

26th March 2019

Debbie Westhead
Interim Chief Inspector of Adult Social Care
CQC

By e-mail

Dear Ms Westhead

RE: Mendip House

Learning Disability England is contacting you regarding the abuse of people with learning disabilities at Mendip House in 2016.

Learning Disability England is a membership organisation bringing together people with learning disabilities, families, allies and organisations to give them a louder voice and work towards change. Our members have expressed their concerns about what happened at Mendip House and the subsequent investigation by the police and CQC.

The National Autistic Society, who ran Mendip House, is one of our members. We have been working with them to share the work they have done, their learning and changes they have made. This includes letters they shared with us you can see [here](#)

However, we think questions about the accountability process need to be asked of all organisations involved, not just the National Autistic Society.

We have written this blog about our concerns about how the process of accountability around the abuse at Mendip House has failed. You can read it here.

<http://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/news/mendip-house-taking-what-happened-seriously/>

The questions we are asking your organisation are;

1. Why was there not enough evidence to prosecute?
2. Did CQC use all its powers in this situation?
3. Why has it taken so long for this fine to be decided?
4. What are the rules on sanctions, fines etc.
5. What must happen to result in what sanctions?

6. Did anyone check on what the commissioners organising or buying the support had done and make them change if there were mistakes?

We would like to ask you to help Learning Disability England to understand the answers to the questions set out in the blog.

We would like to invite you to discuss this with our Representative Body and to start a dialogue around these questions. As an organisation we want to ensure shared learning occurs between everyone involved in abuse cases like this; to ensure in future the best possible practice is followed allowing accountability and justice to be achieved. We will share what we learn with our wider membership to help build understanding and make change happen.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this with you.

Yours faithfully



Samantha Clark

Chief Executive

Please reply to Samantha Clark

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