



National Network of Learning Disability Nurses Response to Lord Darzi's Next Stage Review

The NNLDN would like to extend its warm wishes to the NHS its 60th Birthday, and welcome the Lord Darzi's report to mark the occasion.

The NNLDN are pleased to acknowledge the NHS is now recognising its responsibility to deliver personalised care to all people in England. While the Review does not explicitly recognise people with learning disabilities, we fully expect the recommendations herein to enable people with learning disabilities to access primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare based on their individual needs and as such should minimise the inequalities in the health care system that currently exist.

With this in mind the NNLDN wishes to applaud the recommendation of individualised health budgets, as it believes this choice of service for the increased numbers of people growing up using medical technologies will offer greater control, if the correct infrastructure is put in place to make this a choice practical. We are also encouraged to see personalised health plans will be adopted throughout England as a way of enabling people to stay healthy. This will place a renewed emphasis on Primary Care services delivering annual health checks and health action plans with people with learning disabilities.

The NNLDN recognises that quality is at the heart of this review, from the clinicians that have contributed to the review, to the drive toward 'customers' reviewing the services offered / received. It is recognised by the Healthcare Commission and the Equality and Human Rights Commission that people with learning disabilities do not often get the opportunity to feedback their experiences of healthcare and as such the NNLDN welcome the opportunities that this report extends.

The NNLDN would like to acknowledge the great strides the NHS has taken in the last 30 years; however the ambitious aims of delivering quality, personalised services to all will require leadership and creativity, particularly when no new resources will be made available for its delivery.

We - the NNLDN - offer our support in delivering this new vision of the NHS and look forward to ensuring health inequalities are minimised for people with learning disabilities.

If you require further information regarding the NNLDN please visit <http://www.nnldn.org.uk/> and if you would like to discuss the information contained herein, please make contact with your local representative. This information can be found at <http://www.nnldn.org.uk/contact.asp>