



all about people

News from BILD

9.5.11

The Lord Carlile Inquiry into the use of restraint

The British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) is aware that a risk assessment of seven restraint techniques undertaken by BILD for the Youth Justice Board (YJB) in 2008 will be made public by Lord Carlile this Wednesday, 11th May 2011.

BILD has worked on a number of projects over the last 16 years aimed at reducing the use of restrictive practices across a range of services. We have particular concern about the use of any aversive practices when used in care, education or health settings where vulnerable people are being supported. This includes children, young people, adults with intellectual disabilities and other vulnerable people.

It would be inappropriate to comment publically with regard to the specific content of the report prior to this week's disclosure by Lord Carlile. However we would hope this will lead towards more active discussion between agencies at a national level.

"We believe passionately in the protection of vulnerable people in our society. BILD has worked collaboratively over the years with a number of government departments, other agencies and stakeholders", said Sharon Paley, BILD's development manager for behaviour support. "In the past year we have issued strengthened guidance within our own accreditation process and continue to strive towards a process that will increase important skills of professionals in behaviour support and management. We are keen to pursue national mandatory regulation across the sector and would welcome an opportunity for open and honest debate between interested parties."

BILD shares the concerns of many other individuals and organisations that there has been little progress five years on from Lord Carlile's original report and his extensive recommendations. It is nearly three years on from the publication of the Independent Review of Restraint in Juvenile Secure Settings (2008) that, in relation to systems of training stated:

Recommendation 9.42: The new system must be built around a smaller core of safe techniques to cover the range of risks in STCs. Its development should be informed by latest medical evidence, including the PCC Medical Panel's conclusions on the safety and

suitability of the head support, seated holds and the double embrace, and where appropriate by the evidence of the BILD expert panel.

11.4 : Two models of an accreditation scheme show how this might work; an established voluntary system run by the British Institute of Learning Disabilities (BILD) and a new system being developed by the National Institute for Mental Health in England (NIMHE) and the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) for mental health services.

It is of some concern that the system for monitoring training being established by the National Institute for Mental Health in England failed to lead to any concrete mandatory scheme being established nationally. Over the past 10 years government departments have consistently failed to implement a number of related projects and offered insufficient guidance to those working with vulnerable people.

It is far too simplistic to argue that simply accrediting or monitoring training will increase safety for vulnerable people, whether in settings for children or adults. It is necessary to embark on a whole shift which will necessitate comprehensive support across government departments. Such changes will need to include:

- Statutory guidance for settings supporting vulnerable people
- A mandate for the removal of techniques and practices which rely on the infliction of pain to gain compliance over vulnerable people from programmes of training in physical techniques
- A requirement for the mandatory reporting in the use of force across services at a national level and the creation of a department to monitor such practices
- The mandatory requirement that professionals are trained to an appropriate level of competence in order to be able to meet the emotional needs of the vulnerable people in their care. This should include training in issues such as human rights, legislative frameworks, trauma informed care, primary prevention of behaviour which is 'challenging' and psychological support.

BILD welcomes the opportunity for widespread consultation and debate and looks forward to working with other stakeholders in taking the agenda forward collaboratively.

ENDS

For more information please contact BILD's Communications Manager, Peter Salisbury on 01562 723010 or email p.salisbury@bild.org.uk

Notes:

BILD (The British Institute of Learning Disabilities) is based in Kidderminster, Worcestershire and was founded in 1971.

BILD's vision is a society where people with learning disabilities are equal citizens and have access to the support and services they need. We work to make this happen in partnership with people with a learning disability and family carers. They are the real 'experts', knowing what support is needed, and what needs to change to improve the quality of their lives.

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