

**HOUSING STRATEGY**  
**HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES**  
**(2010 – 2015)**

**Easier Read Version**





## About the Easier Read Housing Strategy



This report is called the Housing Strategy. It tells you all about plans for supported housing in Southampton, for the next five years.

The Housing Strategy tells you what people in Southampton are going to do next – the Action Plan. Then you can read some chapters which are about different things about housing and support.



You can also look at the booklet “Where You Can Live” which tells you about different sorts of places to live.

This might help you understand this Housing Strategy.

This booklet is on the website: <http://friendlypeople.co.uk/uploads/meetings/Housingleaflet.pdf>

You can ask someone for help if you have questions about this Housing Strategy.



Clearer Information Group

Thank You

A big thank you to the Clearer Information Group, supported by Choices Advocacy who helped write this Easier Read Housing Strategy

# HOUSING STRATEGY

## HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

### Chapter 1

### Vision

Southampton City aims to meet the hopes of people with learning disabilities, and for them to have choice over where and how they live their lives; that they have decent homes to live in, and the support they need to enable them to be independent, and that their rights as individuals are recognised and respected.

The first Housing Strategy was written in 2002.

Since then:

- More than 200 people have moved into their own homes. Including 40 people who needed specialist homes to help them move from Locally Based Hospital Units (LBHU)
- We have a monthly housing panel which helps people find supported housing

Who helped with this housing strategy?





- People with learning disabilities
- Housing staff
- Social Care staff
- Choices Advocacy

Mencap  
NHS Southampton  
Supporting People staff

Report

There will be a report from Housing staff each year about how the strategy is working.

## Action Plan

	Actions
<p>What the Government says we should do</p> 	<p>Make sure we count everybody living in a settled home in Southampton. The Government calls this Settled Accommodation.</p> <p>Make sure we help more people live in a settled home every year.</p>
<p>Supported Housing</p> 	<p>Look at different ways to get more supported housing.</p> <p>This includes using private landlords more.</p> <p>It includes Keyring networks, where a volunteer supports a small group in a local neighbourhood.</p> <p>Get Supported housing that works well for people with these needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People who need a lot of support, who have Profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD)</li> <li>- People who are disabled because they have problems seeing or hearing; or they have problems moving around (mobility problems)</li> <li>- People with learning disability and autism who need a lot of support</li> <li>- People who have difficult health problems</li> <li>- Younger people who need more support when they first live in a new home</li> </ul>



- Older people who might have dementia or other health problems because they are getting older.

These will include housing with ground floor space and more accessible housing.

Get more small groups of flats where people have support visiting them in their flats. Get 2 more blocks of flats, with one on the West side of Southampton. Make sure some of the flats are on the ground floor.

Make sure the supported housing we already have is working well. This includes making sure support is good and tenants can say what they think about it.

Care and Support to help people be more independent in their home



Help people be more independent in their home. The Supporting People team will pay money for 2 support providers to help people living in short-term supported housing, and people living in their own tenancies.

Staff should know how to support people with their housing and should have training to help them do a good job.

Make sure people living in supported housing can choose and be in control of their support. People's Support Plans will probably all look different.



Make sure people supporting them work in a person-centred way. This means everybody will be different; so staff will change the way they work to suit each person.



Find out more about gadgets and technology that can help people live more independently. This is also called Telecare or Assistive Technology. This is a bit like a remote control for your television. Or an alarm that can buzz in a cup of tea to tell a blind person when the cup is full.

Make sure staff and people with learning disabilities know about these gadgets.

Advice and Information about Housing choices



Use the booklet “Where you can live” to help tell people about housing. Make sure it is up to date every year.

Make a plan about what different information people need (people with learning disability, family carers, staff).

Owning your own home







Look into how people could buy or part-buy their own home.

Find out what problems there are and count how many people buy their own home in Southampton.

Make sure people, their families and staff have the right information about buying a home.

Help Housing staff make sure their information is clear for people with learning disabilities.

