far fewer people admitted to long stays in hospital.

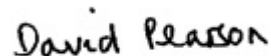
We have also set out wide-ranging actions in *Transforming Care: Next Steps*, which will be taken forward through this programme. Over the coming months we will want to co-design a fresh action plan with people with learning disabilities or autism, their families, clinicians, commissioners, providers, and other relevant national organisations in the health and care system. But in the meantime, work will continue at pace.

Partnership working is key to success and we are clear that this cannot all be done from Whitehall. We do recognise that many people are working hard to improve practice in local

areas. However, the current levels of variation in local performance are unacceptable with far too many people receiving care in hospital settings far from home. We are therefore seeking your support to provide leadership, as it will be critical to achieving the change in culture and behaviour needed in commissioners and providers. Health and Wellbeing Boards have an important role in bringing together local organisations to work in partnership and ensure accountability. Health and care commissioners need to ensure that high quality community-based services offer people the right care and support. The housing, voluntary and community sectors have an important role in challenging local decisions and advocating for people and their families.

We are therefore asking for your support as local leaders to work together to ensure that we can really drive this transformational change process to improve outcomes for people with learning disabilities, autism and their families.

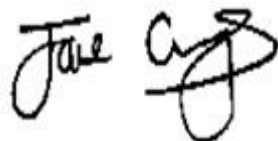
Yours sincerely,



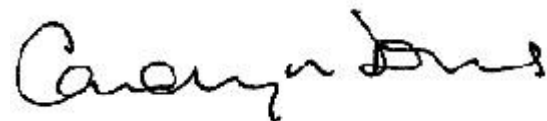
David Pearson, ADASS President



Jon Rouse, Department of Health Director General for Social Care,
Local Government and Care Partnerships



Jane Cummings, NHS England Chief Nursing Officer



Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, Local Government Association