

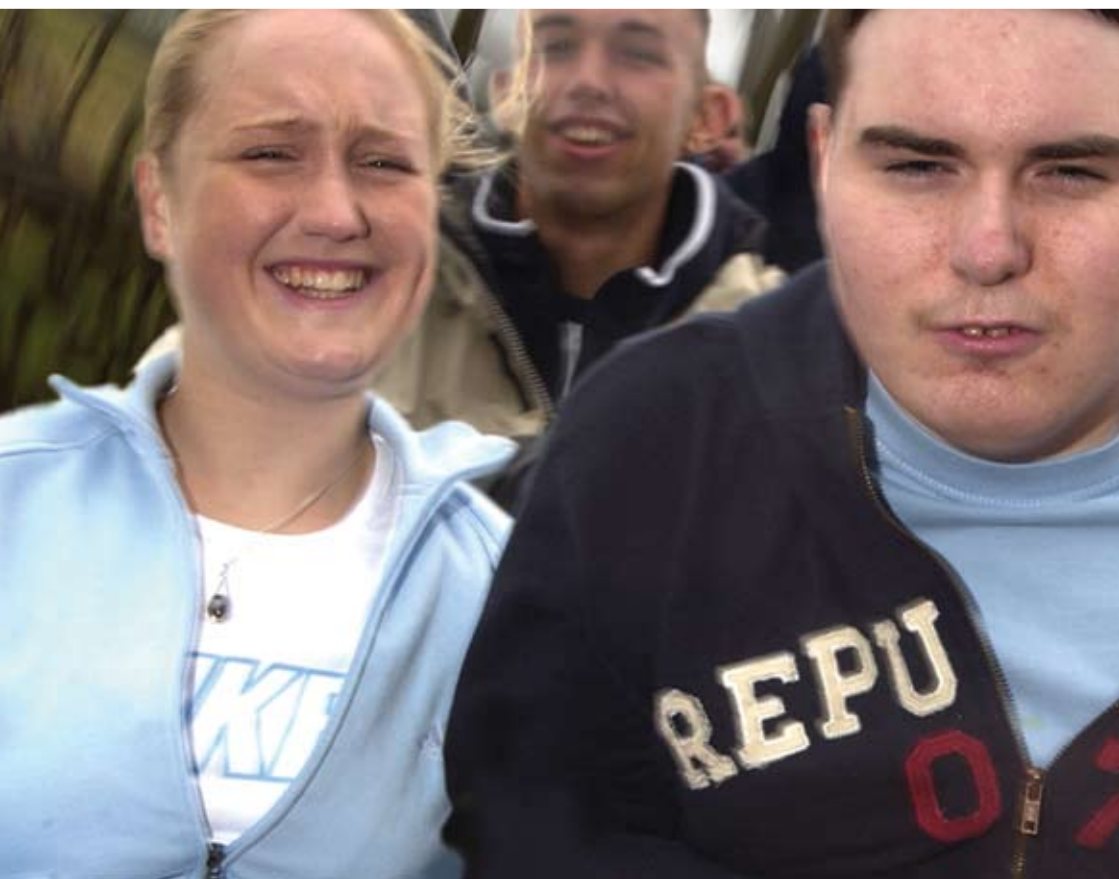
Housing and Support Strategy for people with Learning Difficulties



2007 - 2012



Easy read version





Introduction



This is Salford's Learning Difficulties Housing and Support Strategy. It tells you our plans for the next 5 years.



In Salford we have a Learning Difficulty Partnership Board. This is a group of people supported, carers and workers that make decisions about the future of the service and have agreed this plan.



The Government has said lots of things about housing and support for people with Learning Difficulties. We have looked at what has been said and used it to help us put this plan together.



Lots of people have helped us to put this plan together, including people supported and carers. Thank you to everyone.



Some of the things people told us about their housing and support are in speech bubbles in this plan.

It tells you what the hard words mean on pages 20 and 21 of this plan.



What we want to make happen over the next 5 years

We call what we want to make happen 'Our Vision', it says we want a future where:



- Adults with Learning Difficulties living in Salford will have a good quality of life
- Live as valued members of the community
- Live in housing of their choice
- Choose support suitable to meet their needs.



The values that support our vision are from the White Paper called “Valuing People”. This was written by the Government in 2001 to make services better for people who have Learning Difficulties.



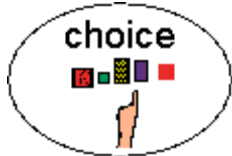
What people with Learning Difficulties, and their families and carers have said they want and need in the future

This plan was put together by listening to what people want and need. We call this ‘consultation’ and it helps us to find out what is important to people and hear everybody’s ideas.



The values are:

- **Independence** – being confident and doing more things for yourself.
- **Choice** – choosing who you live with and where you live
- **Inclusion** – making friendships in your local community
- **Rights** – making decisions about your housing and support



Some of the things people told us were:



- I am happy where I live; I do not want this to change.



