

Cover Sheet Learning Disability Programme Board Papers

Report to
Learning Disability Programme Board Meeting

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Title of paper
Housing

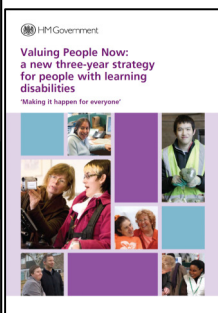
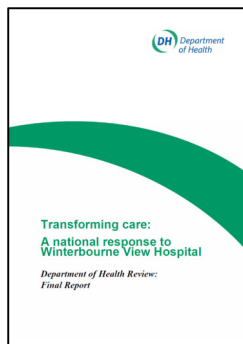
Summary
This paper describes some current issues around housing for people with learning disabilities and what action is being taken to find solutions.

Action required / recommendation
FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Board members are asked to think about the questions at the end of the paper for the meeting.

Housing

1. Aims and Problems



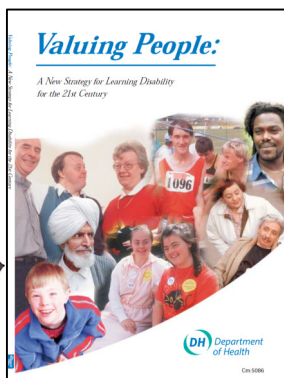
Better housing is one of the key things which makes a difference to people with learning disability.

This was made clear in the original *Valuing People* strategy (2001) and in *Valuing People Now* (2009-2012). This is still true and an important part of Government policy.

For example, housing is a very important part of the programme of action in *Transforming Care* (2012), after Winterbourne View hospital.



It is also a very important part of the work on going on the Care Bill and work on Integration.

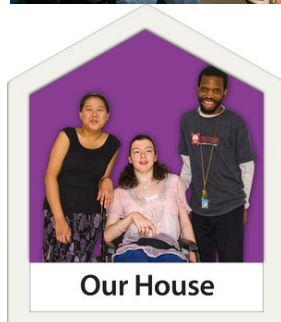


The aims set out in 2001 still matter today:

To enable people with learning disabilities and their families to have greater choice and control over where and how they live.



People with learning disability have the right to live in communities like anyone else and to have choices like other people have about where they live and with whom.



People with learning disabilities will have very different housing and support needs which are just for them. These needs can change over time. Sometimes people need more support and at other times less. This means local areas need to think creatively about how to work with people to provide them with the right set of housing and support.



In 2001 the things that we found got in the way were:

- Professionals and others deciding what was best for people with learning disability without listening to them and their families
- Local councils not thinking about new ideas and options for housing and always doing the same thing.
- Later we found that the issue of Ordinary Residence was also a problem in some areas.

Since that time, there has been lots of important progress:

- NHS residential campuses have closed
- Local authorities and organisations that provide housing and support have developed some good new supported living options



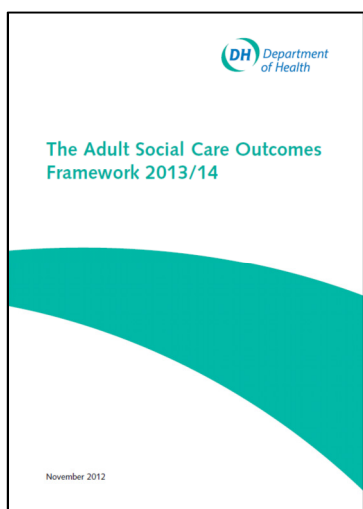
- There is more use of technology to support people to live independently



- There is clearer guidance on Ordinary Residence



- Lots of other good guidance was published under Valuing People Now as well as other policies to improve housing options. It is important that we and local areas do not forget this guidance and good practice.



Housing is part of the Adult Social Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). This means we have to look closely at what the data says and this shows how important we think where people live is.

