

## **About This Housing Plan**

### **Why Do We Need a Housing Plan**

This plan is needed because we believe a lot of people with a Learning Disability in this County do not have the same choices & options about where & how they live as other people who live here.

We also believe that people often don't know who can help them to explore how they live or where to get this help from.

We think people don't often know about the many ways of living that are open to them & the support that is available to people with a Learning Disability to live safely & independently in our communities.

We also wonder if people know the best routes to get help & advice about housing.

Presently, there are about 1500 people with a Learning Disability in the county that are known to Social Services. Of these we know that 40% are living in residential care & another 40% are living in the family home.

This means that less than 20% are living independently either as a tenant or home owner. In the general population of this County about 98.5% of people live independently, with 73% owning their home.

Whilst it may not be possible or desired by each person with a Learning disability to live independently we need to ask the question are people getting a fair & informed chance to even consider this, and not just once but regularly?

We do know

- People often feel their choice about how & where they live is limited
- There is confusion about who can help them explore & fulfill their needs
- People themselves & their supporters can have low expectations about what is possible for them
- Staff from Social Services Care management teams don't always have time to work in a planned & methodical way to help them
- We believe people with a Learning Disability very rarely approach the District / Borough council housing for help & advice or to register their housing need
- Parents may want to create a plan for the future for their son or daughter but don't always know where to turn for the most appropriate help in a planned way.

## **Our Objectives**

By creating a Housing Plan we aim to agree steps by which we can help people to:-

- Expand the expectations about living where & how people chose
- Access & provide more information about many ways of living, including independent or residential living
- Find out about the support & techniques that available to help people live independently
- Access information about ensuring safety & security for people in their home
- Help more people consider different ways of living such as home ownership or living in community
- Help people feel more able to find or create their own housing solutions or ways of living
- Come together with other people to plan & meet their housing 'dreams'

## **The Steps to Making this Housing Plan**

The areas we need to explore are:-

1. People's housing needs, desires & options
2. How we make these happen
3. The resources needed & what's available
4. The support needed & who can help us
5. How do we support each other locally to do these things
6. Implementing the Plan – how will we make it happen & make this sustainable
7. Checking its working & adding to it

Actions Already Taken, we have:-

- appointed a project co-ordinator – Marion Turner
- created a project website - [www.myhomemysay.co.uk](http://www.myhomemysay.co.uk) – this one
- contacted many organisations
- made contact with some people with a learning disability & supporters
- convened a meeting of interested people – on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010 to start planning the work
- agreed to use the co-production method to make this plan
- we have names of people wanting to join the project steering group
- have convened the first Steering Group meeting (See Events Notice Board)

Things we need to do

1. Agree the scope of the Housing Plan
2. Decide on the work to do & the groups to do it
3. Discuss the parts in the Housing Plan & how we create them
4. Agree our way of valuing people's contribution to this work in a financially sustainable way
5. Ensuring more people with a Learning Disability & their supporters are involved in this work
6. Decide how to explore the Housing Options

## **Other Housing Plans**

The Government have said it is the responsibility of District & Borough Councils to find out about the housing needs of people that live in their area & then create a Housing Plan or Strategy to meet these needs. The plan says how the Local Council & its partners aim to do this.

The District & Borough Councils in Northamptonshire are :-

- Corby District Council
- Kettering Borough Council
- Daventry District Council
- East Northants District Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- Wellingborough Borough Council
- South Northants District Council

They are required by the Government to produce a local 'Housing Strategy' & a Plan which helps people to avoid being with out a home. This is called a 'Homelessness Prevention Strategy'.

Councils produce these to cover a 4 or 5 year period but they must report back to government on the success of their actions once every year.

The Learning Disability Housing Plan that we are creating will become a part of the 7 District/Borough Council Housing Strategies across Northamptonshire