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# CB-NSG Updates Paper

## Introduction

This overview paper summarises the work of CB-NSG members since our last meeting on 1st May 2025, covering the work of CB-NSG overall, CB-NSG sub-groups, and consultation responses. For a summary of relevant policy updates since November, please see our Policy Updates Paper.

We would like to thank all CB-NSG members who have contributed to the work detailed here; it would not have been possible without your help and support. We would also like to thank members who have contributed in other ways and/or have contributed to other activities which we have not been able to detail here.

If you come across a strand of work you would like to get involved in, or if you have an update to share, please get in touch. We post regular updates on our webpages and send out regular updates to core and associate members.

For more information, email us at [nationalstrategy.group@theCBF.org.uk](mailto:nationalstrategy.group@theCBF.org.uk) or visit the [National Strategy Group](#) pages of CBF website.

## What is the Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group?

The Challenging Behaviour National Strategy Group (CB-NSG) is made up of a range of different stakeholders with a wide breadth of experience and expertise, working together to drive forward change and make a real difference to the lives of children, young people and adults with learning disabilities (who may also be autistic) whose behaviour challenges.

## The Challenging Behaviour Charter

The core framework of CB-NSG is set out in the co-produced **Challenging Behaviour Charter**. All core and associate CB-NSG members sign up to the Challenging Behaviour Charter, as well as making a commitment to act and to drive change.

The latest version of the Challenging Behaviour Charter can be found on CBF website [here](#). This webpage also includes an animation and an easy-read version of the Challenging Behaviour Charter. Please share the principles of the charter with your networks.

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## CB-NSG Review Update

Over the past few months, we have been working on a review of the CB-NSG and its work, to ensure that it is up-to-date and effective.

The CB-NSG Subgroup Terms of Reference are being updated and standardised, to make them more consistent across each of the subgroups. They are currently being reviewed, and will be added to the CB-NSG webpage when they are ready. It is hoped that this streamlining will allow the subgroups to run more smoothly. Additionally, membership of subgroups is being considered, and we will be sharing opportunities to become involved in the CB-NSG subgroups with you in due course.

The CB-NSG Steering Group is currently in the process of reviewing membership and processes; we will share an update with you shortly.

Finally, in the new year, work to review Core CB-NSG membership will take place to ensure it remains up-to-date and representative.

## CB-NSG Sub-Groups

There are currently six CB-NSG sub-groups, each focusing on a specific area of work.

**Campaign Families**

**Campaigns Group**

**Legal Panel**

**Data Group**

**Housing Group**

**Transition Subgroup**

These sub-groups are attended by CB-NSG members with expertise, experience and interest in the relevant area. These sub-groups generally meet quarterly to identify current issues and agree actions that will address these issues. This work is then shared with CB-NSG Steering Group, who strategically co-ordinate the activity and actions of the sub-groups, and, following this, it is fed back to CB-NSG members.

CB-NSG members are welcome and encouraged to apply to join one or more of these sub-groups. Further information on CB-NSG subgroups can be found [here](#). If you are interested in joining or contributing to the work of CB-NSG through one of these sub-groups, please get in touch by emailing [daisy.fry@theCBF.org.uk](mailto:daisy.fry@theCBF.org.uk).

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## Updates on CB-NSG Sub-Group Work

### Campaigns

CB-NSG members and other stakeholders, including people with lived experience, have collectively been engaging with the Government to share information about what is needed to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability whose behaviour challenges, as part of a sector-wide approach from the learning disability and autism sector.

The Campaign Families group have been feeding into NHS England's Community Ingredients work, sharing their experiences and views on what is needed to support people with learning disabilities in the community, particularly given changes around the Mental Health Act (see the Policy Updates Paper for more information). The Campaign Families group have also been working with Mencap and the CBF to develop an exhibition around 'Homes Not Hospitals'. This exhibition will be held at [Rich Mix](#) in Shoreditch and will be open to the public from **14<sup>th</sup> March 2026-19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**. We will be sharing more information about the exhibition in the coming months.

### Legal Panel

The Legal Panel have fed into various consultations and policy work, and continue to provide expert guidance on work relating to the Mental Health Bill. Most recently, members have also supported evidence submitted to the Human Rights Joint Committee Inquiry on Human Rights of Children in the Social Care System in England.

### Housing

Building on pieces of work including the [Housing](#) section of the [Co-Produced Lifelong Action Plan](#), the CBF, CB-NSG members and other stakeholders have been working to raise the profile of housing issues that impact people with a learning disability, and how these can be overcome. Some of the work that has been done includes engagement with Ministers and officials in both the Department of Health and Social Care and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

In July, a Learning Disability and Autism Housing Coalition, led by Sir David Pearson and including Viv Cooper on behalf of the CBF/CB-NSG Housing Subgroup, met Stephen Kinnock MP (Minister for Care), and Rushanara Ali (former Minister for Building Safety and Homelessness) to discuss housing in the community for people with a severe learning disability, and the Departments have agreed to do some joint scoping work as part of a joined up approach to finding housing solutions. For more information about this coalition, read Sir David's blog [here](#).

