

Planning Housing and Support with Learning Disabled People in Kent

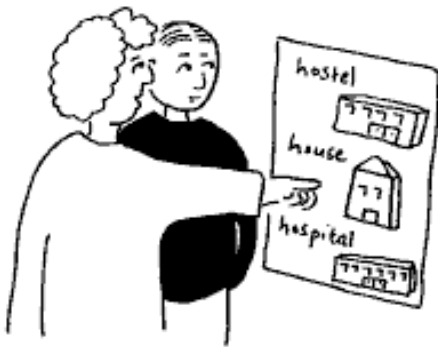


There are about 34,000 learning disabled people in Kent.
26,000 of these people are adults.



Where do learning disabled people live at the moment?

- 800 people in homes paid for by the National Health Service
- 1,200 people in supported housing places
- 1,100 people supported by Kent in residential homes
- 1,500 people in residential homes who have come from outside of Kent.



Valuing People said that Learning Disability Partnership Boards should have local plans for learning disabled people by 2003.

This is to make sure that people have more choice and control over where and how they live.

Housing and Social Services have worked together on the Kent plan.

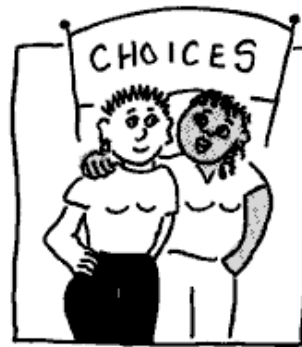
They asked lots of people for their views. This includes:

- Learning disabled people
- Families and carers
- Health staff
- Voluntary organisations.

The Plan is for three years and will be updated each year.



There are 5 main ideas in the plan:



Choice:

- Learning disabled people should have the same choices as everyone else about how and where they live.
- There should be more supported housing available for learning disabled people.
- Learning disabled people want the right support to make their own choices.



Information:

- Information about housing and support that is easy to understand
- There should be better ways of finding out what housing and support people in Kent need and want.
- We will ask more people what they think of the plan and keep asking.



Support:

- Support for learning disabled people to live as independently as they can.
- Support must be person centred - this means it is based on what each person needs.
- Find out what support services there are now and what needs to be added or changed.



Standards:

- Make sure that services for learning disabled people are the best they can be and always getting better.
- Make sure that people are comfortable and safe.
- Keep checking that the plan is working.
- All staff must understand the needs of learning disabled people.



Partnerships - working together:

The plan will work better if we all work together.

- • • • That includes:
 - ✓ Learning disabled people
 - ✓ Families and carers
 - ✓ Staff
 - ✓ Different organisations like Housing, Health, Social Services and Voluntary Organisations



Money for housing and support can come from:

- Housing benefit for rent and other things
- Supporting People Grant for housing support
- Independent Living Fund (ILF)
- Benefits like Income support and Disability Living Allowances
- Social services payment or Direct Payments (from your care manager)

What else does the plan say?

- Everyone is an individual and has different needs.
- Learning disabled people want the same choices as everyone else.





- Some people need adapted housing because they are physically disabled.
- Some people want their own flat. Some want to live with their families, friends or partners.
- We must make sure that housing and support are part of people's person centred plans.

- We need to have better ways of finding out what housing and support people need.



- District Partnership Groups, Health and Social Services and Housing will tell us what local people need in each area.

- All this means that learning disabled people will have real choices about where and how they live.



