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To: Directors of Adult Social Services, Local Authorities
Chief Officers, Clinical Commissioning Groups
Directors of Nursing, NHS England region and local offices

Copied to: Dominic Slowie NCD, Learning Disabilities, NHS England
Kate Hardy, Department of Health
Directors of Children's Services, Local Authorities

Dear Colleague

Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework 2015

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) and NHS England are committed through the [Transforming Care Programme](#) to an annual Self-Assessment Process for people with learning disabilities.

The Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework (SAF) is the only direct opportunity that people with learning disabilities and family carers have to review and quality assure progress as part of a national programme against nationally agreed measures and as such, is highly valued by them, and many commissioners and providers.

Following extensive consultation and feedback on last year's SAF we would like to inform you of the process for this year and subsequent years.

Key messages from consultation and discussions:

- The vast majority of people felt the SAF is very valuable in setting local priorities to reduce health inequalities and improve the health and lives of people with learning disabilities.
- Concerns have been expressed about potential resource implications and frequency of completing the SAF.
- Extracting learning disability data locally has been problematic on numerous occasions.

Self-Assessment Framework 2015:

- Public Health England is working to develop a complete set of the number data included in recent rounds of the SAF. Working with the Health and Social Care Information Centre they anticipate obtaining a detailed national extract of data covering most of the areas of population and primary health care through the national General Practice Extraction System by late autumn 2015. This should provide anonymised CCG level information. In addition to this, a range of social care indicators and the numbers using psychiatric in-patient care should be available from a range of national sources.
- No local data collection will be required this year (2015).
- The data extracted by General Practice Data Extraction will need to be analysed, locality by locality, and senior leaders from ADASS and NHS England will be asked to establish a formal review meeting to analyse their data and information, and agree local commitments to ensure progress in identified priority areas. People with learning disabilities, family carers and working with diverse communities will be central to this.
- Further guidance will be issued late autumn 2015.

Self-Assessment Framework 2016 and onwards:

We will simultaneously establish an expert task and finish group with representatives from Department of Health, ADASS, Public Health England, NHS England, the National Forum for People with Learning Disabilities and National Valuing Families Forum to recommend a format for the SAF that will be sustainable and deliver a robust process for self-assessment and reflection on an annual basis.

Our aim is to be holistic in the areas that we develop the measures in, so that both the health and wider determinants of health and well-being for people with learning disabilities can be fully explored in each locality and that the people with learning disabilities this most directly affects have a meaningful contribution to the work. This will be informed annually by local data briefings from Public Health England.

Timescale:

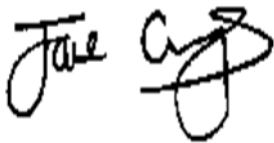
- GPES data extraction undertaken by Public Health England late autumn / winter 2015. Data briefings should be available by mid-January 2016 (dependent on data becoming available from the Health and Social Care Information Centre).
- Locality improvement planning meetings to take place by end of February 2016

- New Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework launched April 2016 for completion annually.

The full national analysis of last year's Self-Assessment Framework is available on [Public Health England's website](#).

The Joint Health and Social Care Learning Disability Self-Assessment Framework continues to have an increasingly important role in developing local improvement plans and measuring progress to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities; the proposed way forward gives us collectively the opportunity to design a framework that is in step with national and local aims of rights, independence, choice and inclusion for people with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Cummings
Chief Nursing Officer England
and National Director for Learning Disabilities



Ray James
ADASS President