

# H&SA

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Rising to the Challenge: Independent Living and People with Learning Disabilities

2015



Thanks to Certitude for allowing us to use their 25th birthday illustration.

ILLUSTRATION: JAKE MEYER

## Independent Living is Freedom

In this year, the 800th anniversary year of the Magna Carta, People First England's Gary Bourlet and Kaliya Franklin proposed a new Magna Carta for people with learning disabilities based on the freedoms set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

They think that freedom would be: *a world where you could wake up in a comfortable home and go to work being safe and valued.*

*There would be no inequality or discrimination. There would be the right to sufficient financial support to feed, house and clothe*

*yourself and your family. You could make your own choices about where you want to live and what support, if any, you would need. There would be free access to transport and free medical care. Education would be free and available for all. People would be free to love and befriend as they choose.*

These basic freedoms which most citizens of the UK take for granted. But in 2015 the 1.5 million adults with a learning disability are frequently blamed, targeted and forbidden these freedoms. This is our challenge!

Extract from A Magna Carta for learning disabled people, Open Democracy 2015.

