



Transforming Care Information

Dear Sir/Madam,

ASIST (Advocacy Services in Staffordshire) have been commissioned to work with the 'Together we're better' – Transforming health and care for Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent - Transforming Care Partnership (TCP).

In May 2011, a BBC Panorama documentary showed people with learning disabilities, autism and challenging behaviour being abused. The abuse happened at a private care hospital in South Gloucestershire, England, UK called Winterbourne View, and this shocked the nation.

It led the Government to say that they would move all people with learning disabilities and/or autism inappropriately placed in such institutions into community care.

The Government and leading organisations across the health and care system are committed to transforming care for people with learning disabilities and/or autism who have a mental health need or whose behaviour challenges services.

The transforming care programme was set up with one **big aim**:

“to improve the way care and support is provided for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, autism or both, who also display behaviour that is complex and challenging including those with a mental health need.”

The **focus of the work** is to make sure that people are able to lead good lives in the community.

People should have the same opportunities as everyone else and get the support they need to live healthy, safe and fulfilling lives, having equal opportunities for all.

If the transforming care partnerships get this right, it is hoped that less people will be admitted to learning disability hospitals and more people will get the support and treatment they need in the community.

If people do need care and treatment in hospitals it will be good care, and people will not stay there longer than they need to.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Reach is an advocacy project within ASIST advocacy services, and will help support this piece of work in Staffordshire and Stoke-On-Trent by:

- Listening to the person, their families, carers, friends, and the people who know them well, capturing their experiences from admission to discharge.

For example:

- What they feel they need?
- What works well?
- What doesn't work well?

This information will be put into reports and fed back to our local councils, the Transforming Care Partnership Board (TCPB), NHS England, service providers and commissioners of services to help influence change.

- Valuing the expertise and knowledge that people have, their views and what works well for them in their lives.
- Accessing the community across Staffordshire and Stoke and engaging with other voluntary groups.
- Reviewing the Care and Treatment Review (CTR) work we have done.
- Enabling and empowering people to have a voice to help people have a good life.
- We will also be looking at service provision which will include drawing a map of what is available in the community. For example:
 - What is needed in the community to prevent re-admission? and,
 - What is and isn't working well?

Reach will meet children, young people and adults with learning disabilities, autism who may have a mental health need or whose behaviour challenges services, working on a 1:1 basis or in a group setting (depending on the individual's needs).

Reach will gather people's views and opinions (both positive and negative) and feed it back to help influence change.

Reach would also like to meet and work with family and carers, advocates, commissioners, service providers, professionals and others finding out how the TCP can make things better now and in the future.

Reach will then support the Transforming Care Partnership with the next stage which is the re-design of new services, supporting people to say what services should look like in the future.

We look forward to working with you. Many thanks,

Antony Davenport (Advocacy Facilitator) and, *Paul Carter* (Peer Advocacy Facilitator).

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