



Cheshire and Merseyside Housing Strategy for people with learning disabilities and autistic people-Summary

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Introduction

When we say **strategy** we mean a big plan of what we need and how we will make it happen.



This is an easy read **summary** of the full **strategy**. That means it does not have all of the details but it does have enough information for you to understand what we need and how we will make it happen.



This strategy has been developed by NHS Cheshire, Merseyside Integrated Care System and the 9 local authorities in Cheshire and Merseyside.

The 9 local authorities are:

- ✓ Warrington
- ✓ Liverpool
- ✓ St Helens
- ✓ Halton
- ✓ Knowsley
- ✓ Cheshire East
- ✓ Cheshire West
- ✓ Sefton
- ✓ Wirral





The Vision

Vision means what we are hoping to see:



The best quality of life we can get for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people.

We will do this by:



- making sure we have enough good quality housing and supported housing



- making Cheshire and Merseyside a place where people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people with care and support needs can live well and **thrive**

Thrive means that you do much better than okay, you do well and you succeed in life.



Needs

This strategy will support us to **commission** a wide range of housing and supported housing so that people can live independently in their communities.



To **commission** is to provide the funding for a service or a piece of work. It involves finding out what is needed and a contract for the organisation that is chosen to do the work.



The range of housing will include:

- **General needs housing** for individuals with personalised care and support.

General needs housing is housing that is available to anyone in the community.



- Supported housing that is suited to people who need to live on their own or in shared housing in the community, with a mix of personalised and shared care and support.



- Housing and supported housing that is adapted in a variety of ways to meet people's needs. This might mean adaptations for accessibility. It might mean that it is adapted to meet support needs.



- To meet the housing needs of people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people over the next 10 years we will need:



X 1,700

- Around 1,700 supported housing homes across Cheshire & Merseyside



X 400

- Around 400 general needs homes, usually social housing for rent



Delivery

Achieving our aims and meeting the housing needs over the next 10 years.



A. Commissioning

We will **commission** and provide a mix of housing and supported housing for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people by:



- Reviewing the use of shared supported housing



- **Commissioning** the new supported housing that is required to meet the need that we know about



- Increasing the number of Shared Lives carers



- **Commissioning** the housing needed by people who are living in hospital settings at the moment



- Making Home Ownership for people with Long – term Disabilities (**HOLD**) more available

HOLD is a home ownership scheme for people with long term disabilities.



B. General Needs Housing

We will secure extra general needs housing for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people by:



- Using social housing that we already have access to



- Working with local **Registered Providers** to meet the wider housing needs in this big plan

Registered Providers are the social landlords that we know and work with.



- **Leasing** from private landlords
Leasing is a type of renting agreement.



- Supported housing providers developing and/or buying more housing to help people move in to permanent homes.



- Reviewing the use and suitability of **Property Pool Plus or Choice Based Lettings** for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people

Property Pool Plus or Choice Based Lettings is the scheme that allows you to choose where you live and the type of property you live in if you are on the housing register.



C. Quality Assurance

Quality assurance means how we will make sure that the services and homes we have are good enough.



We will put in place a **quality assurance** framework for supported housing commissioned by local councils which measures how the housing and support makes things better for people living in supported housing.

We will do this by:



- Identifying all supported housing for people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people that has the status of 'supported exempt accommodation' in the Supported Housing Act



- Developing quality **assessment and assurance criteria**, that demonstrate the Councils' expectations in relation to the quality of supported housing including value for money

Assessment and assurance criteria means a list of things that we will check are in place and being done well.



D. Housing Providers

Housing Providers are organisations that build, own and rent housing in our communities.



We will support and encourage **housing providers** to deliver a wide range of housing and supported housing options that meet the needs we know about.

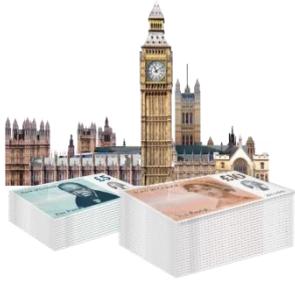
We will do this by:



- Talking with **housing providers**, including the largest social housing providers in the Cheshire & Merseyside area. This might be through supported housing or **general needs housing**.



- Finding the gaps in the supported housing provider market. This includes what providers are able to do and how many properties they have. Contact providers from outside of Cheshire/Merseyside to encourage them to develop their offer into this area.



E. Capital Funding

Capital Funding is money available from the government, banks and other organisations in this case for the development of housing.



We will make the most of the use of a wide range of **capital funding** for development of adapted and supported housing.

We will do this by:



- Working with providers to make the most of the capital funding that they can bring to the area to develop the housing and supported housing we need



- Developing our relationship with Homes England to make the most of investment from the Affordable Homes Programme for the supported housing we need



- Look at where it is possible for supported and adapted housing to be part of the **affordable housing contribution** on development sites

The **affordable housing contribution** is the housing that organisations are made to include when they are building a new development of houses. This is to make sure that we do not **ONLY** have very large and expensive homes.



F. Governance

Governance means the things we will put in place to make sure things are run properly. To make sure the rules are followed and no laws are broken.



We will put in place governance and decision-making **processes** that make it possible for the local authorities in Cheshire Merseyside with their NHS partners to work together well. This is needed to make what is in this housing strategy possible.

Processes are the details of how things should be done.