

OPTION: REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL CARE FOR LEARNING DISABILITIES

BUDGET SAVING: £300,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPTION

Many Council's have changed and improved their services for learning disabilities, and developed supported living opportunities as an alternative to residential care. The main principles of supported living are that people with learning disabilities own or rent their home and have control over the support they get, who they live with and how they live their lives.

This option is to develop supported housing arrangements for people with Learning Disabilities as an alternative to residential care.

The option seeks to balance the needs of the people involved to increase choice and control, to redesign services that are out dated and not fit for purpose.

RATIONALE FOR SAVINGS

Half of the population of adults with learning disabilities in England live with their families; most of the remainder (33%) live in residential care. Only 15% of adults with learning disabilities have a secure long-term tenancy or their own home. This is in comparison with 70% of the general adult population who own their own home and nearly 30% who rent.

Having a home guarantees a place in the community and is part of how people are accepted as equal citizens. People with learning disabilities are one of the most socially excluded groups in our society and this is primarily a result of an historical segregation of services that unintentionally deny people their own home, choice and control and a decent income; factors which ultimately deny citizenship and social inclusion.

We are committed to extending the options of all people with Learning Disabilities to encourage greater independence by offering more flexible and responsive alternatives to permanent residential care.

The Supported Living option is not only more beneficial to individuals and their families and Carers as previously stated but is a more cost effective and sustainable option for the Council.

The Council places a high number of people in permanent residential care compared to other Local Authorities. There are currently 195 people with Learning Disabilities placed in Residential Care. Based on the current average cost of residential care and the average cost of supported living it is estimated that reducing the number of residential placements by 20 (a 10% reduction) the Council will realise a saving in the region of £300,000.

Continuation or acceleration of the number of people with LD placed in residential care would be detrimental to the individuals, their families and Carers and would not provide a cost effective sustainable solution for the Council.

IMPACT

Staffing resources will need to be identified to undertake a review of existing arrangements.

MITIGATION

There is a need for close working between the Adult Social Services and Housing Services in order to identify appropriate and suitable housing options. The Learning Disability Housing Panel in conjunction with the Supporting People team will identify appropriate and suitable housing options for individuals.