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and LeDeR Local Area Contacts  
Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Dorset

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17<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Colleagues

## **RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT OF REVIEWERS FOR LEARNING DISABILITY MORTALITY REVIEW (LEDER) PROGRAMME**

I am writing to request your support to ensure the successful delivery of the LeDeR programme across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. As a programme we have struggled to gain sufficient reviewers and are we asking that within your organisations those who have been trained as LeDeR Reviewers are encouraged and supported to undertake the role as well as encouraging new reviewers to be trained.

In March 2017, the National Guidance on Learning from Deaths (National Quality Board) recommended that the LeDeR methodology should be used to review the deaths of all those with learning disabilities (aged 4 years and over). A subsequent letter was sent from the NHSE (South) Regional Chief Nurse and Transforming Care Lead (South) to all DCOs and Directors of Nursing, outlining the requirements for all CCGs and provider Trusts to support the roll out of the LeDeR programme; to nominate a Local Area Contact (LAC) to co-ordinate and enable reviews of all deaths of people with a learning disability and to support the recruitment of LeDeR reviewers.

The last annual LeDeR report (May 2018) criticised the lack of progress to review the deaths of those with learning disabilities; it acknowledged the challenge for organisations to recruit and maintain a sufficient pool of LeDeR reviewers to deliver a process which is currently not mandated. However, this programme has been recognised as a key driver for delivering improvement in learning disability services.

The LeDeR National Operational Steering Group has acknowledged that until the beginning of 2018 most of the focus had been on establishing the systems and processes for the programme of reviews across England. The emphasis must now be on ensuring that the learning and recommendations from completed reviews are translated into service improvements, with examples of best practice shared and more efficient, timely completion of reviews. To support the programme in 2019 and beyond our national team have informed us there will be more resources, at this stage we are unsure of the amount but will keep you informed of any progress.

Thank you for your continued support with this important programme of work which ultimately aims to improve the lives and care of those with learning disabilities.

Yours sincerely



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