

An open letter to professionals who work with people with a learning impairment, from the Darlington Learning Impairment Network.

The Darlington Learning Impairment Network thinks that the words people use to describe people in social care and health are really important.

We are glad that some words that were used in the past are not used anymore, like handicapped and spastic.

Here in Darlington we have looked at some of the words people use and know that lots of people still use the letters **LD** as a short cut for learning disability. This includes the Government.

We believe that in places like Winterbourne View staff were able to do what they did to people because they saw them as less than human. Words like **LD** help this happen.

The North East Regional Learning Disability Partnership Board agreed with us that it's a word that is not person centred and doesn't put people first and really should not be used.



We think that if people can't change the words they use, how can they be trusted to change the way they do things?



What we want you to do

- Please don't use the word **LD** when describing disabled people
- Challenge anyone you hear using it



Thanks for your support



Mark Humble

Co- Chair Darlington

Learning Impairment Network

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Steve Roberts

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Peoples Parliament