



'Finding our own way home' – Housing options for people with learning disabilities A big conversation 2020

What this is about



Finding our way home is the name for a 'big conversation' about the housing choices people with learning disabilities in England have now

Learning Disability England and Housing LIN worked together on this.

There were 3 workshops

Each meeting included people with ideas and experiences on housing choices.



- people with learning disabilities and others with lived experience
- policy leads
- housing providers
- support providers
- social care and health commissioners

What we learnt from these conversations

People's experiences are different depending on



- where you live
- if you get social care support
- if someone can advocate for you or help you speak up

Housing, Social Care and Health services, plans and money being joined up make a big difference to how it works

Choices can be very limited for people



It is not only housing being available that matters

Being poor means people have a lot less choice on areas or kinds of places they can live.



Universal credit has made it harder for some people to get or keep the kind of home that works for them

Information and advocacy can mean people understand their rights

Decisions get made for other reasons - not based on what people want or need



No local plan for housing and support can mean there is not anything that works for people

Sometimes decisions get made for people or they are 'placed' somewhere

People with learning disabilities often do not get to decide who they live with or who supports them



Housing and support decisions get made separately and leave people with less choice or a harder system to work through

When people, their families and professionals work together on individual and area plans decisions and solutions are shared

There is no 1 kind of housing that will work for everyone



Some people want to live with other people or with a partner

Some people want to live on their own



People want to be able to change where they live and who they live with as their life changes

It can work when people and services can work together to weigh up the best option and people are able to grow and change things in their life



What is working well now

1. Many people have a home that works for them

More people live in supported living

More people have a home where they are in control

Home ownership is good for some people

2. Person centred housing plan helps

Having a good plan for finding a home works well

If the Council has information on what housing people need and plan to support that it works well

3. Good information helps

When people have good information on housing choices and rights it helps them get a home

Social media is helping people and their families know the choices and what can work in getting the home you want

Some things we think can help make this better

Based on what people said we think these are the actions that could make a difference

1. The right grants or money
The housing grants to help people who are leaving ATUs need to be easier to get

Housing Associations need to be able to get grants so they can build housing that is not too expensive for people

2. Good information on rights and rules

More people knowing about the rules on capacity and tenancies and using those well will help some people get a home

There needs to be clear, up to date information on housing choices. This needs to be easy to find and use and understand

There should be advocacy support for people who need to get their housing rights

3. A national standard

There should be a national standard for what housing rights and choices people with learning disabilities have. Councils should have to follow this

4. Choices on where people live based on what is important to them

Finding a home should start with the person and what they think is important – all social care and housing should build around their person-centred plan

People need housing choices that help them stay near family or friends or the community they are part of

5. People supported to change where they live as their life changes

The system needs to understand people will want to move to a new house as their life changes

The support for people needs to be flexible so it can go up if they are making changes like moving into a new home