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Ref: JC/0001/21012011/AW

Ms Kathy Doran  
Chief Executive  
NHS Wirral  
Old Market House  
Hamilton Street  
Birkenhead  
Merseyside  
CH41 5FL

21<sup>st</sup> January 2011

Dear Kathy

**Re: 2010 Learning Disabilities Health Self Assessment and Performance Framework**

Following the recent completion of the regional Learning Disability Validation meetings, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your partner agencies for your support of this national process. This is the first year that it has been undertaken in the North West and as a region services scored an Amber rating over the four top targets.

Whilst some excellent areas of good practice were identified, NHS organisations recognised that further work is required over the next twelve months, if we are to continue improving health outcomes for people with a Learning Disability.

**Validation Meeting Outcome**

Your PCT's submission of the health self assessment and performance framework was validated in November 2010. The validation panel comprised representation from the Learning Disability User and Carer forum, the SHA, the regional Valuing People Support Team and the regional Health Equalities Group project management.

It was evident from the information received that the PCT had completed a comprehensive piece of work and feedback was very positive.

The meeting provided opportunity to discuss the self assessment ratings and where necessary adjustments were agreed. However as the return was received some time after the data deadline, it did cause a difficulty for the validation process.

This was a good first assessment with some areas of practice to share. DVD evidence from the Big Health day was very informative. There was evidence of quality work around transition and the *Six Lives* report. There is a robust action plan, and clear evidence of involvement by people with learning disability, and reporting mechanisms.

I look forward to further developments over the next twelve months. I look forward to the outcomes of the 2011 self assessment.

#### **A) Top Target 1**

##### **People Still in Hospital Settings – Overall Rating – Green**

The PCT confirmed that it had nobody living in NHS campus accommodation and supporting evidence of this position was provided. The PCT will continue monitoring and reviewing out of area placements and services to support the resettlement of people back to your locality. You have developed an Intensive Community Re-enablement project to support people to remain in area.

#### **B) Top Target 2**

##### **Access to Mainstream NHS Services: Overall Rating – Amber**

It is intended for this target to tackle the inequalities that people with learning disabilities sometimes face in making use of mainstream health services.

The PCT presented good examples of use of assistive technology and development of plans for future data collection. Plans are in place to outsource health checks. Good evidence around screening processes was presented.

Whilst the evidence demonstrated development in many of these areas, it was acknowledged and agreed that work is required in the following:

2.5	<b><i>Service Agreements with providers of general, specialist and intermediate health care, demonstrably secure equal access to health care.</i></b>	<b>Amber to Red</b>
2.8	<b><i>PCTs have agreed with local partner agencies a long term 'across system' strategy for ethnic minority groups and their carers.</i></b>	<b>Red</b>

2.9	<b><i>There is a long-term strategy in place to achieve inclusion and equality of healthcare and outcomes for people with profound disabilities and their carers.</i></b>	<b>Amber to Red</b>
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### C) Top Target 3

**Safety: Overall Rating – Amber**

This outcome measure relates to safeguarding people with learning disabilities, upholding their right to make their own choices and to be supported in doing this.

The PCT presented a very robust detailed action plan for the *Six Lives* report. Policies are in place and information is available in easy read format. It is commendable that you have started work to identify the number of people placed in area.

### D) Top Target 4

**Services for those needing more support: Overall Rating – Amber**

There was good evidence of consultation with young people and families regarding transition. An impressive leaflet has been developed regarding going to prison. Work is progressing in all areas and there is very good evidence of advocate and carer involvement.

Whilst the evidence demonstrated development in many of these areas, it was acknowledged and agreed that work is required in the following:

4.10	<b>The Partnership Board has a Learning Disabilities workforce development plan in place, which includes reference to the future training and development of people working in learning disability services, in both specialist and mainstream health care areas.</b>	<b>Red</b>
4.11	<b>PCT's and their partners are working with local and regional Offender Health teams to ensure that people with Learning Disabilities in prison have access to a full range of healthcare – in line with legislation, policy and best practice.</b>	<b>Red</b>

The panel agreed that there was sufficient evidence provided to rate the following green:

4.2	<b><i>There is a comprehensive range of specialist learning disabilities services available to sustain and support people in their local community, avoiding unnecessary admissions or re-admissions to hospital</i></b>	<b>Green</b>
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## Next Steps

The PCT panel agreed that they would send a copy of their final action plan to Sue Smith, Health Self Assessment Project Lead, no later than the end of December 2010.

Sue Smith is producing a regional report with an associated action plan. When ratified by the Health Equalities Group, it will be shared with PCT Chief Executives and other colleagues across the North West

Celebration of good practice events are being arranged to provide opportunities for PCT's to show case the excellent practice developed, and promote shared learning.

A good practice booklet will be developed and shared across the North West to aid learning. It would be very helpful therefore if your validated ratings, from the North West Health Self Assessment, could be shared with the Learning Disability Public Health Observatory. **Unless I hear back from you to the contrary by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011**, I will take this as an approval for this plan to go ahead.

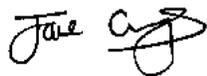
## Conclusion

A number of NHS organisations commented that the time frame for the 2010 self assessment process was very tight, and suggested the timing for 2011 would be better aligned to service planning. Consequently, when reviewing this year's timescales, with the PCT Health Self Assessment nominated leads, these views will be taken into consideration.

I would be very grateful if you could share this letter with the Chief Executives of your NHS acute and specialist service providers, and the Chair of your Learning Disability Partnership Board. Can I also ask that the PCT make this information available in an 'Easy to Read' version.

Finally, discussion at the panel meetings confirmed wide spread agreement of the opportunity this process has presented the information from which, will be extremely useful preparation for future commissioning developments.

Yours sincerely



**Jane Cummings**  
**Chief Nurse & Executive Director of Performance & Quality**

CC: Ann Wood, Associate Director MH, High Secure and Learning Disability Performance  
Sue Smith, Project Manager for Health and People with Learning Disability