Report demands action on care of people with learning disabilities

Today NHS England will publish an independent report into the future care of people with learning disabilities.

Sir Stephen Bubb is the Chief executive of charity leaders body ACEVO.

NHS England commissioned Sir Steven to write the report.
Sir Stephen chaired an independent group who developed the report ‘Winterbourne View – Time for Change’.

In the group were healthcare professionals, people from the voluntary sector, local government, and people with learning disabilities, their families and carers.

Sir Stephen’s report makes a series of recommendations for the NHS, local government, regulators and the government.

Sir Stephen wants to help support people with learning disabilities and/or autism move out of hospitals and into the community.
Jane Cummings is Chief Nursing Officer for England.

She said:

“We asked Sir Stephen to tell us how the NHS can better plan and fund care, treatment and support for people with learning disabilities and autism. He’s done that.”
“The Winterbourne View scandal shocked the nation. People are still angry and frustrated that more people with learning disabilities are being placed in institutional care than moved into the community.”

“We urge immediate action, to close all Winterbourne-style institutions and ramp up community provision.”

“We need a new Charter of Rights to empower people with learning disabilities and their families, and give them the right to challenge the system.”
“The time for talk is over. It’s time for people with learning disabilities or autism and their families to be put first.”

The report sets out ten recommendations that include:

• The introduction of a Charter of Rights for people with learning disabilities and/or autism and their families.

• Giving people with learning disabilities and their families a ‘right to challenge’ decisions and the right to request a personal budget.
• A requirement for local decision-makers to follow a set plan that shows who is responsible for which services and how they will be held to account.

• A closure programme of inappropriate hospitals supporting patient choice.

• Improved training and education for NHS, local government and provider staff.

• Starting a social investment fund to build capacity in community-based services.
Simon Stevens is Chief Executive of NHS England.

When Simon Stevens got the report, he said:

“NHS England’s recent work with people with learning disabilities, and this new report, all now prove that radical changes are needed in NHS and social care...”

“People with learning disabilities and their families should increasingly take control of how the services they want and need are provided...”

“This will mean challenging models of institutional care,... personal budgets,...personal commisioning,...and action on employment rights and opportunities.”
The report has information on how well NHS England are doing in moving people from hospital into the community.

The last report showed that more people are going to be moving from hospital into the community.

All local NHS Leaders must have a register of inpatients with learning disabilities and autism to help their local plans.
NHS England is working on a programme of Care and Treatment reviews.

These reviews look at whether a patient is receiving the right care in the right place.

And if the care is what the patient wants.

NHS England expect about 1,000 reviews.
They are supported by experts by experience, expert clinicians, NHS and local authority commissioners.

The reviews should have happened by the end of this year.

Norman Lamb is the Minister of State for Care and Support.

He said:

The horrors of Winterbourne View exposed serious failures in the care of people with learning disabilities and autism and this report makes clear commissioning needs to change radically if services are to improve.
“It is unacceptable for people with learning disabilities and autism to be left in institutions if they can live in their own home or in the community...

I am going to consult on changing the law to speed up delivery of the Winterbourne View commitments – to see people living in the community wherever possible and able to challenge decisions about their care.

“I welcome the thrust of Sir Stephen Bubb’s report”.

This easy read document was produced by CHANGE
www.changepepeople.org