<p>Parents with learning disabilities</p> 	<p>Look into how supported housing might help parents who have learning disabilities.</p> <p>Talk to Children's teams about this.</p>
<p>Residential Care</p> 	<p>Get better information to understand the support and housing needs for people who live in residential care.</p>
<p>Finding new and different ways to provide supported housing</p> 	<p>Make sure all parts of the council understand we need to find new supported housing in lots of different ways, so we will need to be flexible with the rules.</p>
<p>The Disability Housing Panel</p> 	<p>Make sure the Disability Housing panel does a good job and helps people get the housing they need.</p>

## Chapter 2 Numbers of People



- People with Learning disability are living longer
- There are more people with Learning disability
- There are more people with very high support needs becoming adults
- Lots of people still live with their families
- People with learning disability have less choice about where to live than other adults

## Chapter 3 What people like in a home



- People with learning disabilities and their families want more choice about where to live and who to live with.
- Less people are asking to live in residential care homes now
- People said they want to feel safe where they are living

## Chapter 4 Advice and information on housing options



- There is some good information available like the “Where you can live” booklet
- We need to make sure this is kept up to date
- We need to make sure everyone including people and their families know where to get information. Everyone needs to know who can help, including Housing departments

## Chapter 5 Affordable rented housing



- There is not enough affordable rented housing for all the people that want this
- There might be a long wait so people should apply early
- People need simple information to help them understand a tenancy. Some people will need an official “Deputy” to sign it for them.
- People can get help to bid for a home; and help to manage after they have moved in.

## Chapter 6 Home ownership



- There are different ways to work out your money so you can buy your home (or part of your home)
- You need to think about paying for repairs too
- We need to tell everyone about home ownership as it might be a good choice for some people

## Chapter 7 Building new affordable housing



- Housing Associations often build affordable homes
- We need money and land to build new homes and we do not have much money or land
- We will have to be creative and work hard!



## Chapter 8 Private rented housing

- Renting from a private landlord might be quicker or give you more choice
- Some private landlords might not understand what people with learning disabilities need
- We need to find ways that more people can use private housing

## Chapter 9 Care and support – Independence in the home



- There are different types of support that can help you live in your own home
- These include housing support, personal care, support with daily living like cooking a meal, technology and gadgets
- We need to make support for people with learning disabilities better
- Person centred planning can help you make a support plan that is right for you

## Chapter 10 Supported housing



- There are lots of different types of supported housing. These can be shared with other people or on your own. You might have support there all the time, or visiting you.
- The Action Plan (on Page 4) about Supported Housing tells you about some groups of people who need more supported housing.
- 'Extra Care' housing for older people can work well for people with learning disability
- Keyring is a network of people who live near each other, and a volunteer. They all support each other. We need to think about if this would work in Southampton.



## **Chapter 11**            **'Shared lives' schemes**

- Shared Lives is where up to 3 people with a disability live in a family home
- 45 people live in Shared Lives in Southampton. It can be a good choice for some people.

## **Chapter 12**            **Residential care**



- Nearly 200 people from Southampton with a Learning disability live in a residential care home. Some of these are away from Southampton
- Many residential care homes need to be more modern. They are often not good value for money
- Less people are asking to move to a care home
- The Government wants us to make sure there is more choice for everyone about where to live. The Government wants us to help more people live in their own homes.

## **Chapter 13**            **Money and Resources**



- This chapter tells you more about the different amounts of money that are spent on care and housing support in Southampton for people with learning disabilities
- For April 2009 to March 2010 the money added up to £13.4 million.

## Chapter 14 Summary

- This section pulls together everything we have talked about so far.

Report

The main things in this Plan (Strategy) are:

- Help more people get the housing they want
- Help more people live in their own settled home
- Make sure the support people get in their own homes is really good
- Make sure everyone knows about how to get information and support with housing
- Make sure support is personal and each person's choice

### Extra Bits (Appendix)

There are 5 other bits of information attached to the strategy, which you can look at:

1. What does “learning disability” mean?
2. “What we said about housing” – a report about what people with learning disability in Southampton said about housing
3. What the Government and law says about housing
4. Where to find easier information about housing
5. Where we got the information for this strategy

