

Press Release 31/05/2013

Winterbourne 2 Years On

Two years ago today, the BBC exposed shocking abuse of people with learning disabilities at Winterbourne View. Despite a range of reports and investigations not enough progress has been made.

Simon Parkinson from Mencap and Viv Cooper from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation said "Two years on, and we still don't know how many of the 48 people from Winterbourne View have been supported to move back into the community, where they should be. We are still working with families whose loved ones remain hundreds of miles away in inpatient institutions, despite families' ongoing efforts to bring them closer to home.

We are very concerned that targets set only last year by the government to support people with a learning disability to move back into the local community may be missed. This continues to cause great concern among families who desperately want to see their relatives supported closer to home."

For more information please contact Pasca Lane on 0207 696 6017 or email pasca.lane@mencap.org.uk

Notes to editors

- **About the Challenging Behaviour Foundation**

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation provides information, support and training around challenging behaviour associated with severe learning disabilities, and leads the 'Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group' which seeks to influence policy and practice nationally on behalf of individuals who challenge and their families.

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation was founded in 1997 by Vivien Cooper, parent of a son with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging. Today the Challenging Behaviour Foundation is in regular contact with over 5000 families and professionals across the UK.

There are an estimated 30,000 individuals in England with severe learning disabilities and behaviour described as challenging.

For more information visit www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk or contact:

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation

Email: info@theCBF.org.uk

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- About challenging behaviour

Behaviour can be described as challenging when it is of such an intensity, frequency or duration as to threaten the quality of life and/or the physical safety of the individual or others and it is likely to lead to responses that are restrictive, aversive or result in exclusion.

Challenging behaviour shown by individuals with severe learning disabilities may include aggression, self injury, disruptive and destructive behaviours, stereotyped behaviour, and is most often due to their lack of ability to communicate their needs.

- **About Mencap**

There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Mencap works to support people with a learning disability and their families and carers by fighting to change laws and improve services and access to education, employment and leisure facilities. Mencap supports thousands of people with a learning disability to live their lives the way they want.

We are also one of the largest providers of services, information and advice for people with a learning disability across England, Northern Ireland and Wales. People with a learning disability and their carers can find out more about our services by calling Mencap Direct on 0300 333 111 or by visiting www.mencap.org.uk

- **What is a learning disability?**

A learning disability is a reduced intellectual ability and difficulty with everyday activities – for example household tasks, socialising or managing money – which affects someone for their whole life.

People with a learning disability tend to take longer to learn and may need support to develop new skills, understand complex information and interact with other people.

The level of support someone needs depends on individual factors, including the severity of their learning disability.

