

Abuse in NHS Services for People who have a Learning Disability

There have been two reports about abuse in NHS Services for people who have a learning disability.

1) From Cornwall

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“Joint Investigation into services for people with learning disabilities at Cornwall Partnership Trust.

2) From Sutton & Merton

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“Investigation into the service for people with learning disabilities provided by Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust.

Available from www.healthcarecommission.org.uk



They found that:



The quality of the services provided by Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust had not improved much even though a new senior manager had been brought in to change things

Managers at Sutton and Merton asked for help because they were worried that people might not be safe

Bad things were happening

The Reports Say



Some people had been abused

For example, one person at a hospital called Budock Hospital had been hurt more than once by another person with a learning disability and had an injury to their head.



They also found that Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust and Cornwall Social Services were not dealing with these cases properly.

They found that people did not always get the right care and did not have enough choice or control over the care that they got



Not enough records were kept about the care that people got



Some people did not have a plan to make sure they got the care and support they needed

There were not many Person Centred Health Action Plans



People using the service were not asked about their care



Staff were not trained properly about how to care for people

And

Not all staff had been trained properly so they knew what to do when they thought something bad might be happening to a person. This is called training about protection of adults less able to look after themselves.

There was not enough advocacy support.

Not enough things for people to do.

This is called INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE

Senior managers did not check to make sure what was happening was made better.

A lot of senior managers did not understand enough about learning disabilities.



Hospitals like Orchard Hill in Sutton and Merton should have been closed down a long time ago.

The Healthcare Commission wants to make sure that all services in different parts of the country get better at supporting people who have a learning disability.

They are visiting all learning disability services in England to find out what else needs to be done to make them better.

The Government says



- Action needs to be taken to make sure the bad things that happened in Cornwall don't happen again – anywhere.
- Action Plan
 - * More self advocacy and family carer groups
 - * A team of people coming together to discuss adult protection issues
 - * Adult protection policemen working with local services
 - * Modern supported living services to be developed
- A new Safeguarding Adults Bill (from 2008)

- There are no NHS run learning disability services in Medway
- We must all listen to what has been said
- We must all learn about adult protection and

STOP ABUSE

What will you do to help?