

# Winterbourne View

What happened and what we need to do about it





On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011, a BBC Panorama television programme showed people with challenging behaviour being abused by staff at a private hospital called Winterbourne View.

This hospital is now closed.



The abuse that took place at Winterbourne View was criminal.

The staff whose jobs were to care and help patients were shown to be abusing them.

For example - they were pushed around and they were shouted at.



The hospital provided assessment and treatment and rehabilitation for people with learning disabilities.

Most of the patients in Winterbourne View hospital had been placed at the hospital under the Mental Health Act.



Almost half of the patients at Winterbourne View were placed far away from their homes.

Also they were there for a very long time. Some patients were there for more than 3 years.



For a lot of the time families were not allowed to visit patients on the ward or in their bedrooms.

This made the abuse even harder to spot.



The patients at Winterbourne View had very little access to advocacy and complaints were not handled properly.

The abuse should have been noticed earlier. But it was not.



The terrible things that happened at Winterbourne View set off a wider review into how people with challenging behaviour are treated all over England.



There are too many people with learning disabilities and autism in hospital, when they should not be.

This is because the right services to support people in the community have not been put in place.

Hospitals are not homes, so this should not happen.



Too many people with learning disabilities and autism are sent far from their homes and families.

People should be able to get the support and services they need locally, near to family and friends.

This support should be planned from childhood.





People should only go to hospital for assessment and treatment if it is necessary and they cannot get the support they need at home or in a community service.



People should be moved on from hospitals as quickly as possible – either back home or on to other community support.



Every area needs to have a local joint plan for good care and support services for people with challenging behaviour.

Rutland is working with Leicestershire, Leicester City and Health to agree a plan.

We have completed a progress report and sent this back to the BIG BOSSES in the government.