



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*



University of  
BRISTOL



# Housing for People with Learning Disabilities - Renting Your Own Place Research launch

Oxford Town Hall

Wednesday, 27 September 2023

10:30am – 2:30pm

# Learning Disabilities vs Learning Difficulties

# Agenda

**10:30am – Registration and Tea/Coffee**

**11:00am – Co-Chairs Welcome and Introduction:** Paul Scarrott and Lois Beech

**11:10am – Keynote speaker:** Becca Cooper

**11:40am – Renting Your Own Place Research:** Deborah Quilgars, Dr Eppie Leishman, Paul Scarrott, Becca Cooper and Andy Pollin

**12:10pm – Lunch & Networking**

**1:00pm – Action Towards Good Life:** Rachael Hall

**1:30pm – Panel Discussion:** Ian Gilders, Clare Skidmore and Gail Hanrahan

**2:15pm – Final remarks:** All

**2:30pm – Close**



**York People First**  
is a self advocacy  
group run and  
controlled by, and  
for, people with  
learning  
difficulties.

**Becca Cooper**  
Self-Advocate  
York People First





Also found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV43BMIIsc>



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*



*Stephen Lee Hodgkins*



# RENTING YOUR OWN PLACE RESEARCH

OXFORD CONFERENCE, OXFORD TOWN HALL  
WEDNESDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2023



# MEET OUR TEAM





# HANDS UP:

- Who has rented their own place?
- Who has supported people to rent?





# ABOUT OUR RESEARCH

# We tried to find out:

---

1. What's going on for people with learning disabilities who rent their own home?
2. What support is there?
3. What needs to get better?



# How did we find this out?:

---

1. We spoke to 35 people renting their own home
2. We asked people to complete some booklets about their homes (and take photos)
3. We looked at what people had said and made recommendations



# 1. Your Front Door.



Use this space to tell us more about your front door.



What is your front door like? Take a photo and stick it here.

My door does not block out any sound when people are walking and talking in the communal area.

My neighbours are noisy especially early in the morning. They sound like elephants also they Hoover at silly hours. It's very complicated to go through the process of complaining.

Friends, family and post. And I definitely don't answer to cold callers.



What are your neighbours like?



Who knocks on it?

# 8. My advice to others.



Use this space to tell us what advice you would give to others about renting your own home.



What advice would you give to others about renting your own home. Take a photo and stick it here.

For certain repairs I have to call up several times and argue my case as they want to save money and don't care about the tenant. My advice is to be consistent and fight for it.



What would you say?



What did  
we find  
out?

# We found:



- Most of the people we spoke to liked renting.
- They were settled in their home, could afford their rent and were good tenants.

# We found:



- Most people did not get much choice when they moved to the place they rent.

# We found:



- Most people lived in good quality housing  
BUT
- Some people needed housing to be adapted to meet their needs and some needed repairs



# We found:

- It was very important to people that their home was close to friends or family, transport and shops.
- AND that it was a safe neighbourhood.



# We found:



- When people had paid support from social care it was often working well
- BUT people said it could be more person centred

# We found:



- Lots of other places help with renting like self-advocacy groups and employers
- Some people wanted more support



Any  
questions?

What would you  
tell a friend who  
wanted to rent?



# RENTING RECOMMENDATIONS



- Choice
- Support
- Good quality housing
- Good location
- Affordable

# RENTING RECOMMENDATIONS



- Information
- Secure
- Involved
- Adapted
- Reasonable adjustments



THANK  
YOU FOR  
LISTENING





# Good Lives

Rachael Hall

Membership and Engagement Lead

Learning Disability England



# Learning Disability England



- Bringing people and organisations together
- Create a movement for change by bringing members together on an equal basis.
- Members work together to build a world where people with learning disabilities have good lives with equal choices and opportunities as others

# What is Good Lives?



- A coproduced vision and call to action
- Shared action: people, families, paid supporters and allies
- People with learning disabilities '1<sup>st</sup> amongst equals'
- Policy vacuum for people with learning disabilities

# Where it all began...



- Birmingham 2020
- People spoke about what was important for a good life
- Lots of topics were spoke about
- Prioritised 6 chapters

# The framework...



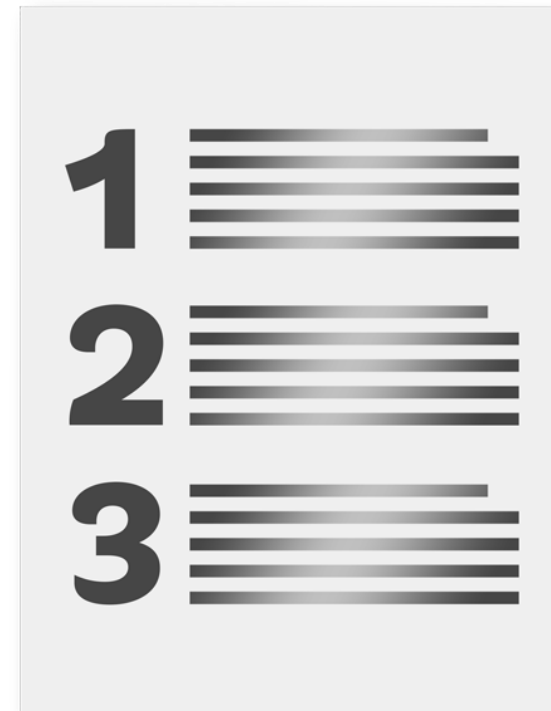
Each chapter says:

1. What the UN Convention says
  2. What people with learning disabilities have said needs to change
  3. What people are doing to move us towards Good Lives
  4. Ideas for change and our first steps
- The chapters are growing and changing as more people take part.



