

NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Programme

‘NHS England learning disability and autism housing programme update

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NHS England learning disability and autism housing programme



- Support to help more autistic people and people with a learning disability to get a home.
- Engagement of NHS in housing is essential if we are to reduce the number of people in hospital. This includes supporting systems to recognise people's housing needs.
- A true home (rather than a 'placement') can help people:
 - Feel safer and more secure
 - Live how they want to live
 - Have better health and wellbeing
 - Live in a home, not a hospital.



Our goal is to support people to be discharged from mental health hospitals, help prevent people from going into hospital, and help people to find a home which is right for them.

NHS England promoting better housing options



NHS England Regional Teams:

Regional senior housing managers work closely with local areas to support many partners including:

- local health and care systems and commissioners
- social housing providers

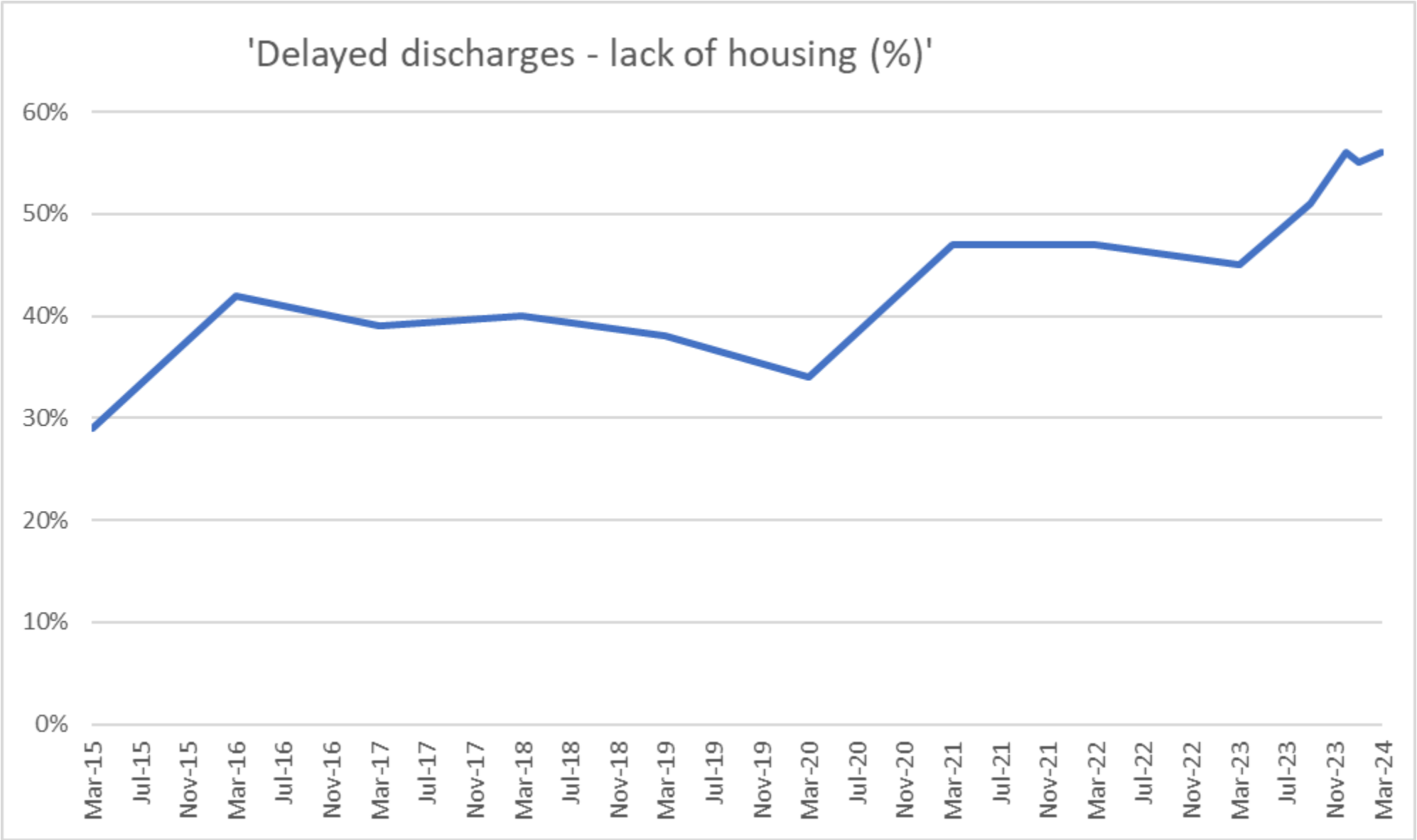
They also help to **prioritise and invest NHS capital money on housing:**

- £13m available to invest annually, plus some money from selling properties where the NHS has a legal charge
- Pipeline of 130+ projects (260+ units of housing) across 3 years – subject to funding availability.

NHS England National Team:

- Oversee the housing capital programme (in partnership with regions, as above)
- Work with national partners who share responsibility for these issues and with shared goals
- Advocate for autistic people and people with a learning disability with housing audiences, and for housing as a topic, within NHS England and with health audiences
- National support for focused policy development and collaboration across government and with national, regional and local partners (including people and families with lived experience)
- Produce information and guidance
- Co-chair National Learning Disability and Autism Housing Community of Practice with Local Government Association / ADASS (please join!)

NHS Digital - Assuring Transformation figures show a clear trend



Useful sources of evidence, information and data



- [Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network / Housing LIN research \(2023\)](#)
- [Challenging Behaviour Foundation's Housing Strategy Group Action Plan](#)
- [Learning Disability England's 'Good Lives Framework' \(Housing chapter\)](#)
- [Toolkit from Social Care Institute for Excellence \(SCIE\)](#) to help areas develop a place-based housing strategy for autistic people and people with a learning disability
- Examples of place-based housing needs assessments, supported housing strategies and commissioning frameworks – such as from [Bristol City Council](#), [North East and North Cumbria ICB](#) and [Cornwall Council](#)
- National Housing Federation – research into [financial benefits of supported housing](#); also [NHF case study research](#) into role of supported housing in supporting the NHS, inc. hospital discharge
- [MHCLG's Supported Housing Review \(Sheffield Hallam University\)](#)
- [Brick by Brick](#), NHS England resources to support discharge planning for people with a learning disability and autistic people in mental health hospitals, into their own home
- Other resources on strategy and good practice: [LGA](#), [NHS England](#) and [Housing LIN](#)
- For people with a learning disability, autistic people and their supporters: '[Making Positive Moves](#)' and the [Learning Disability England online housing guide](#) are both accessible and informative

Long-term benefits of having the right home

A person's experience in the East of England:

A young adult who had been in a secure hospital unit for a long time (5 years+) wanted to move back to their home area, to be near their family.



The aim of the move was to enable independent living and for the person to be part of the community and local activities.

Following the purchase and adaptation of a 3-bed detached bungalow, the person was able to move into their new home.

The person's distress has reduced, with regular contact with their family. They are healthier and their diet has improved.

In addition, the person's move led to a reduction in their care and support costs of over £750,000 per annum.

Long term benefits of having the right home

A person's experience in Yorkshire and North East:

A person in their 30s who was admitted to hospital at the age of 16, following incidents of trauma leading to self-harm and distressed behaviours. When well, they like walking, eating out, and spending time with animals.



After being admitted to hospital, the person remained there for 20 years.

They wanted to live in their own home, have their own pet cat, make their own choices, and live closer to their family.

Despite an initial period of distress after the move, joint working with community health and care teams has meant the person now remains at home – with their cat and close to their family.

