

# Where people live

People with learning disabilities want to have more control over their lives, live in their own homes, with people they choose to live with, within their own communities. We have known this for some time. We can see from recent statistics that local authority commissioners and providers have listened and are helping people with learning disabilities to do just that. Numbers of people in tenancies, home ownership and supported housing is up and the number of people being placed in residential care, nursing homes and acute facilities is down. Commissioners and providers have done this despite having ongoing pressures with budgets. So even though housing and social care can feel a bit gloomy at the moment, there are reasons to feel positive.

Number of adults with learning disabilities known to councils	2009/10	2013/14	+/-	Overall %
	136,350	142,240	4.41%	100

## Where People with Learning Disabilities Live\*

\*from local authority returns to the Health and Social Care Information Centre based on adults aged 18+ known to councils

Settled housing with family/friends (inc flat share)	41,590	52,100	26.83%	36.63%
Registered care home	24,830	25,740	3.71%	18.10%
Supported accommodation (including group homes)	17,655	24,515	38.86%	17.23%
Tenant (council, housing association etc)	13,460	16,730	24.29%	11.76%
Tenant (private landlord)	3,710	4,835	30.32%	3.4%
Owner occupier/shared ownership	2,755	3,760	36.48%	2.64%
Shared Lives	2,695	3,560	32.10%	2.5%
Acute/long-stay residential facility/hospital (Commissioned by LA)	1,295	1,040	-19.69%	0.73%
Acute/long-stay residential facility/hospital (inc. NHS commissioned) LD Census Sep 2013		3250		2.28%
Registered nursing home	1,830	2,060	12.57%	1.45%
Sheltered housing	640	890	39.06%	0.63%
Other temporary accommodation	705	805	14.8%	0.57%
With family/friends as 'short term guest'	810	745	-8.02%	0.52%
Rough sleeping/shelters/refuges	120	100	-16.67%	0.07%
LA-placed temporary accomm (B&Bs etc)	195	210	7.69%	0.15%
Prison/other detention/probation hostel etc	65	75	15.38%	0.05%
Mobile accomm for Gypsy/Roma and Travellers	20	25	25%	0.02%

## The Care Act and Housing

The Care Act is something else to be positive about. It is a major development in helping people with learning disabilities get the housing they need.

A new duty to prevent people going in to care and an explicit acknowledgement that the suitability of living accommodation is a key to well-being and independent living is welcomed. Housing must also now be part of the care assessment process and advice on housing options must be provided along with care advice.

Integration is central to how public bodies will deliver the Care Act. Housing authorities must co-operate with health, social care and criminal justice systems and we are likely to see more rigour from Health and Well-being boards and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments in the inclusion of housing for people who require health and social care.

This is all good, but in the context of stretched social care budgets and a new eligibility framework that will make people with lower support needs eligible for social and health care, there will be tensions for commissioners. Balancing budgets, local priorities and the requirements of the Care Act will be tricky.

Now is the time for commissioners to be collaborating with housing and care providers to find new ways to deliver services and make scarce resources go further. We are seeing exciting examples of Good Neighbour schemes, Timebanks, Support Tenants, Community Networks, and Assistive Technology that both improve people's lives and are cost effective. Now is the time to be talking to each other.