

Welcome to edition 3  
of *Better Health!* the  
newsletter of Debra Moore  
Associates

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## Reminder!

[Leaving Indifference  
Behind](#)

9<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2008 Telford

A national event to  
disseminate the findings of  
the Independent Inquiry  
into Access for People with  
Learning Disabilities &  
share good practice

For further information  
contact  
[Rick.Robson@sssft.nhs.uk](mailto:Rick.Robson@sssft.nhs.uk)

## News!

[New National Director for  
Learning Disabilities](#)

On Monday Ivan Lewis  
announced the  
appointment of Anne  
Williams who is currently  
Strategic Director at  
Salford City Council.

She will take up post on  
6<sup>th</sup> October



### *The Final Straw*

*This week saw the publication of Healthcare for All the report of the Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities.*

*From a personal perspective it feels like the 'final straw' after a long line of reports and research papers spanning too many years.*

*Like many people I welcome this report and hope that it results in some major changes within the NHS.*

*Best wishes*

*Debra*

## Reports 'Round Up'

In this section we aim to provide readers with an 'at a glance' review of recent reports that we think are particularly significant to the theme of this newsletter



### Healthcare for All: Independent Inquiry into Access to Healthcare for People with Learning Disabilities

The Inquiry, led by Sir Jonathan Michael, sought to identify the action needed to make sure people with learning disabilities receive appropriate treatment in acute and primary healthcare in England.

The Inquiry was launched following the Mencap publication of *Death by Indifference*

#### **Inquiry Recommendations include:**

better inspection and regulation of the NHS in relation to its treatment of people with learning disabilities

better data collection and identification of people with learning disabilities within the NHS

a confidential inquiry into the avoidable deaths of people with a learning disability and a permanent public health observatory

learning disability training for healthcare professionals

the involvement of family carers in care and treatment

provision of 'reasonable adjustments' for by health services, including regular health checks and liaison staff across services

For the full report & easy to read version visit

<http://www.iahpld.org.uk/index.html>

**ourNHS**  
*our future* High Quality Care For All

#### Final Report of NHS Next Stage Review

The much heralded 'Darzi Review' published its final report at the end of June. It seems somewhat strange to be covering this and the Michaels Inquiry report in the same newsletter.

Whilst they are both concerned with the delivery of health care services the differences in the description of patient's care and experience could not be more different.

In the introduction Lord Darzi says of the NHS  
*"The NHS is there when we need it most. It provides round the clock, compassionate care and comfort"*

In contrast to the Inquiry findings for people with learning disabilities  
*"witnesses described some appalling examples of discrimination, abuse and neglect across the range of health services"*

The Darzi report reinforces the personalisation agenda and sets out a series of commitments that resonate with those of the Independent Inquiry including:

**Getting the basics right - improving safety & quality**

**Quality Improvement - public health observatories in every region**

**Improving the quality of NHS training**

For the full report visit  
<http://www.ournhs.nhs.uk/>

You can also comment on Lord Darzi's 'blog site'  
<http://www.ournhs.nhs.uk/category/darzi/>

## Networks & forums

### Sharing good practice

We know that people are often hard pressed to get to meetings to share good practice and solve problems. As a result many people have benefitted from electronic networks and forums.

As well as providing our own web based forums we will be supporting readers by 'featuring' 2 other national and regional networks in each edition.

These networks may be specific to supporting healthcare for a particular group e.g. older people or may support a professional staff group.

### A2A Access to Acute Network

The A2A network is concerned primarily with the issues surrounding people with a learning disability, their carers and staff in the general hospital.

The A2A network was formed in 1998 and has expanded to become a national network for people who support people with a learning disability when they are in the general hospital

To find out more or join the network contact the chair Rick Robson at [Rick.Robson@shropshirepct.nhs.uk](mailto:Rick.Robson@shropshirepct.nhs.uk)  
Or visit <http://www.nnldn.org.uk/a2a/>

## Launch of 6C's Confirm & Challenge!

The '6C's Confirm and Challenge' is our online resource to support commissioners and providers interested in the health and wellbeing of people with learning disabilities. It does this by providing a model on which to build services that support better health for people with learning disabilities and resources to support the changes required.

