

June 2026

Learning Disability and Autism Housing Community of Practice



Hosted by



In Partnership With



Being Hosted by Learning Disability England



- Positive Feedback – keep on doing the same
- Breakout rooms
- Webpace for sharing information and chatting
- Accessing previous recordings
- Subgroups
- Annual programme
- Speaking opportunities for members
- Feedback

Feedback on the Community of Practice



- Positive Feedback – keep on doing the same
- Breakout rooms
- Webspace for sharing information and chatting
- Accessing previous recordings
- Subgroups
- Annual programme
- Speaking opportunities for members
- Feedback

What are we planning?



- Housing Rights, choice and control
- Supported Housing Regulation
- HOLD
- Housing Benefit
- Best practice models, Barriers and solutions
- Supported Living Design
- How disabled people are heard in organisations
- Transition planning from inpatient settings
- NHS neighborhood model

men

men

Across the UK, thousands of people
with a learning disability and autistic
people remain locked away.

It is a hidden scandal and is happening right now.

Join their Fight for Freedom



men
2030

The Fight for Freedom Exhibition

More information

- Sign up to be a campaigner here:
<https://secure.mencap.org.uk/en-gb/campaigners>
- <https://www.mencap.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-mencap/transforming-care-homes-not-hospitals>
- [Transforming Care - History and Future - Challenging Behaviour Foundation](#)





Local Supported Housing Strategies

Supported Housing Advisory Panel

30th June 2026



Supported Housing Advisory Panel



What is it?

- National panel advising government on supported housing reform
- Established following the Supported Housing (Regulatory Oversight) Act
- Members appointed for five years

Role:

- Provide expert advice to government
- Shape how reforms work in practice
- Highlight risks, gaps and opportunities



Brings together:

- Lived Expertise
- Local authorities
- Housing providers
- System partners

More Information: www.gov.uk/government/groups/supported-housing-advisory-panel



Local Supported Housing Strategies – What are they?

A New Requirement on Local Authorities

Will provide a clear, evidence-based view of:

- Current supported housing supply
- Current and future local need
- Gaps, pressure points and risks

Will Set Out

- Priorities for future development
- The types of provision needed (e.g. LD, autism, complex needs)
- Expected scale and location of new provision
- Plans to address gaps and reduce out-of-area placements
- How quality and suitability will be improved

Bring Together Planning Across:

- Housing
- Adult social care
- Health (ICBs / NHS)
- Aim to shift the system: From fragmented, reactive provision
→ To planned, strategic local delivery

If need isn't visible in these strategies, it won't be planned for.

Why This Matters for LD and Autism?

Current challenges:

- Inconsistent quality across provision
- Limited supply of appropriate local housing
- Over-reliance on out-of-area placements
- People placed in settings that don't meet their needs

These strategies will influence:

- What gets built – type and design of provision
- What gets commissioned and funded
- Where provision is located
- Whether local areas can meet need effectively



Why This Matters for LD and Autism?

Opportunity to:

- Plan long-term housing for people with LD & autism
- Support community-based, person-centred living
- Align housing, care and support models
- Reduce inappropriate and institutional provision

But this depends on:

- Whether need is properly understood
- How strongly LD/autism is reflected in the strategy



Shaping Your Local Strategy

Get involved early:

- Engage in local consultations and partnerships
- Make sure LD/autism voices are included

Bring strong evidence:

- Gaps in current provision
- Delays, breakdowns or poor placement experiences
- Examples of what good looks like

Influence the direction:

- Challenge underestimation of need
- Question inappropriate or outdated models
- Push for local, community-based solutions

Work across the system:

- Housing, adult social care, NHS / ICBs
- Providers, families and people with lived experience



Supported Housing Licensing



- All supported housing where residents can claim Housing Benefit will be in scope (some exemptions – older persons, Ofsted regulated, domestic abuse, local authority)
- Locally led licensing in every local authority and licences last 5 years
- Single licence per provider per licensing area, listing all addresses
- Housing Benefit entitlement linked to licensing

