

Our Ref: RC KMcB LD Outcome 2017-03-28

**TO KEY STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS THE
NORTH WEST**

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Dear Colleague

**RE: Consultation on the redesign of learning disability and autistic spectrum
disorder services across the North West**

NHS England would like to thank you for taking part in the consultation on the redesign of learning disability and autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) services across the North West. The consultation received over 1000 responses in the 12-week period we consulted. Each response, including yours, was considered when making the final decision.

As a result of the responses received a national decision has now been taken on the future direction for services for those people with a learning disability, ASD or both in the North West. The decision was made by a national group following consideration of the report presented following the consultation evaluation. This report and the minutes of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2017/03/modernisation-of-north-west-learning-disability-services-to-improve-care-for-patients/>

This decision will see services developed to enable people to lead more independent lives in their communities. These plans include the closure of Calderstones Hospital (now known as Mersey Care Whalley) - England's last stand-alone NHS learning disability hospital.

As in line with the principles set out in *Building the right support*, plans will now be finalised on how local NHS and social care leaders in the region will deliver the reforms within a community setting. However patient safety remains paramount - as beds reduce community services will be developed at the same pace, and intensive support will be provided to patients and their families as they transition from inpatient care to a more appropriate setting.

NHS England and Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust will work closely to ensure that the transition to the new model of care will be a successful integration into modern and fit for purpose services that will provide excellent care to this group. This will allow people to be cared for in their own homes as far as possible and support is available at times when they most need it to prevent the need for admission to hospital. Hospital provision if needed will be provided in smaller units better designed to meet the needs of the population for the least time and in the least restrictive and most person centred way there for improving outcomes

and experience for those who use these services.

NHS England has worked with colleagues at Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust to ensure that briefing sessions are organised for staff, service users, their families and carers, with additional ongoing support being provided for service users while the changes take place.

Staff will be offered opportunities for further training and development so that individuals and teams can be re-deployed across the new services.

In cases where staff cannot or do not wish to be re-deployed, NHS England, local CCGs and Mersey Care will work with staff representatives and trades unions to explore other options.

NHS England would like to thank you once again for being part of this consultation that will now move into an exciting phase of redesign and development of world class services for our population.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Cornall', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Cornall
Regional Director of Specialised Commissioning (North)