Tributes for Scotland’s chief nursing officer who steps down this year

LEARNING DISABILITY nurses have paid tribute to Scotland’s chief nursing officer Ros Moore after she announced she is leaving the role at the end of the year.

Ms Moore was heavily involved in promoting the UK-wide Strengthening the Commitment modernising learning disability nursing review.

University of West London professor of learning disabilities Bob Gates said that few chief nurses have taken as much interest in the future of learning disability nursing as Ms Moore.

‘Ros has taken the lead in promoting the contribution that learning disability nurses can make to the lives of people with learning disabilities. Her patronage and leadership will be missed by the profession.’

RCN learning disability adviser Ann Norman said Ms Moore ‘understands the issues, from frontline practice to strategy, and how they affect people. She is a remarkable nursing leader.’

Prosecutors must do more to eliminate disability hate crime

THE CROWN Prosecution Service (CPS) has admitted that ‘much more needs to be done’ to increase the number of prosecutions for disability hate crimes.

The CPS is also looking at ways to help professionals who work with people with disabilities to identify and report such crimes, following criticism by former director of public prosecutions Lord Ken MacDonald.

Lord MacDonald said that the police and CPS are overlooking such crimes and that, as a result, perpetrators may not receive the increased sentences such aggravated offences deserve.

The CPS has piloted ‘navigator workshops’, which bring together health and social care workers, and other professionals who have routine contact with disabled people.

The service has also developed material describing what disability hate crimes are and what to do about them, which will be presented at events in England and Wales.

Chief nursing officer for Scotland Ros Moore is to step down

Edinburgh Napier University professor Michael Brown said: ‘From a Scottish perspective, she has helped ensure that a learning disability nursing pre-registration programme has been developed. There is now a Scotland-wide model in place to ensure that workforce needs are met and that there will be skilled learning disability nurses in the future.’

NHS Education for Scotland programme manager Hazel Powell said that Ms Moore’s leadership has been exemplary. ‘I am privileged to have worked with her on Strengthening the Commitment and I think she should consider herself an honorary learning disability nurse.’

A CPS spokesperson said: ‘Tackling this pernicious form of offending is a major priority and, in the coming weeks, we will publish a comprehensive action plan to improve our handling of these important cases.’

Court ruling prompts rise in deprivation of liberty applications

THERE HAS been a 74% increase in the number of applications for deprivation of liberty safeguards (DoLs) made between April and June 2014 compared with last year.

DoLs are legal requirements under the Mental Capacity Act that individuals can be deprived of liberty, for example through physical restraint or constant observation, only in a ‘necessary and proportionate’ way.

The number of applications for DoLs increased significantly after the Supreme Court ruled in March 2014 that applications to subject people to continuous supervision or prevent them from leaving care settings can be granted if the people concerned do not oppose them.