Requirements

- Fit and Proper test for licence holder and Directors, and a named manager for each scheme
- Accommodation standards – Decent Homes and Housing Health and Safety Rating System
- National Supported Housing Standards – evidence exemption for commissioned services
- Needs assessment required for every resident
- No discretionary local licensing conditions



Next Steps

- Regulations now being drafted (Ministry of Housing, and Department of Work and Pensions) and being reviewed by advisory panel
- Draft regulations to be consulted on late 2026
- Guidance for local authorities and providers produced
- Aiming for licensing to go live during 2027/28
- Licensing regime to be reviewed after 3 years through evaluation



Help Shape a National NCASC Workshop

The Learning Disability and Autism Housing Coalition and Bristol City Council are applying for a national workshop for NCASC 2026 led by Sir David Pearson, and ADASS Housing Lead Melissa Wise.

The focus: Why aren't we building the homes people need and what can we do about it?

- The specialist housing gap
- Why delivery is so difficult
- What needs to change locally and nationally

We want to co-produce this session and we are looking for people with lived experience (and family members) to help shape:

- The stories and examples we use
- What messages really land
- What actions we should be asking system leaders to take

How you can get involved

- Join a short session to shape the workshop
- Share your experiences or insights
- Help test and refine the content

Interested?

Please get in touch with: **joe.wheeler@bristol.gov.uk**



The Challenging Behaviour Foundation & Learning Disability England

Jordan Smith & Viv Cooper

Planning housing for and with people with learning disabilities

A home not a placement

“A home is somewhere you feel safe, comfortable and relaxed...somewhere you want to be...”

“My son was admitted to Winterbourne View, a mental health hospital, at eighteen years old. He’d entered in a crisis, in a pivotal moment in his life, as services failed to catch him from falling during transition from school.”

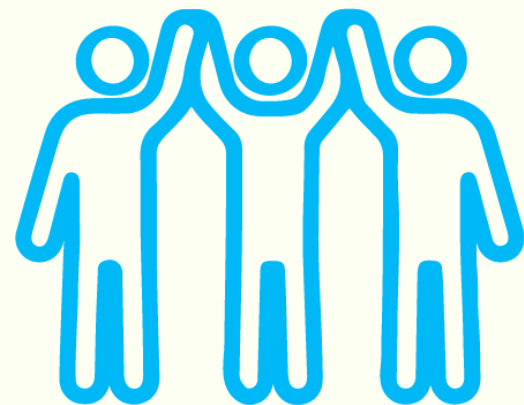
“He is finally thriving. He’s enjoying his life, in his home, with his dog and he is cared for by people who do their job so well. He is starting to heal.”

My housing experiences: Jordan



My son's housing experiences: Viv

- Lack of planning ahead
- Out of area
- “Out of sight”
- Where can we put him?
- Developing a new service
- Telling us what he wanted and needed (who listens?)
- Living happily in his home with the right support



Key Messages

- ✓ The right housing for people with learning disabilities is key for living successfully in the community
- ✓ People with learning disabilities will have a range of different housing needs
- ✓ People need homes, not placements, being “put” somewhere, or filling a void
- ✓ Planning is key- from early stages, and at key points (like transition planning in schools), with the right input, and child and adults’ systems need to join up
- ✓ Getting housing right avoids people getting to crisis (and the human and financial cost)
- ✓ It should not be so difficult to get the right housing - and you should not have to “fail” or get to crisis to prove what you need!

Include people with learning disabilities and families in all your housing plans

ABOUT THE LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM HOUSING COALITION

A unified voice dedicated to ensuring people lead good lives in their own homes.

-  **Vision:** A society where people with a learning disability and autistic people live in their own homes with the support they need.
-  **Priority:** Delivering more Specialised Supported Housing (SSH) to enable community integration and hospital return.
-  **Leadership:** Chaired by Sir David Pearson (former President of ADASS).

Core Members:

National Housing Federation, LDA Housing Network, Mencap, Learning Disability England, VODG, Look Ahead, Challenging Behaviour Foundation, Bristol City Council, LGA / ADASS.

THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

35,000

NEW HOMES NEEDED BY 2037

England requires 2,200 annual units. Current delivery falls far short.

