

# RCNi Nurse Awards 2017: Learning Disability Nursing Award “From Passive to Passion”

**Passive**



**Passion**

**9<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

**Melanie Louise Davies**

**Junior Ward Sister, Ward G**

**Morrison Hospital**



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg  
University Health Board



# Paul Ridd's Story


Paul Ridd had severe Learning Disabilities, and died on Ward G at Morriston Hospital in January 2009.



*“It greatly concerns me that the dire level of care that Paul was subjected to on the ward could happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century”* – Ombudsman Report, September 2011

# Ombudsman's Observations

- No Learning Disability training in place for staff
- Sadly did not see the person, only the disability – “diagnostic overshadowing”
- No understanding of a LD patient as a person – “unvalued”
- No understanding of how to care for a person with a LD – “ignorance”
- No LD Liaison Nurses
- No LD Care Bundle
- No LD Ward Champions



What lessons need to be learnt?

# Why me?



- Grew up with my uncle who had Learning Disabilities
- Work as a Junior Sister on an acute surgical ward (Ward G) in Morriston Hospital (part of ABM University Health Board)
- The Ombudsman Report into Paul Ridd's death was the catalyst that inspired my passion to change and become Ward , Hospital & Health Board Champion for LD and invest personal time in making a difference:
  - “never again on my ward, in my hospital”
  - “knew from my heart”
  - “driven it and made it real”
  - Made a promise to Paul's family

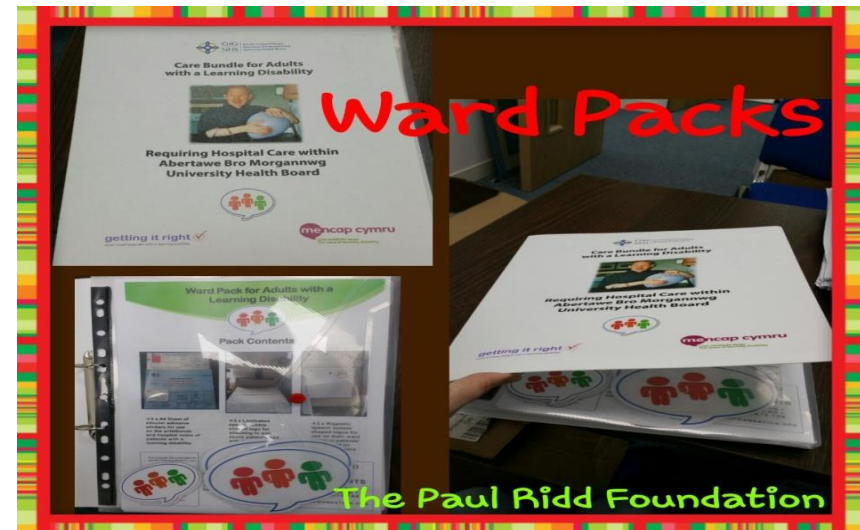
# My Vision



- To **change acute hospital care** for all people with a LD so that they get the best health care possible- in my hospital, my HB & across NHS Wales
- I wanted **to make a difference** for people with a LD by raising general awareness of the issues that they face
- To provide the **highest possible quality care** and **excellent patient experience**
- To **help hospital staff** to ensure people with a LD receive a **fair and equitable service** when they visit anywhere within ABMU
- To ensure **no other patient or family** experiences the care Paul sadly received

# What have I done to make a difference?

- Raised Awareness
- Acted as first point of contact within Surgery
- Supported nurses on other wards
- Developed Ward Information Packs for all surgical wards within ABMU
- Delivered teaching sessions
- Provided support for patients, families and carers
- Took part in Hospital Walkabouts
- Assisted in the development of the logo (Jelly Babies)
- Shared positive patient stories and learning with staff across ABMU
- Involvement in Health Board Steering Group
- Assisted in development of Ward Champions
- Worked closely with Jonathan Ridd and Jayne Nichols



# The Positive Impact

***“Mel has shown great care, compassion and understanding during our experience as a family in hospital and this has been reflected by the nursing staff on her ward. This has been demonstrated by the care provided to Daniel, which is very different to others as he has a profound LD.”***

***– Helen and Richard Vaughan, Parents of Daniel***



***“Melanie has inspired other nurses across the Health Board and has supported us with our campaign to make Health Service provision better for people with a learning disability. Her energy, enthusiasm and compassion is to be commended. Melanie is an amazing lady, whose dedication to her patients is exceptional. If Paul had been nursed on Ward G today, we believe he would still be alive.”***

***– Jayne Nichols and Jonathan Ridd, Paul Ridd’s siblings***



# What's Next?

- Continue supporting the Champions
- Work more closely with parents, carers and families and make reasonable adjustments to individual care
- Make Learning Disability training mandatory
- Work closely with the Learning Disability Liaison Nurses
- Deliver teaching sessions to nursing students
- Implement a “flagging system” for patients admitted with a LD
- Ongoing development of an E-Learning Platform for LD Training
- Promote the Learning Disability service provided at Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board and share knowledge and experience with other Health Boards across NHS Wales
- The Paul Ridd Foundation - Trustee

**Passive**



**Passion**



**Thank you for listening  
and sharing my journey**

