Dear Colleague

Launch of the Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework 2014

ADASS and NHS England are committed through the Transforming Care Programme to an annual Self-Assessment Process for people with learning disabilities.

Despite turbulence in the health and social care system this was completed for all Health and Wellbeing Board areas for 2013. At a local level the assessment findings have been used to inform commissioners and Health and Wellbeing Boards and to inform improvement plans. The full national analysis of last year’s assessment (http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/hscldsaf) has been widely used to inform sector led improvement, to identify successes and to highlight areas where further work is needed. The accounts of personal experiences have been particularly valuable in highlighting the perspective of users of services.

Last year the validation and quality assurance processes varied widely. Best practice examples have been used to inform the proposed governance and assurance arrangements for this year.

We have had strong representations that:

1. The programme should continue
2. The burden of collecting information should be reduced where possible
3. The voices of people with learning disabilities and their carers should be incorporated in the principal ratings.

4. As far as possible the structure should be left the same to allow comparisons between years.

5. Some questions proved ambiguous last year.

The whole structure has been carefully reviewed and where necessary revised on basis of these considerations.

The guidance and governance arrangements for this process will be available on the IHAL website in the week commencing 15th September. We would ask you to draw the attention of the appropriate officer in your organisation to these details and to ask them to register through the Improving Health and Lives website as soon as possible.

There is further work to be done to ensure that all people with learning disabilities are supported to lead the fullest, most active and healthy lives possible. We are jointly committed to this process as part of the work in assuring progress towards this goal which I know you share.

Yours sincerely

Andrea Pope-Smith
Joint Chair
ADASS Learning Disability Policy Network
Andrea.Pope-Smith@dudley.gov.uk
01384 815800

Jane Cummings
Chief Nursing Officer for England
janecummings@nhs.net
0113 825 1120