4.6Y

AVERAGE HOSPITAL STAY

Lack of suitable community housing drives 50% of delayed discharges.

1,000+

IN HOSPITAL 2+ YEARS

Over 500 people have been institutionalised for 5+ years unnecessarily.

Opportunity: Shift spend from hospital beds to high-quality community living.

THE HUMAN COST OF DELAY

"I am medically ready, but I am trapped in a hospital bed because my front door doesn't exist yet."

"Every day my son stays in hospital is a day of his life on pause. We just want him home."

Every delayed home transition means a life on hold and a family under immense strain. We must end unnecessary institutionalisation.



STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES – Housing



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Supported Housing Regulatory Oversight Act 2023

Every local housing authority must publish a 5-year [Supported Housing Strategy](#). A statutory duty to plan for local need.



Social and Affordable Homes Programme Flexibility

The [2026-36 programme](#) recognises higher costs for specialised homes, offering flexible grant rates to support delivery.



Rent Standard Reform

Amending the Rent Standard to remove the 'no public subsidy' rule for SSH is essential to unlock viable, high-quality development.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES – Health and social care



Department
of Health &
Social Care

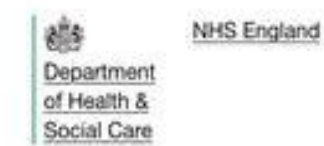
Mental Health Act 2025

[Mental Health Act reforms – housing, alongside personalised support, is fundamental](#) to Section 3 reforms



New government leadership?

Potential opportunity with a (likely) incoming Prime Minister who has expressed interest in radical reforms to both social care and housing



Policy paper
Neighbourhood health framework
Published 17 March 2026

Applies to England

Neighbourhood Health

Real investment in neighbourhood health needs to act on wider determinants – including housing, alongside health and social care

Priority areas of work by coalition members

Campaigning and influencing work: Following up opportunities to work with MPs, Ministers, raise awareness with media outlets and so on.

Building the evidence base: Working together to identify the real costs of hospital admission, supporting people in their own homes in the community, and of getting this right (vs getting it wrong); both quantitative and qualitative evidence

Education and information sharing: Developing webinar materials and planning events to help target groups to understand specific aspects of this (e.g.) the diverse types of housing needs which people may have; top tips for accessing funding etc



OPPORTUNITIES FOR HEALTH, HOUSING & SOCIAL CARE

Map 5-Year Need: Identify demand now and for the next 5 years (including young people transitioning to adulthood).

Integrate Planning: Share commissioning intelligence with local housing strategic leads to inform the new strategy, as well as to identify opportunities for land and use of existing assets. Build those local strategic relationships / pick up the phone!

Partner Early: Work with RPs early to identify capacity. Partner on LA grants to stretch RP capital and keep rents sustainable. Build relationships with Housing Benefit teams to help them understand the strategic needs locally.



GET INVOLVED



Feedback: Have we identified the right priorities? Are there other national barriers to raise?



Evidence: Share quantitative and qualitative examples of how right housing saves money and improves lives to make the case to Treasury.



Community: Join the Community of Practice meeting every 2 months (hosted by LD England).



Contact: For more information, email clareskidmore@yahoo.com.



Questions?



For more info: clareskidmore@yahoo.com

Hosted by Learning Disability England

Sharing Paradigm's Good Work



Paradigm gifted its work to Learning Disability England

REACH Standards Training – cited in CQC Right Support, Right Care, Right culture guidance

Opportunities for co-delivery and building local capacity

G8 Support Worker Guide – Launching in Autumn

Get in touch at: Info@LDEngland.org.uk



Feedback on today's session



If you have feedback on today's session

Or

Ideas for future sessions

Let us know:

[Community of Practice Feedback – Fill in form](#)

Get in Touch

If you have any questions, we would really like to hear it from you.

 0300 1110444

 info@LDEngland.org.uk

 www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk

Here's where you can follow us on social media:

 Facebook @learningdisabilityengland

 LinkedIn @learning-disability-england

 BlueSky @learningdiseng.bsky.social

