

*Challenging Behaviour – National Strategy Group*

# **Using public money better: what reforms are needed to realise independent living in the community for people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges?**

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# Aims and outcomes of workshop



## Attendees will have increased knowledge/understanding of

- What factors and support enable people with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge to live in the community, and why this is important
- The barriers that currently prevent people accessing this support, and how these can be overcome

## Attendees will have worked collectively to

- Feed into a policy proposal for a funding mechanism that will increase the ability of people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges to access the support that they need to live in the community
- Identify any other stakeholders that need to be engaged with, and how to do this
- Agree strategies for influencing

# What does 'independent living' mean?

The right to live independently is about ensuring disabled people are included in the community, live with dignity, and have the same choice and control as others. It does not mean that disabled people should always live alone or without support, but does mean they should be able to access support close to home and not in institutions.

# **Independent living for people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges – what support is needed?**

- Housing that meets needs
- Skilled support workers
- Access to relevant therapies and services

# When support for independent living isn't available

- People with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges and autistic people can be detained in hospital under the Mental Health Act, usually under section 3
- When in hospital, people can get 'stuck'
  - Oct 2025, **50%** of people with a learning disability (who are not also autistic) who are in hospital have been in hospital for over 5 years
- Restrictive practices, trauma, impact on family life

# Support when someone comes out of a unit

- Section 117 aftercare – a legal duty that is placed on health and social services to provide aftercare for individuals who have been detained.
- The aim is to avoid someone being re-admitted to a mental health hospital.

# Reforms to the Mental Health Act

- When implemented, people with learning disabilities/autistic people who do not have a mental health condition will not be able to be detained under section 3 of the Mental Health Act – an important and positive change
- But further action/clarity is needed – there needs to be strong community support in place, and the section 117 funding route will no longer be available for this group of people

# Restating the problem

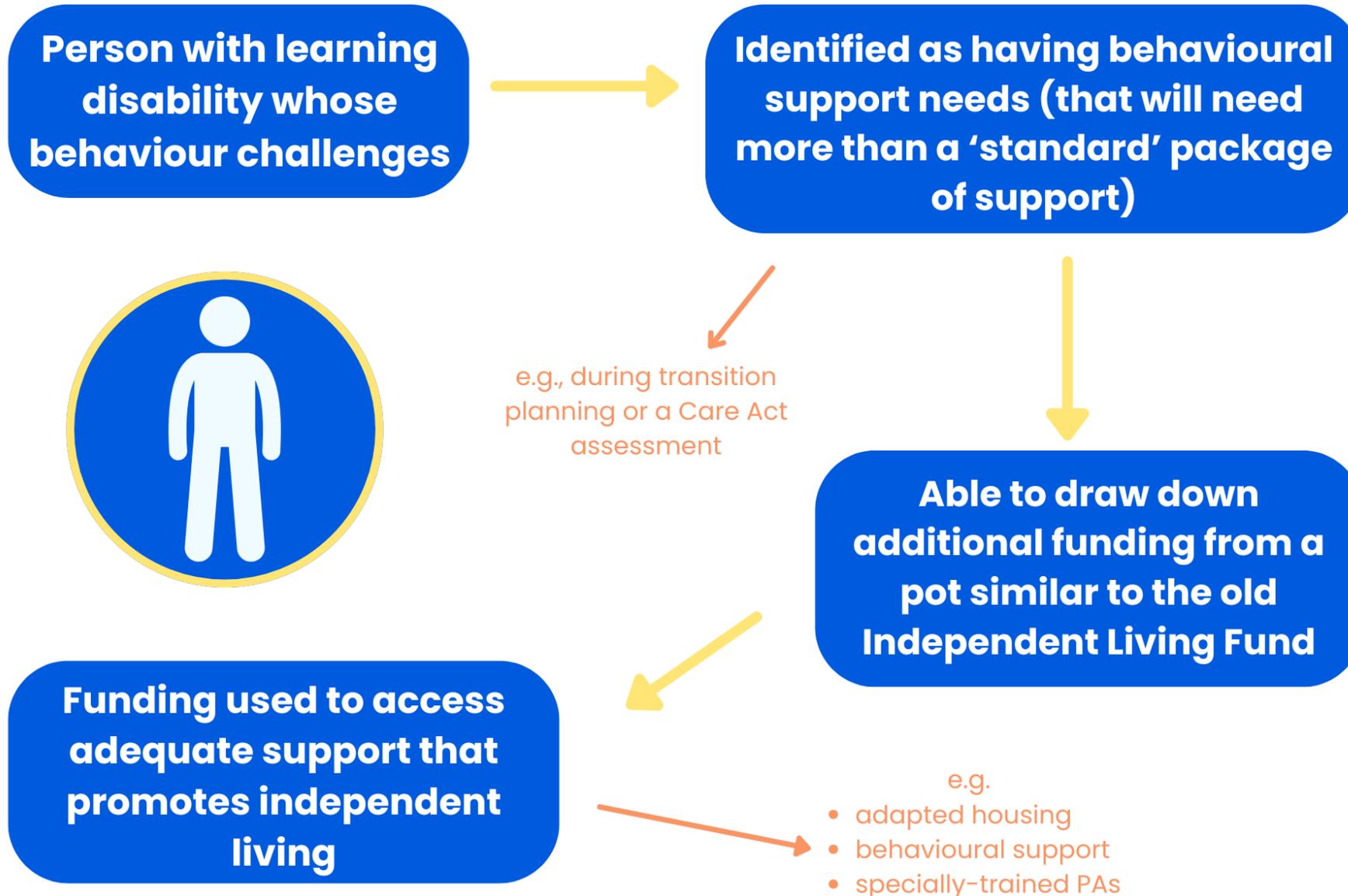
1

Sufficient funding for/access to suitable support is not available to people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges prior to admission to hospital

2

While section 117 aftercare funding is a key funding source that enables people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges to access the support they need to live in the community, people who don't have mental health conditions will no longer be eligible for section 117 funding when Mental Health Act reforms are enacted

# What is needed?



# Discussion questions

- What are your **thoughts on the current proposal** – do you think it would be effective at addressing the issues raised by families?
- What are the **key factors that either prevent or enable access to the right community support** for people with learning disabilities whose behaviours challenge?
- Is there anything you think is **missing**?



# Three things to think about:

- **One piece of information or support available right now** that supports people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges to live in their local communities
- **One 'big, systemic issue'** related to supporting people with learning disabilities and behaviour that challenges to live in their local communities **where we could work together to co-produce change**
- **One practical solution** relating to this issue that you or others in the meeting **could implement tomorrow** to make a difference

