

## Learning Disability and Supported Accommodation

### Existing Supported Housing Provision:

Birmingham has a number of supported housing services for people with learning disabilities which cater for a range of needs and abilities. Provision comprises of supported living services, registered care homes and community based accommodation support models with visiting or some onsite support.

### The models of provision are outlined below;

- **Independent/Supported Living:** Small units of accommodation, either purpose built with independent flats or using larger homes converted into bedsits or shared housing that allow a small group of adults with learning disabilities to live as independently as possible in a home setting. Support and care is provided with by a staff team based on site. Staffing, care and support levels will vary according to assessed client's needs, but will usually include waking night or sleep-in staff.
- **Visiting Support:** Support delivered to people in their own home within the community. Usually this will be rented accommodation (often social housing) and may be accommodation they occupy alone, accommodation within a block designated as supported accommodation or a house/flat shared with other people with similar needs. The level of support provided and frequency of visits will depend on the assessed needs of the client, but generally those receiving this kind of service will have greater levels of independence, will not require a constant staff presence and will be able to undertake a number of day to day tasks unsupervised (e.g. prepare meals, attend social activities, visit local shops).
- **Registered care homes:** Staffed facilities providing accommodation, meals and where needed, personal care (help with washing, dressing and giving medication). Staff at services will also arrange social activities within and outside the service and be able to accompany individual clients on outings and to appointments. These services are staffed 24hrs a day, every day and must be registered with the Care Quality Commission.

The tables below list the various independent/supported living services

The current housing related support provision has been commissioned following the development of a Housing Related Support strategy and an accompanying needs assessment. This includes a combination of supported accommodation with either on-site or visiting support, together with floating support for people living within independent tenancies across a range of tenures.

Housing related support provider	Number of supported accommodation units	Number of floating support service users supported per contract year
Accord Housing	8	152
Friendship & Care Housing	26	992

Birmingham Rathbone	100	240
Sanctuary Housing	35	0
Trident	30	0
Midland Mencap	0	1500

All commissioned services are on a payment by outcomes contracting methodology which has been co-designed with citizens and service providers.

### **Current Activity, Risks and Issues**

Birmingham has approximately 4500 younger adults placed in accommodation with support. A large percentage of this cohort is placed within residential care.

The proportion of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family (2016-17) was 1,336 or 61.7%. The England average is 76.2%, so Birmingham's performance is clearly much worse than the average.

### **Adults placed outside of Birmingham**

Birmingham has a large proportion of adults with a learning disability who are placed outside of the city's boundaries. As of May 2018, 235 Birmingham citizens are placed outside the city of which 23 are aged over 65. Historically, lack of provision in Birmingham, including provision for children, has led to people being placed away from home.

The Specialist Impact Team is funded for one year through the BCF to work with this cohort. The aim is to undertake an asset-based review to understand the person's potential to move to more independent accommodation and where possible, return to Birmingham. To date, the team has identified eight citizens who should move to supported accommodation.

### **Assistive technology**

Birmingham has not yet developed a coherent approach to utilising assistive technology for adults with a learning disability that enables them to live with greater independence. This is an issue that will be addressed in the Assistive Technology strategy, but is a barrier to independence currently.

### **Shared Lives**

The best performing Shared Lives schemes nationally support 10% of their adult learning disability population in Shared Lives schemes. Birmingham current supports 65 adults, which is less than 0.5%.

Shared Lives has undergone an improvement process and now has a recruitment strategy to build to 450 placements by 2020. This would deliver 10% of younger adults in placement are supported by Shared Lives schemes.

### **Transitions into Adulthood**

Young people with learning disabilities transitioning from children's social care into adult social care access a range of accommodation settings including residential care. Similarly there is the opportunity to utilise a range of housing tenures with the appropriate levels of care and support best suited to the needs of the young person.

### **Ambition**

The ambition is to support all younger adults in Shared Lives or Supported Accommodation or Independent Living unless there are physical care needs that require residential care.

The aim is to increase the numbers living in supported or independent accommodation and to ensure that wherever possible these are located within Birmingham.

There are a number of initiatives that bring together partners to deliver accommodation to this group – Transforming Care and the development of a positive homelessness prevention pathway. Yet there is not a single vision that enables stakeholders to do this effectively or to share a common understating of the risks that different options propose.

Adult Social Care proposes to develop a more coherent approach with partners, but requires the support of the system to do so.

### **What needs to happen to get there?**

- The development of a positive accommodation and support pathway for people with learning disabilities and or mental health support needs.
- A gap analysis along the pathway to identify what needs to change or be realigned, remodelled to move towards the pathway.
- A dialogue with accommodation and support providers as part of the co design or delivery.
- A dialogue with the Economy Directorate with regards to future affordable housing developments in order to ensure that the requirements of people with learning disabilities are factored in. This will enable a more effective link to access to paid work enabled through affordable housing costs.
- Development of an overarching accommodation and support delivery plan

### **What does this look like - numbers, impact and outcomes?**

- Greater numbers of people with learning disabilities living close to their communities and connections (less people placed outside of the City) and in more independent forms of accommodation across a range of tenure.

- Possible outcomes: Improved health and wellbeing, maintaining independence, greater focus upon access to employment as part of the accommodation offer.
- There are good transitions outcomes for young people related to their accommodation and options to live as independent as possible within communities.

**What should HWBB do?**

- Support greater connection with the housing sector across a range of tenure, including oversight of any house building programmes in order to ensure that the needs of people with learning disabilities are factored in.

**What can HWBB track and influence?**

- Retain oversight of future Prevention First commissioning for vulnerable persons housing support.
- Retain oversight and read across to the Housing Strategy Implementation and Homelessness Prevention Strategy action plan and positive pathway.

