

There is an Alternative

There is an Alternative is a programme of support developed by the **Housing and Support Alliance**. It is designed to enable commissioners and providers to develop person centred approaches to housing and support for people with learning disabilities who have behaviour that challenges.

The programme

- Is a practical approach to helping people living in healthcare facilities move into the housing and support that works for them.
- Develops local housing and support services so that people with learning disabilities can avoid inpatient services where possible.
- Is flexible and cost effective, built around the needs of the commissioner and provider.
- Uses the skills of providers, commissioners and experts who are already helping people live successfully in their communities.



There is an Alternative

A programme of support to develop person centred, community based housing and support for people with learning disabilities labelled as challenging

H&SA
Housing and Support Alliance

The **Housing and Support Alliance** has launched a programme of support for commissioners and providers to help them move people with learning disabilities on from Assessment and Treatment Units (ATU's) and/or to support local people to remain in their communities with the housing and support that works for them.

Many people end up in ATU's because there are no suitable services available locally. Most people with challenging behaviour need highly personalised housing and support arrangements to meet their needs.

Standard service based approaches often fail to meet their need for several reasons:

- People are placed in these services rather than have a service developed around them
- They do not get the basic environmental needs of the person right so therefore it is difficult to make even good support work well.
- The service is based on a shared model where individuals have little choice over who they live with.
- The service provides both housing and support in an inflexible arrangement where people need to move if they need to change their support provider.

Individualised approaches to housing, care and support are essential or there will be a major risk that people moving on from ATU's end up in community based services that still fail to meet their needs.

The principles of the programme:

- The right community, support, clinical support, location and built environment need to be at the centre of planning a move on
- People with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour should have housing arrangements that give them control over where they live, who they live with and how they are supported if they are to maximise success in managing their behaviour
- People with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour should not be placed in voids in existing services or group living arrangements if it is not an active choice and based on a person centred approach to planning
- It should not be assumed that people with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour should live with others unless it is an active choice and a result of a person centred approach to planning
- People with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour should be able to remain in their home if and when their care arrangements need to change so care arrangements should not be a condition of tenure
- People with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour should have security of tenure in their home

The best providers and commissioners helping you locally

The H&SA is a charitable, independent advice service and membership organisation. We promote community based approaches to housing and support and have long been the leading UK organisation in developing innovative, person centred approaches to housing and support.

Our report, *There is an Alternative* shows how people who are labelled as challenging can live good lives within their communities, often at less cost than institutional alternatives, has been widely promoted as the way forward for how we support people labelled as challenging. Our members are the commissioners and providers that know how to achieve the best local services for people labelled as challenging.

Our approach to development and support is unique in that we are not consultants, we are a network of providers, commissioners and experts who have direct experience of developing, commissioning and providing the best services in the UK that support people labelled as challenging.

Our support is practical and hands-on with a focus on achieving good results for individuals. We will be able to draw from the expertise of our members www.bit.ly/hsa-membs and team of associates including housing, housing

funding, personal health budgets, welfare benefits, mental capacity, community care law, DOLs and behavioural support.

We will recruit members to support local areas by matching a member with the right experience and expertise with a commissioner

and/or provider. Members will offer one off days of support, temporary, intensive periods of support or long term support through a secondment from their organisation. The recruitment process will ensure that the members have practical and up to date knowledge and

experience in successfully supporting people who challenge to move into person centred housing and support arrangements.

Providers recruited to support local areas will act independently on behalf of H&SA and not be representing their organisation or promoting their services.



The programme of support

The programme can provide tailored expertise, project management, oversight and mentoring to see through the process of planning and move on for nominated individuals currently placed in ATUs. The programme of support will be negotiated locally and depend on local capacity and circumstances.

The programme can include:

- Support for the development of robust and person centred approaches to planning with people that need to move and in collaboration with their families and professional networks to come up with effective plans.
- Support for commissioners to source and develop the local housing and support needed to bring people back to their communities
- Support to broker and develop high quality, sustainable models of housing and support that gives people real choice and control over what happens in their lives
- Support with the process of planning and acquiring the housing, support and clinical support needed locally
- Support for commissioners to develop local strategies for local housing and support
- This could include;
 - Developing local strategies with commissioners
 - Development of a project plan around the move of each individual
 - Project and update meetings with key clinical, housing and social care professionals, families and others involved in making the move happen.
- Meetings with the individual, family and network to support effective planning
- Input from experts to deliver housing, support and clinical support
- Housing brokerage
- Expertise in supporting challenging behaviour
- Expertise in the legal framework including mental capacity, DOLs and rights to housing and care.
- Mentoring of key local staff

Programme cost

Fees will be negotiated based on the length and complexity of the work. All providers and commissioners providing senior staff to this programme will charge a fee to back fill in their organisations. The maximum charge will be based on our standard day fees.

Standard fees:

£450.00 per day for members of H&SA

£550.00 per day for non-members

For longer term pieces of work, H&SA will negotiate a contract or secondment at an equivalent salary level for the work required.

More information

For more information or a discussion about your local needs please contact:

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