

**How money is being used to make
sure people can live in the
community with the right support
instead of mental health hospitals**



**RedQuadrant
easy read report**

About our report



We are a group of experts called **RedQuadrant**. We are an independent group of experts.

We help the government and other organisations to look at how to make things better.

The government wants to help more people with a learning disability and autistic people to

- leave mental health hospitals if they don't need to be there
- have the life they want in the community with the right support



The government asked us to look at how money is being used for people's support.

They want to make sure money is being used well so that more people with a learning disability or autism can leave mental health hospitals and live in the community.

Finding out how money is spent



We looked at lots of different information to help us write this report.

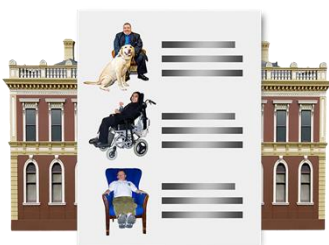
We wanted to find out

- if support in the community costs more than care in a mental health hospital
- if some organisations keep people in their mental health hospitals just to get more money
- what the money is spent on



We did not find all the information we needed to answer these questions.

We talked to lots of people, including people with lived experience. We asked local councils to fill in a survey to find out more.





The government should look at

1. How much it costs for people to stay in a mental health hospital, and how much it costs to support people when they leave.
2. How much it costs to help people if they need extra support in a crisis.



The government should make sure that everyone tells them how they use money in the same way.



Organisations who run services locally can decide what money to spend on services for people with a learning disability or autism.



At the moment, it is not easy for someone to find out what all the money is spent on.

How the money is spent



There are a few people for whom support in the community can cost a lot more than staying in hospital.

We do not know how much money organisations have spent on

- services to stop people having a crisis
- services to help people if they have a crisis



We looked at how much money is saved when people leave mental health hospitals to live in the community.



The cost of staying in the community



Being supported in the community can sometimes

- cost the same money as staying in hospital
- cost less money than staying in hospital
- sometimes it can cost more



Care and support can cost less money as time goes on.



Some people told us that if organisations do not save any money when people leave hospital, the organisations might want people to stay in hospital.

We found no proof of this.

Some people told us that some of the people in mental health hospitals today need a lot more support than people who were in mental health hospitals in 2015.



We found no proof it is more expensive for people to live in the community now.

Finding somewhere to live after leaving hospital



It can take a lot of time and money to find a home after leaving hospital.

It can cost a lot of money to buy new homes and to make homes more accessible.



This can mean there are not enough homes for people who are ready to leave hospital.

It can be hard to find staff to support people.



Different areas can have different rules about how money can be used for people's health and social care support.

This can make it hard for organisations to pay for a place for a person to live and to pay for the support they might need.



Support to help people stay at home



Organisations can do more to stop people needing a bed in a mental health hospital.

For example, they can give better support in a crisis.

Not all organisations have spent money on this kind of support.



When organisations spend money on support services then less people need to go into hospital.



People with a learning disability or autism told us that there needs to be more help for people who might have a crisis.

If people get the right support before they have a crisis, they might not have to go to a mental health hospital.



Help for people in hospital far away from home



Some areas have less hospital beds than others. This means a lot of people have to go to a hospital a long way away.

When this happens



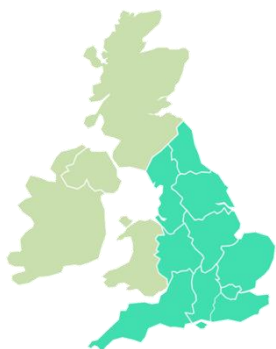
- people might stay in hospital when it would be better for them to move back into the community
- it can cost more money to support them
- people might find it harder to leave hospital

Help for children and young people



Fewer children and young people are staying a long time in hospital.

There are fewer hospital beds for children and young people with a learning disability or autism in many parts of England.



This means more children and young people sometimes have to stay in mental health hospitals far away from home.



When young people are 18 years old, they are treated as an adult.

They may need different support, especially if they have a crisis. Families say there is not enough support for children who have a crisis. This means they often have to go into a mental health hospital.



People told us that there is money to spend on education but not for children leaving a mental health hospital.

What we found out



The money saved by keeping less people in a mental health hospital is sometimes not enough to pay for support for everyone who needs it.

Too many people are still staying too long in hospital. We need to find other ways to support them.



It can be cheaper for people to stay in hospital than it is for them to get support in the community.



But people must still be able to leave hospital when they are ready so they can live the life they want in the community.

There should be more information about how money is used.



There should be more money to help people leave if they have been in hospital for a long time.