

EASY READ

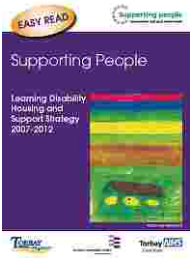
Supporting People

Learning Disability
Sector
Commissioning
Strategy
2009-2014



Supporting People Learning Disability sector Commissioning Plan 2009 – 2014

Introduction



In 2007 we wrote the Learning Disability Housing Plan. The plan talked about how we would buy support services in the future. In the plan we did not say what this would be like



In April 2008 £1.1 million was given out by Supporting People to buy support for people with a learning disability.



A checklist was written and showed that things needed to change. There is no new money but we want to change the way we spend the money that we have.



Across England and in Torbay people say we should give people Individual Budgets and help people plan their own support. We have made this part of our plan.

Important Plans



There are lots of Government plans and local plans that show that we must give people more choice and control about where they live and who supports them:

- Valuing People Now 2009
- Independence, well-being and choice 2005
- Getting a Life, Not just a service (draft 2008)
- Independence and Opportunity 2007
- Learning Disability Housing and Support Strategy 2007
- IBSEN Report 2008 (National Supporting People Individual Budgets Evaluation Report)

Aims of this plan



We want this plan to tell people what services Supporting People want to buy to support people with a learning disability



Supporting People Services Now

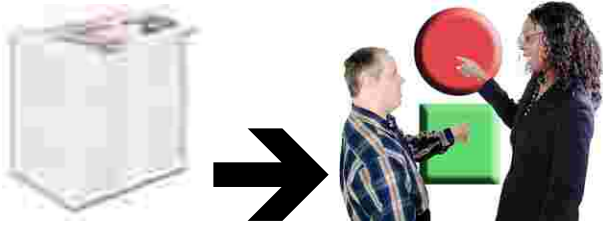


Supporting People spend

£1,075,362 a year on services for people with a learning disability. This money is all spent on blocks of services.

These services are:

Types of units	Number of contracts	Other information
 <p>98 accommodation units. (This means people get their support from the same company who provide their housing)</p>	<p>We have agreements with 9 providers who run this type of service</p>	<p>29 of these places are short term. (this means the person is supported to move on within 2 years)</p> <p>69 are long term. (This means people can stay there as long as they want)</p>
 <p>38 floating support units. (This means people can have their support separate from their housing. If the person moves they could keep the same support workers)</p>	<p>We have agreements with 4 providers who run this type of service</p>	



In 2008 we started a trial for some people with a learning disability to buy their own services using an Individual Budget. We agreed to spend £50,000 on this to see how it could happen.

There are 7 people who have been told how much money they could have. 1 person is already using the money. If the rest take their Individual Budget it will mean all the money for the trial is used.

Our Vision and standards for Supporting People Services in the future



- We want people with learning disabilities to have a real choice of where to live

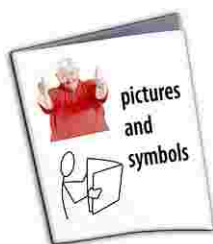


- We want people to be supported to have their own tenancies or own their own homes if they want



- We want people to have a real choice of who provides their support and how their support is delivered
- We want people to have the option of an Individual Budget

- We want services that will support people with more challenging needs



- We want all information about organisations and all information services give out to be easy to understand



- We want all housing provided to be really good quality and for landlords to be accredited. This means they are checked against some standards.



- We want services that help people move on and floating support services that
 - Help people learn independent living skills.
 - help them to move on to mainstream housing options,
 - And if the person wants, help them to get an Individual Budget to

stay independent.



All services that Supporting People money pays for should:



- Be person centred and designed around the person not the organisation
- Put the person at the centre of making choices
- Allow the person to have choice in how support is delivered



- Support people to be as independent as they can



- Support people to find and use natural support wherever possible. This means support from family, friends and neighbours.



- Be able to show what people have done well against Supporting People targets.



It should not matter if Supporting People have a contract with the service or if the person has an individual budget. All services should work like this.

When Supporting People buy blocks of services we will make sure the service is working to the plans we have. They should be good value for money and be good quality.

The services we want to buy in the future:



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Services we buy in a block -

Accommodation services

The checklist planned by the Learning Disability Housing Group said that only 25% or less of the services that are bought in a block should be accommodation based (where people get their support from the same company that provide their housing)

Most of the services that we buy in a block will be short term. This means that they will be there to support people for up to 2 years.

Services that are there to support people for up to 2 years will help people to learn independent living skills and help people to move in to mainstream housing. They will help people who need support for longer to get an Individual Budget to stay living independently.

Accommodation based services will need to be able to work flexibly to work with people who choose an Individual Budget.



Floating Support

Floating support services are where people get their support separately from their housing and can keep the same support worker if they move

We will check numbers of people asking for a floating support service and how well the services are supporting people. This will help us work out how many of these services we need.

Floating support services will focus on independent living and helping people move on. This will include supporting young people at transition, people living with older family carers and people moving on from other types of housing (e.g. residential care)

These services should be flexible. They should be able to change the number of hours they support people. This is so they can support people with higher support needs and be flexible when people need more or less support.



Individual Budgets

Supporting People will give money for Individual Budgets so that people will have choice about who they get their support from. We will buy fewer services in a block so we have more money to give people their own Individual Budget.



New services

People have told us that the new services here would support people with a learning disability to live more independently:



Taster flat – this service is needed to help people move on from places. The service would learn from other services like the assessment flat at Baytree. We need to think about what this service would look like.



Neighbourhood network model – this service will be like a ‘keyring’ project with 1 worker supporting 9 people. All houses and flats will be in a 1 mile area.

People with autism – We know we need to support people on the autistic spectrum with services that work for them. The services we have now do not meet this need. We need to decide if we need a separate service or if individual budgets will fill this gap.

Advocacy support/brokerage – We know people need independent advocacy and brokerage. This is so people can make a choice about services with all the information. It can also help people have a smooth transition to buying their own services. Supporting People and Torbay Care Trust need to talk about this more and decide how we can pay for it.



How we will get there



We will check the number of short term accommodation based units we buy and see if this is the right number

Long term accommodation based services will be changed. Some of the things we will do instead are offer people individual budgets or buy things people want when they want them. (Spot Purchase).

We will keep checking the number of floating support places we buy in a block. We will look at people's achievements, how often they had spaces, how well they helped people move on. This will help us decide what to buy.

