

To: Chairs, Health and Wellbeing Boards
Cc: Council Leaders and Chief Executives
Chairs and Chief Operating Officers, GGCs

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Dear Colleague,

Delivery of the Winterbourne View Concordat and review commitments

I am writing to you at the start of your taking on your statutory functions to stress the pivotal local leadership role that Health and Wellbeing Boards can play in delivering the commitments made in the Winterbourne View Concordat¹ which represents a commitment by over 50 organisations across the sector – including the Local Government Association, NHS England, the NHS Confederation, Royal Colleges and third sector organisations – to reform how care is provided to people with learning disabilities or autism who also have mental health conditions or behaviours viewed as challenging. There is widespread agreement across the sector that the care of this group of vulnerable people requires fundamental change.

The abuse of people at Winterbourne View hospital was horrifying. For too long and in too many cases this group of people received poor quality and inappropriate care. We know there are examples of good practice. But we also know that too many people are ending up in hospital unnecessarily and they are staying there for too long.

NHS England, NHS Clinical Commissioners, the Local Government Association, the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Association of Directors of Children's Services each committed to working collaboratively with CCGs and Local Authorities to achieve a number of objectives by 1 June 2014, including that from April 2013, health and care commissioners will set out:

“a joint strategic plan to commission the range of local health, housing and care support services to meet the needs of children, young people and adults with challenging behaviour in their area.

¹ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/127312/Concordat.pdf.pdf

This could be undertaken through the health and wellbeing board and could be considered as part of the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) process;

- *The strong presumption will be in favour of supporting this with pooled budget arrangements with local commissioners offering justification where this is not done.*
- *We will promote and facilitate joint and collaborative commissioning by local authorities and CCGs to support these objectives.*

Health and wellbeing boards have an opportunity through their role in agreeing the CCG and Local Authority Joint Plans to challenge the level of ambition in the plan and ensure that the right clinical and managerial leadership and infrastructure is in place to deliver the co-produced plan.

Health and wellbeing boards will, no doubt, also want to take an active interest in how far the other commitments in the Concordat, particularly those relating to care reviews having been completed by June 2013, have been achieved, as well as satisfying themselves that commissioners are working across the health and social care system to provide care and support which does not require people to live in inappropriate institutional settings.

It will only be through creative local joint commissioning and pooled budgets working with people who use services, their families, advocacy organisations and carers and other stakeholders (including providers) that we will deliver more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future and see real change for this very vulnerable group.

Health and wellbeing boards are well placed to agree when a pooled budget will be established (if not already) and how it will promote the delivery of integrated care – care that is coordinated and personalised around the needs of individuals; which is closer to home and which will lead to a dramatic reduction in the number of inpatient placements and the closure of some large in-patient settings.

The Department of Health has supported the establishment of an NHS England and Local Government Association-led Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Board. This Board will be working closely with a range of partners to develop and implement a sector-led improvement programme working with local health and social care communities to deliver real and lasting change in the support and

care for people with learning disabilities or autism who also have mental health conditions or behaviours viewed as challenging. It will shortly be in touch with you separately to take stock of progress in your area so that any appropriate level of support can be arranged.

Due to the very public nature of these failures in care, I am sure that you will want to ensure that your health and wellbeing board is able to provide transparent public information and assurance on progress locally.

Further information about the work of the improvement programme, including a recently issued framework for conducting reviews of care locally, is available on the LGA website. If you have any innovative practice to share, or views on how the programme can be designed and developed to ensure rapid progress and real and lasting change, please contact the programme chair via Chris.Bull@local.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Norman Lamb'.

NORMAN LAMB

We hope to publish progress around the country in meeting the commitments made in the Concordat in the Summer.

Thanks so much for your work on this incredibly important issue!