

6 April 2011

To: All Partnership Boards

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Learning Disabilities
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Dear Colleagues

**Partnership Board Annual Report: 2010/11 – Template
Staying Positive: The Criminal Justice System and Learning
Disabilities – Booklet**

As you know, the Valuing People Now summary report 2009/10 launched by the Care Services Minister, Paul Burstow in December 2010 has been very well received. The Minister said that it provided very clear information so that local people can see the progress that has been made to improve services for people with learning disabilities.

I was delighted that all 152 partnership boards completed reports last year. This is clear evidence that you all want to improve services locally. The good practice examples in the summary report showed just what can be done by people working together locally.

Following the success of last year's report, we want to give all partnership boards the opportunity to complete a report this year as well. This will cover the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. A template is attached with some background notes to guide you in completing the form. You told us you wanted some changes made to the form so it is shorter and clearer this year. We have kept all the key questions on health, housing and employment to give vital information for new organisations that are developing such as HealthWatch, Health and Wellbeing Boards and GP Consortia. We are very grateful to ADASS for their input into this booklet.

I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to complete the report and record progress made in your area. There are new arrangements this year for submitting your completed report. The Department of Health funds the North East Public Health

Observatory (NEPHO) to provide a time limited Learning Disabilities Observatory service to collect information on the health and care experience of people with learning disabilities. As part of this work, the Observatory has agreed to publish partnership board annual reports on its website (www.ihal.org.uk). The details are shown on the attached template. You will need to send the Observatory a copy of the form, preferably by email, by **29 July 2011**. Your SHA, DRD and ADASS have all been sent email copies of the form.

The Department sees these reports as a rich source of information, and is currently discussing with NEPHO the scope within the existing contract for the Observatory to undertake and publish some comparative analysis on the reports received. The National Learning Disability Programme Board will continue to take an interest in these reports.

I am also attaching a copy of the 'Staying Positive: The Criminal Justice System and Learning Disabilities' easy read booklet for your information. You can get copies of the full version of the 'Positive Practice, Positive Outcomes' (2011) book from the internet: www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Offenderhealth/DH_4032016 as well as copies of this information booklet.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Williams".

Anne Williams
National Director for Learning Disabilities

Copies: ADASS
SHAs
Deputy Regional Directors
Public Health Observatory