We look at:

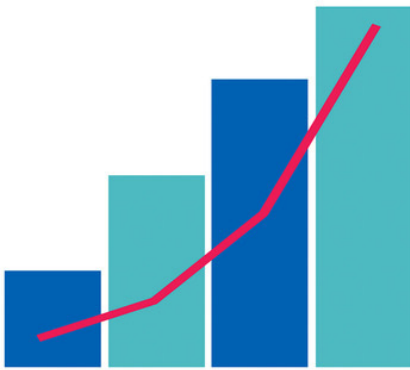
- The proportion of adults (aged 18-64) with learning disabilities who live in their own home or with their family



This also lets local authorities know that we think this is a very important outcome that matters to people with learning disability and their family.



We know we have not solved this problem yet. We are hearing from our stakeholders that some areas are good but that there are still problems with some local areas not having good housing plans and options for people with learning disabilities.



The ASCOF tells us that in some local areas more than 90 out of 100 people with LD who are aged 18-64 live in their own home or with their family but in others fewer than 50 in a 100 do.



It is hard to explain these big differences.



We are also hearing worries that people think some of the changes to benefits could make it harder and not easier for people to find the right housing.

2. What actions are happening now?



Government funding

The Government are providing some money to support specialised housing which can also support people with learning disability:

- The Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund (CASSH) provides up to £300m over 5 years to encourage more specialised housing for disabled, including learning disabled, and older people
- Although most bids were on older people, there were some to support people with learning disability.
- Some of the bids had interesting models on things like co-housing (groups of private homes where people choose to live together with some shared facilities)



The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) provides £785m 2012-2015 towards the cost of providing adaptations and facilities to enable the person with disability, including learning disability, to continue to live independently in their own homes. A further £220m for DFG was announced in SR2013 as part of the DH Integration Transformation Fund (ITF). This is 19% more than 2014/15.



The Care Bill


The Care Bill is being discussed at the moment in the Houses of Parliament. It recognises how important housing is for health and well-being and the need for housing, health and social care to work together.



If it is made into law, it will mean local authorities have to:

- promote people's well-being. Well-being includes whether people's housing is right for them.



- consider what the person themselves wants
- think about how important it is to stop or delay the need for people to need more and more support because their first needs were not looked after properly. This might include housing.
- make sure that people who work on care and support, housing, children's services and public health all work together.
- If people tell the local authority they want a particular sort of place to live and that is part of the care and support they are getting, the local authority may have to provide or arrange that sort of place.

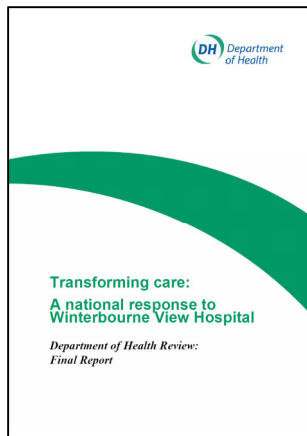
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Care Bill also makes clear the rules around “Ordinary Residence” – that is which local authority is responsible for providing support to someone
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	<p><u>Other Work</u></p> <p>The Department of Health is working with NHS England, ADASS and other groups on housing issues. Together we are looking at actions to improve health and housing for all older, disabled, learning disabled and vulnerable people. It is not part of the LD programme but part of the priority work about joining up local government and the NHS.</p>
	<p>We will be talking to groups like Mencap about their interesting plans to pay for housing.</p>

3. Hospitals are not Homes



For over 40 years, Governments have taken action to move people out of hospitals and to help people live in community based housing. This included moving people out of long stay hospitals and NHS campuses.



The Government is clear that hospitals are not homes.



Now the NHS and local authorities are trying to make sure people are not living in assessment and treatment units like Winterbourne View Hospital. The right housing is very important in making this happen.



This was also a key message from the stocktake which the Winterbourne View Joint Improvement Team asked local areas to do. The wrong housing is one of the things that means people go to hospital when they shouldn't and stay there too long. The Joint Improvement Team also held a meeting in July where these issues were discussed.



The Joint Improvement Team will help local areas to find the guidance that is already there on what to do and also to work with areas who are doing well on this and with providers of good housing and support. The aim will be to make sure that everyone knows what options are possible.



