

## **CBF responds to the Confidential Inquiry**

The report of the Confidential Inquiry into premature deaths of people with learning disabilities, published today, reveals shocking findings.

Challenging Behaviour Foundation Chief Executive, Vivien Cooper, says:

“People with learning disabilities are dying unnecessarily – because their illness is not properly investigated or treated. People with severe learning disabilities were even more likely to die prematurely when this could have been avoided if they had received the right treatment. This is wholly unacceptable – we know how to provide good healthcare support for people with learning disabilities”

The report highlights that many professionals do not adapt services to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities, and that their care is fragmented.

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation urges the Government to implement the report recommendations to prevent further avoidable deaths and calls on the National Commissioning Board to immediately set up a National Learning Disability Mortality Review Body.

## Notes to editors

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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.

**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.

'Severe learning disability' is a developmental disability meaning the individual has a significantly reduced ability to learn new skills. Individuals with severe learning disabilities typically have very limited communication skills, often non verbal, and need help with daily living skills such as eating and dressing. 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.

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 4500 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:

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