

East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership



‘A home of my own’ Developing cost effective housing options for people with learning disabilities across the East Midlands ▼



Helping people to live more independently

Developing cost effective housing options for people with learning disabilities across the East Midlands ▼

A housing solutions programme led by the Department of Health East Midlands, sponsored by the East Midlands Joint Improvement Partnership and co-funded by the Department of Health East Midlands and each Council, gained unanimous support from all nine local authorities to reduce reliance on residential care for people with learning disabilities. The programme was facilitated by the East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EM IEP), which jointly funded a Derbyshire County

Council project called ‘Getting a Home of my Own.’

The programme was stimulated by the initiative taken by Nottinghamshire County Council to engage the Care Services Efficiency Delivery programme (CSED) to undertake a local strategic housing analysis. Nottinghamshire’s findings were shared at a regional housing event in July 2009 and resulted in the other eight local authorities with responsibility for adult social care

signing up to undertake a similar programme of support.

The programme set out to achieve the national and local target of a 5% reduction in the number of people with learning disabilities who live in residential care, whilst increasing other local housing options.

Phase one of this project will support over 200 people with learning disabilities moving back in to the community, with a further 110 identified. The potential to save over £10.8 million has been identified

across eight local authorities through the development of a range of new housing and support options.

“The results of this programme speak for themselves. Not only are we seeing people with learning disabilities moving out of residential care and in to homes of their own within the community, but the cost savings for each local authority are potentially considerable.”

Mick Connell

Director of Adults & Communities,
Leicestershire County Council

The local landscape ▾

In the East Midlands, 30% of adults with learning disabilities live in residential care and spend on residential and nursing care is higher than the national average in four of the nine local authorities.

In 2009, the Department of Health refreshed the national strategy for people with learning disabilities, Valuing People (DH 2001), with a new three year vision ‘Valuing People Now’. A priority within this strategy is to improve the limited housing options available to people with learning disabilities.

In the East Midlands, all nine local authorities signed up to the cost effective housing solutions

programme, working in collaboration with CSED to understand how they were using their resources to meet the housing needs of people with learning disabilities.

Also of note in the East Midlands, Leicester City Council, along with partners in the local NHS, identified that further work was needed to develop improved care pathways, supported housing and living services options for people with mental ill health (see separate case study entitled ‘Leicester City Council: Taking positive steps to improving housing options for people with mental ill health and learning disabilities’).

Understanding the need ▾

The initial phase of the programme was a strategic analysis carried out by CSED to understand the use of resources and opportunities for efficiency within each of the local authorities in the East Midlands. As well as looking at the use of resources, they also identified opportunities to use cost effective housing and assistive technology-based alternatives to residential care.

Two Action Learning Sets (one for each phase) were facilitated by Housing and Support Partnerships following completion of the strategic analysis, to work on housing solutions and to share the learning and planned developments from each local authority. Regional events were also held to launch the regional programme, share learning and initiatives, explain and promote the use of community support models, and to work in partnership with self advocates and family carers to explore new models and options.

Evaluating Success ▾

The programme established some fundamental key findings:

- People with learning disabilities go into residential care because workers and families think it is safer even though they may be able to live in their own home.
- Councils need to provide more housing related support for people with learning disabilities.
- In many cases it is only intended for people with learning disabilities to go into residential care for a short while, but they often end up staying for a long time.
- There is not enough work done with children to plan for their future housing needs.
- Carers are not always given enough support at the right time this can lead to family breakdown.
- Workers are not always planning with carers at key times.
- Although some people have person centred support plans, they are often not focused on housing needs.
- Assistive technology is not used enough to help people to live in their own homes.

Tailored Support ▾

The next stage in the process was to provide tailored support for each council:

- Five councils chose additional tactical support from CSED to work with providers to develop new housing options for an identified group of people
- Four other councils chose to work with their local NHS, with support from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation, to review and develop person centred plans and futures for a small number of people with complex and challenging behaviours who are currently living in high cost placements, some of which are a long way from home.
- The EM IEP co-funded Derbyshire County Council to facilitate the ‘Getting a Home of My Own’ project to increase the range of housing options available in Derbyshire and to share the learning across the region.
- EM IEP, NHS and Department of Health funding was also allocated to Nottingham and Lincolnshire to test the effectiveness of introducing assistive technology for people with learning disabilities and share the learning with other localities.

Derbyshire’s ‘Getting a Home of My Own’ project ▾

Aims and Target

The aim of this project is to help people with learning disabilities in Derbyshire have more choices about where they want to live. It set out to provide clear and easy to read housing information so people can choose where they want to live. It is a three year project which aims to help up to 110 people currently living in residential care to have a home of their own.

Action

Following a thorough review of those living in residential care, 86 people were identified who could

potentially be moved into their own homes by 2012.

The housing needs of a further 204 people with learning disabilities were examined. This information has been passed on to the district and borough councils to enable them to plan ahead. As part of a review and assessment, people are always asked about housing needs to allow better planning for the future.

Success

Between September 2009 and September 2010, 47 people with learning disabilities were moved from residential care into their own

homes. This project is expected to deliver cost efficiencies of up to £800k per annum. The eight district and borough councils are also implementing local pathways action

plans and Adult Care are procuring additional housing options services to increase the development of new housing pathways for people with learning disabilities.

Project Outcomes ▾

This programme has delivered tangible results across the East Midlands:

Phase One

The four local authorities involved in phase one of the programme were Derbyshire, Leicester City, Leicestershire and Rutland. Through their work with CSED they have identified the potential opportunity to save over £5.3 million across the four councils, through the development of a range of new housing and support options.

Phase Two

The local authorities participating in phase two of the programme were Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Derby City and Nottingham City. Although it is not yet known how many people will be supported to move from residential care into their own homes, it is estimated that local authorities in the second phase of the programme have the potential to save over £5.5 million across the four councils.

Additional Successes

In addition, two councils are moving forward to improve outcomes through the use of assistive technology. In Nottingham City, a project to test the benefits of placing three designated Telecare and Assistive Technology support workers in each of the City Community Learning Disability Teams has estimated gross cashable benefits over five years of £923,000.

Lincolnshire is using Telecare to support young people with learning disabilities to move on from a NHS medium secure unit into a low secure step down/rehabilitation service with assistive technology, towards their eventual goal of supported living in their own homes. New and established Telecare is also being used to help people with learning disabilities to live safely in community supported living tenancies, which will reduce their dependency on services and should deliver savings estimated at around £1m over 5 years.

“This has been an incredibly valuable and productive piece of work. The overwhelming support from within the East Midlands highlights the genuine need for action taken about housing options for those with learning disabilities. The outcomes from phase one are

extremely positive and phase two promises to be equally successful.”

Councillor David Sprason
Lead Member Adults and
Communities
Leicestershire County Council



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East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Case Studies

The East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EM IEP) is funding the Derbyshire Getting a Home of My Own project with £100,000 for this three year programme of change.

The East Midlands Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (EM IEP) is committed to celebrating the successful, innovative and imaginative project work that exists in the East Midlands region.

The EM IEP Support Team publish case studies showing how East Midlands councils are improving services and delivering significant improvements and efficiencies.

The case studies are intended to inspire councils in the region, and indeed nationally, to transform services and benefit from the processes developed by those councils that have pioneered the way forward.