

**Press Release 04/07/2013**

## **Call for Increased Accountability for Care Providers**

Directors in charge of care homes and hospitals that allow neglect and abuse to take place could be held personally and criminally accountable for failures in care, under proposals unveiled by Care and Support Minister Norman Lamb today as part of the consultation *Strengthening corporate accountability in health and social care*.

Janine Tregelles and Vivien Cooper, CEOs of Royal Mencap Society and the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, said "Since the appalling abuse of people with a learning disability at Winterbourne View was exposed, we have called for much tougher corporate accountability of care providers who fail people with a learning disability and their families. People with a learning disability still face abuse and neglect in care and hospital settings, and we welcome these proposals as an important step in creating accountability from the Board Room to the frontline of services.

But we also want to see the delivery of new powers in the Care Bill currently going through parliament, which will stop providers being able to withhold information from Serious Case Reviews that look into why services have failed. Castlebeck, who ran Winterbourne View, withheld information about what took place and none of their Board was ever held to account. This lack of openness and accountability is simply unacceptable and must change.

### **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](http://www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk) or contact:

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation  
Email: [info@theCBF.org.uk](mailto:info@theCBF.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01634 838739

- **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 Royal Mencap Society**

There are 1.4 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Mencap works to support people with a learning disability, their families and carers by fighting to change laws, 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. [www.mencap.org.uk](http://www.mencap.org.uk)

For advice and information about learning disability and Mencap services in your area, contact Mencap Direct on 0808 808 1111 (9am-5pm, Monday-Friday) or email [help@mencap.org.uk](mailto:help@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.

Learning disability is NOT a mental illness. The term learning difficulty is often incorrectly used interchangeably with learning disability.