

Council: Tuesday, 12 July 2011

Executive Business Item – 3.1: Councillor Sachin Rajput

Winterbourne View

Council is thoroughly disgusted at the systematic abuse and neglect that allegedly occurred at the Winterbourne View Hospital for people with learning disabilities in Bristol that was exposed on BBC *Panorama* and over which several people have been arrested.

Vulnerable adults with learning and physical difficulties deserve help and support, Council believes, not the appalling treatment that allegedly occurred at Winterbourne View.

Council is dismayed that the Health and Social Care Regulator, the Care Quality Commission, seemingly did not spot any of this alleged abuse and apparently failed to follow up on reports on the alleged behaviour of some of the workers from a whistleblower.

Council supports the Care Services Minister, Paul Burstow MP in his efforts to find out what went wrong, and supports his investigations into the workings of the CQC in this regard. Council believes there needs to be national learning into the failures at Winterbourne View and welcomes the Government's proposals to put Adult Safeguarding Boards on a statutory footing.

Accordingly, Council calls on Cabinet to work with our provider partners in social care and health to ensure correct procedures are in place to help prevent any similar situation from occurring in Barnet. Further, Council calls on all concerned with safeguarding to support the Minister's investigations into the CQC and asking that the failures in the inspection regime that allowed this alleged abuse to occur unhindered are rectified as soon as possible.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.