Out of sight

A report about stopping abuse of people with a learning disability
Out of sight
About this report

This report shows that people with a learning disability should get care and support near their home and family.

When people are sent far away from their family there is more chance of them being abused.

Abuse is when people are hurt or treated badly.
In May 2011 there was a show on TV about abuse in a place called Winterbourne View.

Winterbourne View was a hospital for people with a learning disability.

People were sent to Winterbourne View to get care and support, but secret cameras showed people being abused.

The abuse at Winterbourne View made people very angry and Winterbourne View was closed down.
This report tells the story of a man called James.

James was sent a long way from home to get care and support.

But he did not get the right care and support.
He was abused.

His story shows that people should not be sent far away from their home and family.

People with a learning disability should get good care and support close to their home.
James’s story

James is now 38 years old.

He has a learning disability and behaviour that challenges.

Behaviour that challenges means that sometimes James can break things or hurt himself if he is confused or upset.

With the right support James does not feel confused or upset very often.

But James has not had the right support, so his behaviour has got worse over the years.
James has lived in lots of different places.

All of them were far away from his home and family.

James kept moving from home to home because he was not getting the right support.

There were lots of problems like

- staff not knowing how to support him
- staff not taking him to the doctors when he was ill
- bullying.
James’s story

James also stayed in 2 hospitals.

He did not always get the right support in the hospitals.

In one of the hospitals he was hurt by other people who lived there.

His family were very upset.

They wanted him to move closer to home but there were problems with the money for James’s care.
James has been in the hospital for 5 years.

The money has finally been sorted out and James can move to his own house with the right support.

He will be close to his family again.

But this does not make up for all the bad things that have happened.

We need to make sure that this does not happen again.
How one place is making things better

We talked to people in a place called Salford.

They are working to make things better for people with a learning disability.

In the past lots of people were sent to places far away like James.

But in the last 5 years 16 people with a learning disability have moved back to Salford.

The next part of the report tells you how the team in Salford are making this happen.
Making things better in Salford

Things are getting better in Salford because

• there has been lots of work to make care and health services better

• there is more team work

• there is more training for staff who support people with a learning disability

• people with a learning disability are getting more freedom and choice

• everyone is working in the same way and following the same rules.
What must happen now

We need to work together to make changes everywhere.

The government needs to lead the way.

The government must

• close all of the big hospitals for people with a learning disability
• make sure people can get care and support close to home
• make sure care homes and hospitals are checked properly
• make changes to the law to keep people safe.
What you can do to help

You can do things like

- write to your MP

- tell us your story.

For more information go to
www.mencap.org.uk/outofsight

Or email
campaigns@mencap.org.uk
If you are worried about someone with a learning disability call

Mencap Direct
0808 808 1111

or

Challenging Behaviour Foundation
0845 602 7885

People who work in hospitals or care homes can call the Whistleblowing Helpline on
08000 724 725