

To LDPB Lead Officers,

I would like to bring to your attention, on behalf of the Health care Commission, an important change which affects you regarding our annual assessment of NHS bodies – the annual health check.

As you may be aware every Trust has to self assess themselves against the core standards, through a declaration process. As part of this process they are required to ask specified third parties for comments on the performance of the organisation during the assessment year. Where comments are provided trusts are required to include them on their declarations form which are then published.

The specified third parties have never included the Learning Disability Partnership Boards before but we are delighted to announce that we have managed to ensure that your board will be one of those third parties who are invited to comment for the year 2008/2009.

What this means is that your local PCTs and Trusts will contact you in early 2009 to agree a timetable for including your comments in their declaration. You can comment on your trust's performance against any of the standards and you do not have to comment on all of them. Your comments should relate to the performance of the trust during the assessment year, 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009. You are not expected to comment directly on contents of the declaration which your trust will submit to us.

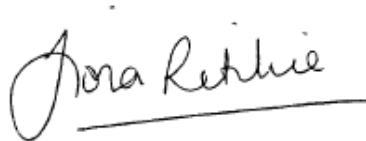
We hope you will agree that this potentially can be an important lever for your board to ensure that people with learning disabilities in your local area get good, fair and safe treatment and support from the trusts.

We felt it appropriate to contact you directly to highlight this change as we have only now managed to ensure your inclusion. A guidance document has been published on our website which will provide more information and help you understand this role further. The guidance can be found at

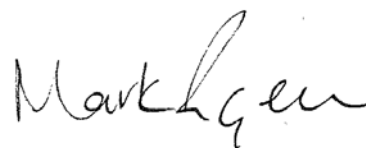
http://www.healthcarecommission.org.uk/_db/_documents/Your_part_in_the_A_HC_2008_09_200810210705.pdf

Please feel free to get in touch if you would like to know any more details.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Ritchie". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Fiona Ritchie OBE
Lead Learning Disabilities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark Rogers
Head of Standards Based Assessment