

19th February 2019

Debbie Westhead
Interim Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care
Care Quality Commission
151 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 9SZ
By e-mail

Dear Ms Westhead

BBC reports on incidents or deaths in Supported Living

The BBC have made 2 programmes in the last week about supported living for people with Learning Disabilities. We are very worried to hear about so many unexpected deaths and serious incidents in supported living. We know from the LeDeR report and other reports that people with learning disabilities are dying too young, so these figures confirm that this is also a problem in supported living.

We feel afraid about what these figures mean for people's lives. We do not want people to be afraid to ask for support when they need it or think supported living is always unsafe.

We know some of the increases are because there are more people living in supported living but even so, these things are happening to people with learning disabilities and they shouldn't be.

Some of the increases might be because there is better reporting from providers. We think that being open about what goes wrong is a good thing, but we are worried that these figures suggest that there are more things going wrong each year and services are not learning from problems and getting better.

At the same time Learning Disability England has members who tell us their own support, or their family member's support is good. We also know many organisation members work hard and support their staff well to provide good, high quality support.

We believe that good quality supported living is the right thing to do - we don't want to return to institutional services. Good supported living follows the principles of the REACH standards and The Real Tenancy Test.

We understand that CQC is not responsible for the commissioning or funding of housing and support services.

We think though that the information you have can be used to understand what is happening in people's lives (not just each service) and could be used to help build confidence and trust. We would really like you to help us understand more about what is happening. We want to be able to explain to all our members how these reports of things going wrong are made and what happens with that information.

Can you tell us

1. How are these figures collected?
2. Do CQC analyse them to check they are correct?
3. Has CQC looked at this information by area, provider or service type in more detail?
4. How does CQC use this information as part of its work on regulation and market shaping?
5. What do you think is happening that the numbers of incidents reported are going up and up?
6. How many more places or services were registered as being in Supported Living in this time?
7. Have other service types been reporting more serious incidents and deaths over this period?

We would be very happy to meet with you to talk about this if you wish.

Yours sincerely,



Jordan Smith

Self-Advocate Rep



Wendy Burt

Family Rep



Scott Watkin

Organisational Rep

Co-Chairs of the Representative Body on behalf of the Representative Body
Learning Disability England

Please reply to Samantha Clark

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