

Alternative Action Plan - Housing Actions  
Draft Actions from the November 2022 CB-NSG

Action: What is needed	How it will be done	Who will do it	When it will be done
<p>Future-proofing housing for people with learning disabilities, including in relation to climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will ensure that housing can be long-term and sustainable</li> <li>- Will reduce the likelihood of having to find a new home for the person due to the house becoming unsuitable, which in turn will mean it is able to be a home and not just a house</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting environmental risk assessments of land/housing before purchase, including looking at whether it is at risk of flooding/other environmental risks               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This will also relate to housing providers' commitments to net zero, etc</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Conducting an assessment of a person's current needs and potential future needs, and assessing whether the house can be further adapted to meet those needs if they arise</li> </ul> <p>These need to be included in (ideally mandatory) guidance, with clear guidance on how to do these and mechanisms for measuring/assessing whether these have been done, and consequences for not doing these</p>	<p>Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) – publish the guidance, provide funding to local authorities, establish oversight board</p> <p>Local authorities and housing associations, involving Care Managers and Occupational Therapists where appropriate, conduct the assessments for their properties</p>	<p>Guidance should be published within a year</p>
<p>Housing provision and care and support provision need to be separated so that the breakdown of a care and support package does not mean that a person is evicted from their home/is admitted to hospital due to lack of appropriate placements</p>	<p>Potential methods of achieving this:</p> <p><u>Long-term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change the law/guidance so that housing provision is separate from care and support provision</li> <li>• Providing incentives for joint housing/care and support providers to allow other care and support providers to take over the management of a placement (and changing law if needed) – promoting collaboration</li> <li>• Providing ring-fenced funding/incentives for housing providers to operate in this area</li> <li>• Introduce the requirement that a person cannot be admitted into a hospital due to a lack of appropriate community housing – if it is not possible for a person to move directly to new housing, there must be respite available which can also double as a place</li> </ul>	<p>DLUHC and DHSC – jointly responsible for changing law regarding notice period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Due to the political difficulties of this and the likely long timescale, work should also begin on approaching providers and campaigning for them to change their notice period w/o a law change</li> </ul> <p>DLUHC and DHSC – jointly responsible for providing incentives/changing law</p> <p>Local authorities/ICBs – responsible for providing suitable respite</p>	<p>Campaigning to change the 28 days to three months should begin immediately</p>

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	<p>where people can move to for a short period while new suitable provision is being adapted for them</p> <p><u>Short-term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extending the notice period from 28 days (current) to three months to allow time for transition planning, reducing the likelihood that no appropriate placement will be found</li> </ul>	<p>provision/short stay accommodation to prevent admission to hospitals</p> <p>CB-NSG members – where applicable, work with their organisations/partners/contacts to recommend separation of housing and care, provide alternative options</p> <p>CBF/Legal Panel – to discuss and develop challenges to 28-day notices at Legal Strategy Meeting<sup>1</sup></p>	
<p>Requirement to both involve the person with learning disabilities and their families in designing/selecting housing, and mandatory guidance to ensure that this involvement is detailed and that the person and their family is listened to, and not just a box-ticking exercise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance on how to communicate with people with learning disabilities, including people with severe learning disabilities who use alternative communication methods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Seldom Heard</a> could be used as a basis for this</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Provide guidance on meaningfully engaging families in this process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This guidance should be co-produced with families</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Record recommendations and requests from families, justify in writing if these recommendations/requests are not followed, have an oversight body that will be able to follow up on these and that providers/commissioners will have to answer to</li> </ul>	<p>DHSC and DLUHC (in collaboration with other relevant bodies)</p>	

<sup>1</sup> See here for further details: [link to Legal Strategy Meeting Actions]

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<p>Re-introduction of the Independent Living Fund (ILF)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although it was ended in 2015, the ILF is still being paid to some people under the Former Independent Living Fund – in England £160.6million has been allocated for 2022-2023</li> <li>• The mechanism is therefore still there to re-introduce the fund</li> </ul>	<p>DLUHC</p>	
<p>Greater provision of respite care and alternative accommodation, including for those who are experiencing crisis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There needs to be sufficient provision to meet the needs of local population and prevent any out-of-area placements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Conduct assessment of local area needs</li> <li>○ Review on regular basis to ensure there is enough to provide both respite care and alternative accommodation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>DLUHC, DHSC, ICBs, local authorities, housing providers – provide respite care</p> <p>ICBs/local authorities – conduct assessment of what is needed</p>	
<p>Providing ring-fenced funding to provide housing for people who are currently in inpatient units and waiting for discharge</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing is crucial for discharge, but people who are in units are often seen as not being at the top of the agenda because they are currently ‘housed’ – providing a pot of ring-fenced funding that is accessible to local authorities, similar to the Community Discharge Fund, that can be used specifically to provide housing for people who would otherwise be able to be discharged</li> </ul>	<p>DHSC – provide funding</p> <p>ICBs/local authorities – distribute funding (e.g. to housing providers) to support people in their area to be discharged</p>	

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<p>Collaboration between health and housing to raise awareness of challenging behaviour and complex needs among housing providers, particularly to prevent eviction when housing is managed by a housing provider</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce guidance and training to raise awareness and support housing providers to work with people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges or who have complex needs</li> </ul>	<p>DHSC and DLUHC, in collaboration with other relevant bodies (e.g. charities commissioned to provide services etc)</p>	
<p>Tackle issues with support providers that also provide housing being unwilling to sign tenancies prior to discharge, even when CDG available</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold discussions with providers to understand why they are currently unwilling to do this in some cases</li> </ul>	<p>DHSC and DLUHC</p> <p>CB-NSG members – where applicable, discuss within organisation/with provider contacts to find out a) whether this is an issue affecting them, b) what is causing it, c) what needs to be done to prevent this being an issue/what is the issue with the CDG</p>	<p>ASAP</p>