



**LEARNING DISABILITY
AND AUTISM HOUSING
NETWORK CHARTER**



LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM HOUSING NETWORK'S VISION

IS TO PROVIDE, DEVELOP, AND PROMOTE QUALITY HOMES AND HOUSING SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM.

The Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network is a coalition of national and regional housing associations providing homes and housing services for people with a learning disability and autism.

LOOKING BACK

Less than 60 years ago, most people with a learning disability were locked away from the rest of society, and often lived far away from their loved ones.

People with a learning disability faced a life of institutional care, where abuse was widespread, and they had no contact with the outside world.

Long fighting from families and campaign groups helped influence government policy, leading to huge changes in housing and support options.

The last long-stay hospital in England closed in 2009, and more people with a learning disability were empowered to have choice and control over their lives.

Housing associations have played a key role, working in partnership with health and social care commissioners, to deliver new models of supported housing to meet this increasing demand and enable people to build their own lives in their communities.

SUPPORTED HOUSING

There is clear evidence that strategically planned sustainable, quality supported housing for people with a learning disability or autism provides long-term positive outcomes for individuals, and delivers value for money for social care and health commissioners.

POSITIVE CHANGE

The new government *National Statement of Expectations for Supported Housing* sets out clear expectations for local authorities to work with providers to plan future supply.

CHALLENGES

There are still massive systemic challenges to overcome to ensure adequate supply of new sustainable, quality supported housing.

The threat of rents caps and the reduction in capital and revenue funding for supported housing has seen many established housing associations step away from more complex and expensive provision.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network has three important roles:

- Raise awareness of the housing needs and aspirations of people with a learning disability and autism.
- Evidence and promote the positive impact, social value and value for money of quality housing and housing services for people with learning disability and autism.
- Influence national policy change by creating a coherent collective voice across a collective of providers and stakeholders.



CALL FOR ACTION

The National Housing Federation and Housing LIN report *Supported housing for people with long-term care and support needs* sets out clear recommendations to support the growth of new provision - additional capital funding and higher grant rates; a long-term commitment to housing benefit, and sufficient support funding for people in their own homes.

We believe that the government needs to develop a learning disability and autism national framework to address the barriers for new, sustainable quality housing.

LEARNING DISABILITY AND AUTISM HOUSING NETWORK'S FOUR CALLS FOR ACTION

- Government to create a more comprehensive and integrated national and local planning and policy framework for supported housing, designed to ensure that supported housing receives an appropriate share of available resources and in particular that local commissioners have access to the tools and information required to address growing needs.
- Government to create the conditions for growth of supply by allocating a higher proportion of the new affordable homes programme to new housing for people with learning disability and autism.
- A rent standard that supports the commissioning and funding of new supported housing for people with high support needs.
- A long-term sustainable, consistent housing benefit regime for supported housing.



For the latest updates

Follow us on Twitter
[@LDAHousing](https://twitter.com/LDAHousing)