

16 November 2011

Dear colleague

Re: Accreditation for Inpatient Mental Health Services for Learning Disability Services (AIMS-LD)

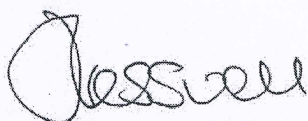
AIMS-LD was established in early 2009 to improve the standards of practice on inpatient units for people with learning disabilities. To date, 49 units have signed up to the programme, and have engaged in the processes of self-review and peer-review. Units are supported to demonstrate compliance with the AIMS-LD standards, culminating in the award of accreditation by the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

We have had enthusiastic feedback from the ward staff that have taken part. It is clear that although the AIMS-LD accreditation standards can be challenging, staff have found the process supportive and have implemented many improvements as a result of participation. National networking is an important by-product: the AIMS-LD email discussion group is a lively forum for exchange of information and ideas for good practice, and AIMS-LD staff that act as peer reviewers regard visiting other units as an invaluable learning experience.

We are keen to recruit new members to join AIMS-LD and to involve as many units as possible in ongoing quality improvement. We enclose an information leaflet, which outlines some of the additional advantages of accreditation, and a joining form. Further information about the programme can be found on our website under www.rcpsych.ac.uk/aims, where the AIMS-LD standards are also available to download.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully



Jo Cresswell RMHN
AIMS Senior Programme Manager