It is based on '6 Core Outcomes' that are drawn from a wide range of government policy and guidance that covers both specialist services and mainstream health and social care. It aims to help people to **confirm** the direction of travel and make improvements in commissioning and delivery and to **challenge** and reduce the inequalities faced by people with learning disabilities within the NHS. Within each outcome is a set of 'key principles' against which commissioners and providers can map progress and contains examples of action/activities or outcomes that would evidence progress in that particular area.

In each section we have also included links to some of the relevant policies, guidance and other key documents.

We hope you like it and welcome feedback! [www.debramooreassociates.com](http://www.debramooreassociates.com)

## The 6 Core Outcomes

**Centredness** – putting the person and their family at the centre – personalized services that are dignified and respectful of individual needs

**Community** – promoting health and wellbeing, focusing on prevention and early intervention and delivering services close to home

**Citizenship** – increasing choice and control, promoting inclusion and a 'human rights based approach'

**Commissioning** – working in partnership to deliver improved outcomes and reduce inequalities

**Competence** – developing the skills and knowledge within services and within people who use services, their family carers and supporters

**Checking** – ensuring services are high quality, clinically effective and safe

Although its initial focus is on the commissioning and provision of specialist learning disability health services, it will be expanding to include sections on other parts of the health service.

Some parts of it are still in development (such as our tool to support Community Learning Disability Teams) but we thought it would be useful to share our 'work in progress'.

We are also in the process of uploading good practice examples and information developed within services onto the website.

## Supporting People with Learning Disabilities

This is a new blogsite that aims to keep subscribers up to date with news, information, resources and links that improve the quality of life for people with learning disabilities. If you would like to suggest content for the site please email Steve Hardy at [stevo3@gmail.com](mailto:stevo3@gmail.com)

Visit the site at:

<http://learningdisabilitiesresource.blogspot.com>

If you would like your network, forum or blog site! to be featured in a future edition please get in touch by emailing [info@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:info@debramooreassociates.com) or ring 07950 333884

### Health Events

#### Bridging the Gap:

*Contemporary issues in meeting the mental health needs of people with learning disabilities*

National One Day Conference 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008 London

This conference will highlight the pressing needs of people who tend to fall through the gaps between services. These include people with a history of offending behaviour, people with borderline intellectual functioning and people with autistic spectrum disorders.

For more information [www.pavpub.com](http://www.pavpub.com)

## News items



### Tell it like it is: a new report from the Learning Disability Coalition

The report which was the result of a survey undertaken of people with learning disabilities and their carers details people's experiences of cuts to services and the impact that the underfunding of the social care system is having on their lives including 34% reporting having had day services cut

[http://www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk/download/Tell\\_it\\_like\\_it\\_is.pdf](http://www.learningdisabilitycoalition.org.uk/download/Tell_it_like_it_is.pdf)



### Department of Health 1<sup>st</sup> annual report of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy Service

This report details the experience of the IMCA service and highlights that their role next year will be increased and extended by the campus closure programme for people with learning disabilities and the Deprivation of Liberty standards

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_086478](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086478)



### National Library for Health: Learning Disabilities Specialist Library

#### Learning Disability Health Needs Annual Evidence Update 2008

This really useful review provides bibliographies of published research for some key health issues including cancer, coronary heart disease, epilepsy, respiratory illness, visual impairment and challenging behaviour

<http://www.library.nhs.uk/learningdisabilities/Page.aspx?pagename=HNAEU2008>



## 'Consultation Corner'

A Consultation on the NHS Constitution - safeguarding its core principles and values for the next generation, while setting a clear direction for the future **Closing date 17<sup>th</sup> October.**

If you would like to contact us for more details about items in our newsletter or if you would like adding to our contact list please email

[info@debramooreassociates.com](mailto:info@debramooreassociates.com)

or telephone 07950 333884



**Debra Moore Associates**

*Promoting person centred health services*