

Winterbourne view analysis essay



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The Winterbourne View hospital abuse occurred at Winterbourne View, a private hospital at Hambrook, South Gloucestershire, England, owned and operated by Castlebeck. It was exposed in a Panorama investigation into physical abuse and psychological abuse suffered by people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour, broadcast in 2011. Local social services and the English national regulator (Care Quality Commission) had received various warnings but the mistreatment continued.

One senior nurse reported his concerns to the management at Winterbourne View and to CQC, but his complaint was not taken up. The public funded hospital has been shut down as a result of the abuse that took place. The undercover footage showed staff repeatedly assaulting and harshly restraining patients under chairs. Staff gave patients cold punishment showers, left one outside in near zero temperatures, and poured mouthwash into another's eyes. They pulled patients' hair and forced medication into patients' mouths.

Victims were shown screaming and shaking, and one patient was seen trying to jump out of a second floor window to escape the torment, and was then mocked by staff members. One patient was repeatedly poked in the eyes. A clinical psychologist who reviewed footage described the abuse as "torture". On 21 June 2011, 86 people and organisations wrote to the Prime Minister, David Cameron about the revelations, "We are aware of the various actions currently being taken within and outside government – such as the DH review and CQC internal inquiry.

We hope to make submissions to those both individually and collectively. However, on their own these will not be enough and a clear programme is needed to achieve change. ” The prime minister responded saying he was “ appalled” at the “ catalogue of abuses” Panorama uncovered. In June 2011 the Association of Supported Living issued a press statement, which was followed up in writing to every member of parliament in the United Kingdom, calling for community based supported living services to replace institutional services for people with learning disabilities.

The Daily Mail said “ Without the investigation by the BBC’s Panorama, given huge coverage in the Mail, the abuse of patients at Winterbourne View might be continuing to this day. As it is, the secure hospital and two other care homes have been shut down, 11 guilty staff have been brought to justice – and a devastating report now exposes the serial failings of the local NHS, police and health watchdogs. For the past year, the Leveson Inquiry has focused relentlessly on the failings of the media. Never let it be forgotten how much this country owes, in the fight against cruelty and corruption, to its free Press. The Daily Telegraph said, “ It is impossible to read the details of what went on at Winterbourne View, a care home for the severely disabled in Gloucestershire, without feeling repelled. In the wake of an expose from the BBC’s Panorama, 11 members of staff were convicted of almost 40 charges of neglect and ill treatment of those in their care. ” The national regulator, the CQC did a nationwide check on facilities owned by the same company, Castlebeck Care – as a result three more institutions have been closed.

The CQC reported a “ systemic failure to protect people or to investigate allegations of abuse” and said that Castlebeck Care had “ misled” the health watchdog. The CQC also inspected 132 similar institutions and a Serious Case Review was commissioned - some of the roughly ten local and national enquiries were carried out to examine what went wrong, including one by NHS Southwest which was one of the first to be published and list many of the others. The head of the Care Quality Commission resigned ahead of a critical government report, a report in which Winterbourne View was cited.

Mencap published a report warning that similar abuse could be going on elsewhere and calling for the closure of all large institutions far from people’s families. Eleven people plead guilty to criminal offences of neglect or abuse as a result of evidence from Undercover Care and six of them were jailed. Immediately after the eleventh person pleaded guilty, the Serious Case Review was published, revealing hundreds of previous incidents at the hospital and missed warnings. The public funded hospital has been shut down as a result of the abuse that took place.