

Understanding need and shaping provision in Rochdale's supported housing planning

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Background

- The Care Act 2014 places a duty on Local Authorities to facilitate and shape our market for Care and Support: to ensure sustainability, diversity, and to be continuously improving and innovating services.
- Key element of this is to have an Adult Social Care Market Position Statement – effectively the ‘blue print’ for the marketplace.
- Our market position statements provide intelligence to service providers on the current and future supply and demand within the market.
- Last Rochdale Market Position Statement and accommodation strategy (2020).
- Demand and spend is increasing - need to understand the picture both now and in the future.
- First step for the work was to undertake a needs analysis. Building on intelligence around JSNA, local Demographic, coupled with local soft intelligence around service needs, quality and future direction.
- Listening to people with lived and learnt experience.

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Specialist Housing and Supported Living Needs - Needs Assessment

- As a service we wanted to understand in detail the **current and future needs** for Specialist Housing and Supported Living Needs across the borough of Rochdale.
- Opportunity to approach this **collectively and co-produce** the work and therefore products that are developed from the needs assessment.
- **Housing LIN (Learning Improvement Network)** who support local government organisations understand the need for specialist and supported living accommodation worked in partnership with the Council to undertake the needs assessment.
- The purpose of this research was to ensure the **Council had robust evidence** to help the Council **plan** for how it will meet the housing needs of people who require care and support both now and in the future.
- The evidence has been used to **inform the Council's local plans and strategies such as the Market Position Statement, Strategic Housing Strategy and Local Plan.**
- The needs analysis took place through 2024 with the initial findings being shared and reviewed early in 2025.

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Methodology for the specialist housing and supported living needs assessment

This research covers the number and type of homes that are needed for the following people that might require care and/or support:

1. Older people (65+).
2. People (18+) with learning disabilities (including young people with learning disabilities becoming eligible for adult services 14+).
3. Autistic people (18+).
4. People with mental health related needs (18+).
5. People with a physical disability/long term condition.

In order to identify the number and type of homes required, the work separates people requiring care and/or support into groups, however, in reality these intersect.

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Methodology for the specialist housing and supported living needs assessment

- The exercise reviewed baseline population data and projections. This included the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**. ([JSNA](#))
- Analysis of **data sets** relevant to the Borough of Rochdale and specialist provisions/ needs.
- Analysis of **existing supply of specialist housing/supported living**.
- A range of **stakeholder engagement** undertaken via focus groups, attending existing meetings, 1:1 conversations, utilising care provider forums and contract meetings. This included peers from:
 - Council officers and partners across (Adults, Children's, Health, Housing and Public Health).
 - Supported housing providers
 - Care providers
 - Coproduction Networks – capturing the views of people with lived and learnt experience
- Review of contemporary **best practice**
- **Assessment of need** for specialist housing/supported living

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A suite of Market Position Statements

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Market Position Statements (MPS)

- The MPS provide **key intelligence on the current and future supply and demand** within the market and aims to enable service providers to make **proactive business and investment decisions** and to be responsive to local authority commissioning intentions.
- It also **outlines support available to providers to assist in their development.**
- **Target audience for the MPS:**
 - Providers of care and support services who are currently, or who wish to be, delivering high quality care and support services across the Rochdale Borough.
 - Private Sector, VCFSE, statutory bodies, and our own 'in-house' provision.
 - Our commitment to involve and co-design with individuals, '*Experts by Experience*', and their families and carers, means that the audience also includes people who use services and their carers, advocacy organisations, health and social care professionals, and of course, our partners internally to the council and within the health sector.

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Market Position Statements (MPS)

There are seven MPS each one marking the start of conversations with Providers and potential Providers as we build up understanding and intelligence on the needs of the people in the borough.

[Market Position Statements | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

- Market Shaping and Sustainability Market Position Statement
 - Ageing and Living Well Market Position Statement
 - Carers Market Position Statement
 - Learning Disability Market Position Statement
 - Mental health Market Position Statement
 - Neurodiversity Market Position Statement
 - Physical Disability and Sensory Loss Market Position Statement
- All developed using the Specialist Housing and Supported Living Needs Assessment at the core.
- [Specialist Housing and Supported Living Needs Assessment | Rochdale Borough Council](#)

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Impact.....

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Impact of the work with the Housing LIN

- Better provider relationships.
- Clear market direction, shaping and sustainability as providers are able to align their business models to local current and future need.
- Identified gaps in provision.
- Identified a clear understanding of mapped provision – helped feed our newly developed Power BI dashboards.
- Led to new provision opening, 10 bed Mental Health IMC, 20 units for complex Learning Disabilities and Autism (mix of flats and bungalows), new developments planned for extra care, nursing provision and 2 new schemes in the pipeline for Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism.
- Suite of strategies developed and in co-production, eg Mental Health Strategy, Autism Strategy and Learning Disabilities Strategy.
- Existing providers reviewing business models and tailoring to the blue print set from the work.

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