# The chapters...

- The Right Support
- A Home
- Self-advocacy and Advocacy
- Communication and Staying Connected
- Contribution and Paid Jobs
- To Love and Be Loved



# A Home: What people said was important



- Everyone should be able to choose where they live and who they live with
- This is a Human Right, the same as for people who do not have a learning disability
- People think it is wrong that people with a learning disability are made to live in unsafe areas
- There was concern that more people will be made to live in care homes and hospitals because of a lack of money

# Next Steps



- People with learning disabilities, their families and carers, housing providers and social workers need to work together to make sure people with learning disabilities get the homes they want and need.
- People with learning disabilities need to be provided with high quality information and support to help them access housing that's right for them.



# Next Steps



- The Government needs to fund more homes that are right for people with learning disabilities; reduce social housing rental costs; ensure people with learning disabilities receive enough welfare support to live in their homes.
- Local councils need to provide better housing options for people with learning disabilities and offer financial support to help them live good lives, be independent and feel more connected to their communities.

# Next Steps



- The Government needs to fund more homes that are right for people with learning disabilities; reduce social housing rental costs; ensure people with learning disabilities receive enough welfare support to live in their homes.
- Local councils need to provide better housing options for people with learning disabilities and offer financial support to help them live good lives, be independent and feel more connected to their communities.

# How are others using Good Lives?

- To guide their priorities
- Alongside their strategy
- A Research Network
- To start conversations



# Housing Guide



- We have been working with Ace Anglia, Housing Lin and NHSE to create an accessible housing guide
- Information is important to allow people to make real choices
- Keep an eye out for its launch in the new year!

# Why Are We Stuck In Hospital?

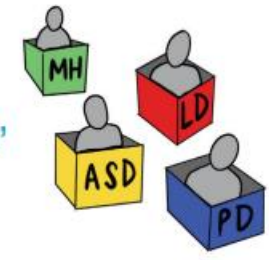


- Research with University of Birmingham, Changing Our Lives and partners
- Around 2000 people in secure hospitals, 58% of whom had a hospital stay of over 2 years
- Surprisingly little research on why people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people are delayed in such settings. Previous research has often failed to talk directly to people to understand what they see as the main barriers and what would help more people to leave hospital.
- Understanding the experiences of 27 people living in 3 long-stay hospitals in England – as well as on the experiences and perspectives of their families and professionals

1 OUR LIVES ARE ON HOLD – DO YOUR JOBS AND GET SOME 'OOMPH'



6 DON'T PUT US INTO BOXES OR 'SCATTER-GUN'

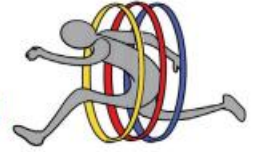


2 SEE THE PERSON BEHIND THE LABELS



7 GIVE ME THE CHANCE TO TRY LIFE OUTSIDE

3 DON'T MAKE ME JUMP THROUGH MORE HOOPS THAN IS REALLY NEEDED



8 PLEASE HELP ME WITH THE TRAUMA I'VE EXPERIENCED



# HOW TO HELP

People's top ten tips for helping them to leave hospital



4 MAKE SURE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM IS ON BOARD (WHERE SOMEONE HAS COMMITTED AN OFFENCE)

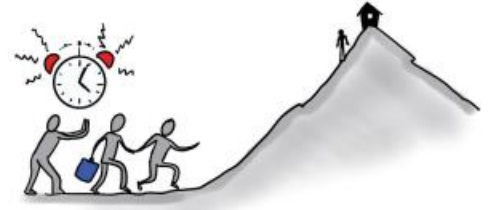


9 DON'T LET US FALL THROUGH THE CRACKS

5 HELP HOSPITAL STAFF KNOW WHAT'S AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY



10 DON'T SET US UP TO FAIL



# 200 Lives Research

- Evaluating supported living and residential care for adults with learning disabilities
- Aim of this research was to examine the quality and costs of supported living and residential care for adults with learning disabilities aged 18-64 year
- 10 key findings and recommendations

# 200 Lives Research: Findings



- Who people live with is more important to them than the property itself.
- What people want from a house might change as their aspirations change, currently the system is reactive rather than supporting people to forward plan
- Only a quarter of people in supported living had their full housing rights upheld.
  - On average, people in residential care reported on average 7 out of 11 components, compared to an average of 9 for people in supported living.





# How else can you get involved in Good Lives...



Share Good Lives with your MP



Can you add to the action collection?



Speak about Good Lives



Expect more!

# Links

Good Lives: <https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/the-good-lives-chapters/>

Good Lives Home Chapter:

[https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The\\_Good\\_Lives\\_Framework\\_Chapter1.pdf](https://www.learningdisabilityengland.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/The_Good_Lives_Framework_Chapter1.pdf)

Why are we stuck in hospital:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/publications/why-are-we-stuck-in-hospital.pdf>



## Panel Discussion

- Co-chairs: **Paul Scarrott**, My Life My Choice and **Lois Beech**, Housing LIN
- **Ian Gilders**, Advance
- **Clare Skidmore**, NHS England
- **Gail Hanrahan**, Family Support Network



UNIVERSITY  
*of York*



University of  
BRISTOL



Thank you!