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To: Primary Care Trusts






Copies: Strategic Health Authorities
Deputy Regional Directors for social care




Gateway Reference number: 17155


Dear Colleague

DH REVIEW – WINTERBOURNE VIEW: UPDATE AND ACTION NEEDED

 	<p>This letter lets you know what the NHS and councils need to do now - before the Department of Health report on events at Winterbourne View hospital.</p>
	<p>The Written Ministerial Statements published on 31 October and 8 December 2011 give more details about the Department's review into Winterbourne View.</p>

	<p>The CQC inspection of learning disability hospitals and care homes is nearly finished. By 27 January, 138 inspections were done.</p>
	<p>CQC have published 27 reports of their inspections on their website. www.cqc.org.uk/ldreview. They will publish the rest of the reports of their inspections on the same website.</p>
	<p>There were issues in the reports that need looking at by the whole health and social care system.</p>
	<p>The NHS Operating Framework said it was important to reduce unequal treatment in the health service for everyone. This means people with learning disabilities get good quality health care, like other people.</p>
	<p>We expect that there will be someone in charge of placing people into care homes or hospitals either in the NHS or in a local authority. This person is called a lead commissioner.</p>

 <p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL AUTHORITIES</p> 	<p>Local councils have to make sure that people are kept safe. This is called safeguarding. The Government will be make safeguarding even stronger by law.</p>
 <p style="text-align: center;">NHS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LOCAL AUTHORITIES</p>	<p>The NHS and local authorities must work together to have good Joint Strategic Needs Assessments. These show what the main needs are of local people, including people with learning disabilities and what services are needed.</p>
	<p>Annual health checks for people with learning disabilities will carry on in 2012/13. This is good news. We want to help improve the number of people having health checks each year.</p>

 <p>NHS LOCAL AUTHORITIES</p>	<p>Finally, the NHS and local authorities are asked to work together to make sure things get better for people with learning disabilities now.</p>
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Yours sincerely

David Behan, CBE
Director General for Social Care,
Local Government and Care Partnerships

David Flory, CBE
Deputy NHS Chief
Executive