

Report to the Learning Disability Partnership Board
Keeping people safe from abuse following the Panorama
programme

A Panorama TV programme showed people with learning disabilities being abused both physically and verbally at 'Winterbourne View' in Gloucestershire



Winterbourne View is a private hospital run by a company called Castlebeck Care. The hospital is for people with learning disabilities, people with autism and people who may need support with their behaviour.

Following the programme, the government (through the Department of Health) is looking into what happened at Winterbourne View to find out what needs to change and what lessons can be learnt for the future.



What we are doing in Brighton and Hove to check this is not happening?

- We do not have any local private hospitals but we do have people placed outside of Brighton and Hove:
- We have 9 people placed in private hospitals who need treatment for mental health problems and who are in 'secure' (locked units). These placements are funded by Health (the PCT).



- We also have 4 people funded by the council who are being treated and assessed in private hospital units.

What we do now:

- All people placed are reviewed at 6 weeks and have a review at least once a year.



- People are usually placed by the social work team who will visit the service before someone is placed (unless it is an emergency in which case people will be visited as soon as possible.) Wherever possible, families will be involved in the placement.



- People who are in secure (locked) hospital units have the legal right to have access to an independent advocate.
- If anyone suspects someone is being abused this can be reported via a safeguarding alert to the local area. The local area carry out an investigation and the result is reported to the funding authority.
- Families can also report any concerns to the social work team.

What more do we plan to do?

- The council and the PCT are reviewing how the placements are set up, reviewed and monitored.
- An extra review of the health funded placements is planned by PCT.
- We will also look at what has been learnt from the Winterbourne investigation.