- It is important to me that I live near my family
- I want more choice over where I live and who I live with



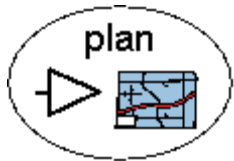
We will do all of this by following the ‘North Star’ Vision of the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board. This means we will all work together to make our vision happen.



- I want to live alone but still have 24 hour support from staff



- It is important to me that I feel safe in my home and where I live



- I want to be able to make plans for the future



- I need housing on the ground floor and where I can use my wheelchair.



- I want more information about housing and support



- I want to make friends where I live and take part in activities in the evenings as well as in the daytime.



What we know about people's needs and wishes for housing and support

There are some important things to think about for now and in the future. **These are:**



- Some 16 to 19 year olds have more than one disability and may need housing with a lot of support.



- Older people are living longer and may need specialist housing and support.



- Carers over age 65 may have their own health needs, which can make it difficult for them to carry on being a full time carer.



- Some people living outside of Salford who want to come back need housing with a lot of support.



- A lot of people use a wheelchair or have difficulty walking, and need adaptations in their house, like wide doors, rails or a bedroom on the ground floor.



What Housing and Support we have now

Supported Housing

In Salford we have the following kinds of supported housing for adults with Learning Difficulties:



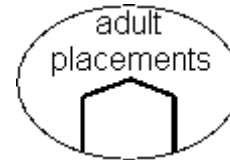
- **80 Supported Tenancy Group Homes** – this is where you live with other people and have staff to offer help and support up to 24 hours a day



- **4 Extra Care flats** – this is housing for older adults with Learning Difficulties who need extra support.



- **4 Step Forward housing flats** – this is where people with Learning Difficulties live in their own flat and receive support from staff to help them live independently.



- **29 Adult Placements** – this is where people with Learning Difficulties live with a family in their home.



- **We are also working on a housing project** that will be for 3 people who have autism.

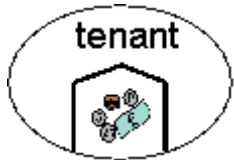
General Needs Housing

It is important to us that people with Learning Difficulties are supported to use the same types of housing as everybody else if they want to. We call this 'general needs housing'.



These types of housing are:

- **General Sheltered and Extra Care Housing** – this is housing for older people.



- **Council and Registered Social Landlord Housing** – this is where a person rents their home from the Council or a Housing Association; this means you are a tenant.



- **Private Rented Housing** – this is where a person rents their home from a private landlord; this means you are a tenant.

- **Shared and Outright Home Ownership** – this is where you buy all or part of your home.



Salford is introducing 'Choice Based Lettings' in 2007. This means people will have more information and more choice when asking for and being given general needs

housing. We need to make sure people with Learning Difficulties are able to use this service in the same way as everybody else.

Support

People can get help and support in supported housing. The staff are usually available 24 hours a day but there can be less support if this is needed.



People can live independently in the community and get help and support from a person who calls each day or a few times a week to check they are okay or to go out together. We call this 'Community Support'.



We check that the support people receive meets our standards and the Governments standards to provide good quality care and support.





We recently looked at the support people were getting to learn more about the type and level of care and support being provided.

We learned that:

- Care providers could get better at supporting people to make friendships and to take part in social activities in the community
- Some people are given more support than they need to manage in their home
- Some people need to be supported to move home because their needs or wishes have changed and the house they live in can no longer meet their needs or wishes.



There are other services that can support adults with Learning Difficulties in Salford to help them manage in their home. **These include:**

- **Assistive technology / Telecare** – this is a gadget or service which can help people to be more independent.
- **Housing-related floating support** – people living in general needs housing can get help and support from a person who calls to see them a few times a week.
- **Support to deal with anti-social behaviour** – help for people who are being harassed or bullied and do not feel safe in their community.
- **Salford Welfare Rights and Debt Advice Service** – help with welfare benefits and problems with money.



- Practical Housing-Related Services – Help with repairs, changes to your home and keeping your home warm.

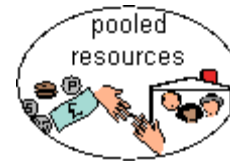


What money and people we have to help us make our plans happen



The money we have available to pay for housing and support comes from different places; we call these our 'financial resources'.

It can be difficult for us to give everyone the housing and support that they need and want because of limited money and time. We need to be realistic about what we can and cannot do.



This is where the money comes from:

- **Learning Difficulty Service Funding** – money from the Council and Primary Care Trust (Health) to pay for care and support.
- **Supporting People Funding** – money to pay for housing related support, like help with running your home, managing your money and making friendships.
- **Direct Payments and Individual Budgets** – money from the Learning Difficulty Service which you receive to arrange your own care. This means you have more control and choice over who provides your care. We want to help more people think about this as an option for them.





- **Independent Living Fund** – money from the Government to help with the cost of personal care for people who want to live independently in their community.



- **Learning Disability Development Fund** – money that comes from 'Valuing People' to make change happen and make things better for people with Learning Difficulties.



There are lots of people and workers that help us to give people with Learning Difficulties housing and support. **They are:**



- **Registered Social landlords** – they help us to develop new housing in Salford.



- **Care and Support Providers** – they help us to provide care and support to adults with Learning Difficulties in Salford.