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## Transition

The CB-NSG Transition Sub-Group have worked on creating short social media reels to raise awareness of the key issues facing young people with severe learning disabilities during their transition to adulthood, and their families. These reels are accompanied by an [open letter](#) to the Government, which urges ministers to take action, including introducing a statutory age, age 14, for transition planning to begin, introducing a named transition coordinator and developing a cross-departmental, national plan for transition.

The CBF has also worked with two families from the Transition Subgroup to create visual representations of their experience of transition and what would have made their family's journey better. These diagrams, as well as the films and open letter mentioned above, can be found on the Transition webpage [here](#).

Any help with sharing the open letter and social media reels would be gratefully appreciated. We have prepared a template that can be sent out to networks – please get in touch if this would be helpful.

## CB-NSG Actions Update

### Older Family Carers – Planning for the Future Resource

Following discussions at previous CB-NSG meetings, The CBF and Mencap are jointly running a focus group for older family carers in mid-November. This will include considering the [Planning for the Future](#) resource, and the opportunity to start to think about what their relative's life will be like when they are no longer around.

### Update on the Co-Produced, Lifelong Action Plan

The CBF, CB-NSG members and other partners who want to make a difference have been working together to co-produce an action plan that will address the barriers that are currently preventing children, young people, and adults with a learning disability from living good lives in their local communities. You can access the action plan, including an easy-read version, [here](#).

Some of the updates to the action plan over the past few months include expansions to the [Transition to Adulthood](#) section (coordinated by the Transition Sub-Group), including developing 'transition journeys' based on the lived experience of young people with severe learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges and their families:

- [P's Transition Journey](#)
- [T's Transition Journey](#)

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## **What Matters to Me project update**

What Matters to Me was an innovative, three-year project that involved engaging directly with young people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities to gather their experience, preferences and views, and use this learning to influence policy. The project's multimedia manifesto, which includes four films and a 'toolkit' for practitioners wishing to replicate this work, can be found on the [What Matters to Me](#) webpage.

## **Forward Together project update**

The CBF is currently undertaking a National Lottery-funded project, working in three areas across the UK (Kent and Medway, the Black Country and Salford/Manchester) setting up a regional network in each location, which brings together family carers, practitioners and other stakeholders with an interest in improving support and services for people with severe or profound learning disabilities. Some of the key issues and actions from the Forward Together work will be feeding into the next CB-NSG meeting.

An in-person Community of Practice meeting was held in each area in June 2025, which aimed to introduce the project, identify local issues and how the project can help address them, and discuss how to widen the project's reach. Feedback from all three meetings were overwhelmingly positive, with attendees valuing the opportunity for networking. One family carer who attended the CoP in Maidstone shared that it was "great to meet so many parents and professionals that also really want a change".

The next Community of Practice meetings are taking place in person from October until February 2026. The format of these meetings is a "find out and have your say" session, where local teams, organisations or charities who provide services or support to children, young people or adults with severe learning disabilities, and their families, will be invited to attend and share information about their services.

The first "find out and have your say" event has already taken place in the Black Country. It had around 60 attendees and received great feedback, including families describing how the event had given them hope, and professionals valuing the opportunity to learn about what is happening in other areas.

If you are interested in joining the regional network for any of these areas, sign up at the bottom of [this page](#). Members receive email updates regarding the progress of the project in their area and are invited to attend Community of Practice meetings.

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## Consultations

### Law Commission review of Disabled Children's Social Care

Members of the Legal Panel shared their input into CBF's response to the [Law Commission consultation on Disabled Children's Social Care](#), which was submitted at the end of January 2025. Members of the Transition Sub-Group also contributed to the three questions that specifically related to the transition from children's to adult's social care. In the Law Commission's [final report](#), The CBF's evidence (which drew on the work of these subgroups) was cited 11 times.

We were pleased to see that the Law Commission has recommended amending the Care Act 2014 to introduce a statutory age of 14 by which transition planning must begin. Through the work of the Transition Subgroup, we are taking this forward to ensure that it does not become forgotten. Please see our Policy Updates Paper for more detail on this.

### Human Rights Joint Committee Inquiry into Human Rights of Children in the Social Care System in England

Members of the Legal Panel also inputted into the Human Rights Joint Committee Inquiry into Human Rights of Children in the Social Care System in England. The aim of this inquiry is "to consider the extent to which the human rights of children in England are protected in the social care system".