The Department of Health and the Joint Improvement Team met with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) to see if there was more we needed to do in national Government as well as the local support.



Action We Can Take Now

We agreed that the Joint Improvement Programme would share available and appropriate information with the DWP on where in the country we thought there would be most need for people who should be living in the community after leaving inpatient care like Assessment and Treatment Units.



We agreed that we would together develop some examples of the sorts of needs and situations people who are in inpatient care at the moment might have and what the biggest needs were.



This might include things like:

- People who have been in inpatient care a very long time (more than two years), a long time (1-2 years) or less than a year
- People who were living in different places before they went into inpatient care, including with their family, in supported housing, in residential care, in a school
- People who are leaving inpatient care to go to different places, like residential care, group homes or supported living



DWP and DCLG will look at these examples and help us to understand what the issues and options might be to support those people with the right housing and how that would link to the money people could get, for example, from housing benefit, employment and personal independence payments.

We will work together with DWP on this and see if we can better understand the issues and what people will need more help with.



In areas where there may be more people leaving inpatient care to live in the community. We will work with DWP to look at this.



We are also thinking together about whether there is more we could do to help local areas think about the issues around housing benefit. One option might be for us to write to local area Housing Benefit Departments about this to make sure the right links are made so people can have a smooth transition to housing benefit.



Local authorities work out people's claims for housing benefit. We are also thinking together about ways of letting them know about helping people make claims at the best time, especially in areas where there may be more people leaving inpatient care to live in the community.

4. Action Which Will Take Longer

 A man and a woman are standing in front of a model of a house. The man is pointing at the model, and the woman is looking at it. The model shows a two-story house with a garden and a driveway.	<p>Many people with learning disability live in supported housing.</p>
 A woman with blonde hair is looking confused, with her hand on her head. A large black question mark is next to her. She is wearing a black Liverpool Football Club t-shirt.	<p>One of the worries people have told us about is that for housing benefit some supported housing is called “exempt accommodation” and some is not. This means that it is exempt from some rules that limit the amount of housing benefit that can be paid towards the rent. Not all supported housing is exempt. The local authority and the landlord should know which kind of housing is exempt and which is not.</p>
 A hand is holding several coins. The coins are of different denominations: 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, and £1.	<p>The Government is changing some of these rules in future but not straight away. When Universal Credit is everywhere in the country, people who get Universal Credit will not get separate housing benefit. Separate housing benefit will end in 2017. We need to understand what this means for people who live in supported housing who do get some housing benefit at the moment.</p>



The Government has said that for the future it would like help with rent for people in supported accommodation to be provided locally, not through Universal Credit. It is looking at how that might work.



At the moment we don't have strong evidence about what will happen because the changes like Universal Credit are only just being started.

In the meantime, people living in supported "exempt accommodation" who claim Universal Credit will receive housing benefit, as now. The Government is also thinking of ways that more people living in accommodation that is very like "exempt accommodation" can receive housing benefit while claiming Universal Credit. This is hard to do. Lots of organisations that provide supported housing are helping.



To help make these changes we need to find out lots of facts about supported housing that we don't know now. We are collecting new information about how much "exempt accommodation" there is and how much housing benefit is spent on it.



Not all local areas have good information on this so it is taking time to get all the facts.



The Department of Health recently worked with DCLG and DWP on some research looking at supported housing schemes which are rented in some English local authorities. It looked at people who are not older people who were living in supported housing, how many were receiving Housing Benefit and how much they were receiving. It will be published soon.



We have also agreed to talk about where local areas can get the sort of money they need (capital) to make sure the right housing is there for people.

Questions for the Learning Disability Programme Board

Do Board members think people with learning disability understand the big things that are happening now on housing like the Care Bill?

Is there more we as the LDPB can do to make sure this is understood?

Is there anything else that members of this Board are working on or know about which links to this and could help?

Are there other issues not covered here which the Board think we should be working on?