- **Occupational therapists** – they can provide adaptations to help a person live independently in their home.



- **Person Centred Planning Co-ordinators** – they help staff to put people, and what is important to them, at the centre of what we do, we call this 'Person Centred Thinking'.



- **Neighbourhood Teams** – they can give advice on activities and groups in their local area that people might want to take part in, including healthy activities.



- **Fire Service** – they help us to make sure that housing for people with Learning Difficulties meet fire safety standards.



What we are going to do in the next 5 years



Over the next 5 years we are going to plan for the future by:



- Increasing the numbers of people getting money from the Independent Living Fund



- Talking to other groups and teams in Salford about the work we are all doing, to help us improve things for people with Learning Difficulties and their carers



- Starting to work with at least 4 people and their carers each year, if their carer is over the age of 70, to help them make a housing plan if they would like to make one.



- Looking at the best ways to find out about the needs and wishes of people who are not known to us at the moment.



- Making sure the needs of people with Learning Difficulties from Ethnic Minority Groups are thought about and included in housing and support services.



Over the next 5 years we are going to increase the range of housing options by:



- Developing another Step Forward Housing scheme in Swinton, and look at whether we need to develop more Extra Care housing schemes



- Working with 3 people to support them to become shared or outright home owners



- Helping 5 people living outside Salford to return each year for the next 5 years.



- Making sure that at least one-third of all the new housing we develop for people with Learning



Difficulties is on the ground floor, where it is safe for people to be on the ground floor, and can be lived in by people who use a wheelchair.

- Looking at the need for housing services for people who are younger.
- Putting together a housing resource pack for people who work with adults with Learning Difficulties to encourage more use of general needs housing and services.
- Getting involved in the reviews of the Choice Based Lettings service to make sure the needs of people with Learning Difficulties are thought about.



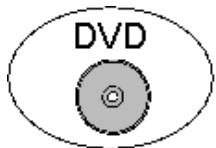
Over the next 5 years we are going to support people to reach their full potential by:

- Helping more people with Learning Difficulties to use 'Assistive Technology'.
- Working with care providers to help people move home when they need or want to.
- Have one Social Worker or Community Nurse for each supported tenancy group home.
- Exploring the need for a temporary home where people with Learning Difficulties can try out living alone.
- Checking whether we need to do anything else to provide 'housing related floating support' for adults with mild Learning Difficulties.



Over the next 5 years we are going to increase opportunities for people to make choices and decisions by:

- Increasing the numbers of people who get a direct payment or manage their own individual budget.
- Looking at whether or not people with Learning Difficulties are getting enough choice over where they live and who they live with.
- Putting together an information pack about housing and support for people supported and their carers.
- Making DVD's of some of our new housing and support projects.



Over the next 5 years we are going to encourage and support people to be included by:

- Checking our 'Community Support' services and our care providers are helping people to make friends and take part in social activities in their community.
- Working with neighbourhood managers and the teams they work with when we develop supported housing, to share information about local community services.
- Making sure that staff who provide care and support think about the needs of people from Ethnic Minority Communities.





- Working with housing providers to look at using accessible tenancy agreements with pictures and signs in to help people with Learning Difficulties who are tenants understand their rights and responsibilities.



The Learning Difficulty Partnership Board will make sure that we do what we have said we will do in this plan.



Every year we will check the plan and put together a report to tell people how we are doing.



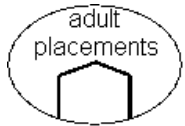
We will send the report to the groups for people with Learning Difficulties that we know about. We will also put the report on our website (www.salford.gov.uk/learningdifficulties).



We will review the whole plan in 2010, to check that our plans for housing and support are still what people supported and their carers need and want.



What the hard words mean



Adult Placement: Living with a family in their home.



Assistive Technology / Telecare: A piece of equipment or service, which can help people to be more independent



Choice Based Lettings: One way of giving out Council or Housing Association houses and flats, which gives people more information and choice about their options.



Community Support: Help and support given to people who live independently in the community.



Direct Payment / Individual Budget: Money from the Learning Difficulty Service given to people so that they can arrange their own care.



Extra Care Housing: Supported housing for older adults who need extra support.



General Needs Housing: Housing with or without support. Anyone can live in this type of housing.



Housing Related Support: Advice and support for people who live in general need housing to help them manage in their home.



Independent Living Fund: Money from the Government to help with the cost of personal care for people who want to live independently in their community.



Neighbourhood Managers: There are 8 neighbourhood managers in Salford. They work with local people to help them improve their area.



Person Centred Thinking: Putting people at the centre of what we do.



Registered Social Landlord / Housing Association: Landlords that provide housing for people with specific needs.

Sheltered Housing: Housing for older and disabled people. Help and support is available from a person called a warden.



Step Forward Housing Network: 8 flats in the same area. People live in their own flat but have support from staff and from the other people who live in the network.

Supported Housing: Housing that always has support for the people who live there.



Supported Tenancy Group Home: Housing shared with other tenants and where staff are available to provide care and support.



Salford City Council

Contact details here