

My Own Place – supported living for autistic people and people with a learning disability



Here is what the report says:

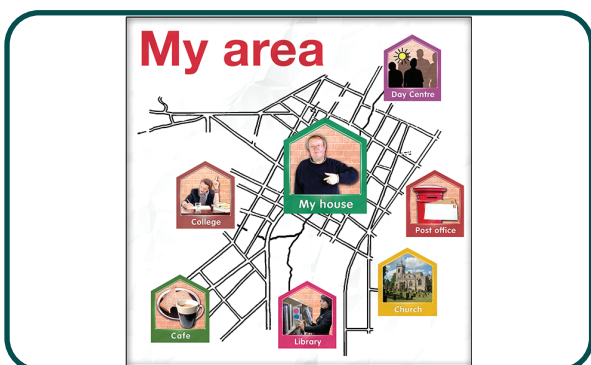
The Council wants to continue to work with the 'My Front Door' project.



This involves improving support and housing for people who have a learning disability and autistic people.



Supported living helps people to gain or keep their independence. People in supported living have their own tenancy and look after their own bills.



Rotherham needs 12 new supported living places each year for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

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When we spoke to people with a learning disability and autistic people, they said it was very important to be near friends and family.



People also said they want to be in a home that feels like it's their home and gives lots of choices.



One person said “where we can relax, unwind and work off that stress”.



In the past, Rotherham has paid for lots of different support services. We want to make all the support services the best they can be.

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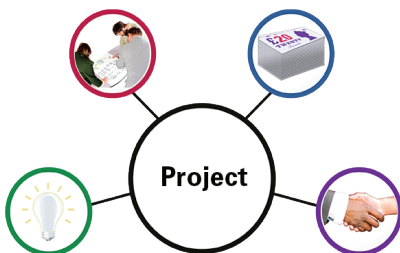
Rotherham wants to make lots of different, good supported living services that will achieve:



- New supported living services to meet people's needs that are co-developed by the people who want to live in them



- Services that give the best value for money



- More small to medium support organisations in Rotherham with good supported living ideas to be available to everyone, so that the council's plans can happen.

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How this should happen:

The cabinet needs to approve a rule, so that more supported living services can happen in Rotherham.



This is so that people get the home that they want, and so that the council can follow the plans in “Building the Right Home”.



The guidance in “Building the Right Home” says there should be:

- A choice of housing so that people get the right home and support at the right time
- A choice of where to live and the community they live in



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- A choice of who they live with (if they share their home with others)



- Support to live independently in their own homes in the community



- A permanent place to live, including owning their own home and supported living

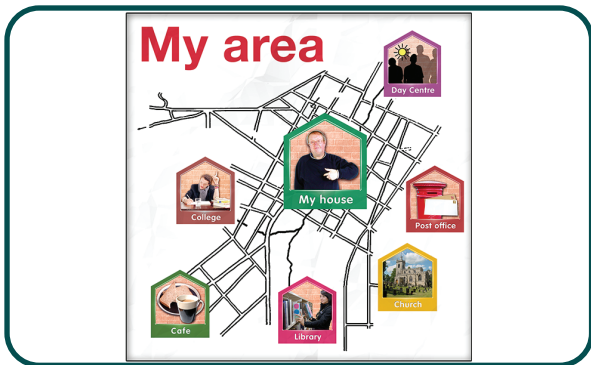


- Housing in which they can feel happy, safe and able to stay in their own home, even when their care and support needs to change.

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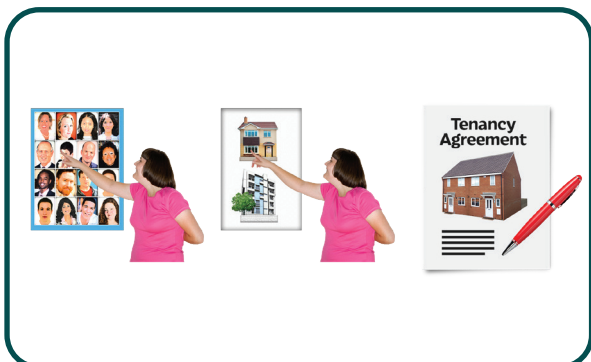
My Own Place: Supported Living for Autistic People and People with a Learning Disability



"I want to have my own place, live with my friends and be a part of my local community".



A person with a learning disability said this at a meeting at Speakup in May 2022 to talk about what good supported living looks like.



Good supported living means that people with learning disabilities and autistic people will own or rent their own homes. They can decide who they live with, what support they get and how they live their lives.

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We want to give the same good supported living to autistic people as we give to people with a learning disability.



Supported living services will need to give extra help for autistic adults to live in their own homes. Some new homes may need to be built to meet people's needs.



206 people live in supported living funded by the Council. Most of these people live in Rotherham, but 8 people live outside Rotherham.



The Council will do their best to make more supported living for people with a learning disability and autistic people, through the My Front Door Project.

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This is because it gives better life chances for people, and it can also be cheaper for the council.



The 8 people living in supported living outside Rotherham will be given a chance to come back to Rotherham if they want to.



We are working closely to the good ideas found in “Think Local, Act Personal – Making It Real”, to make sure that the right care and support is given.



In Rotherham, the population of people with learning disabilities and autism is changing. Not many people have had the chance to have their own place to live.

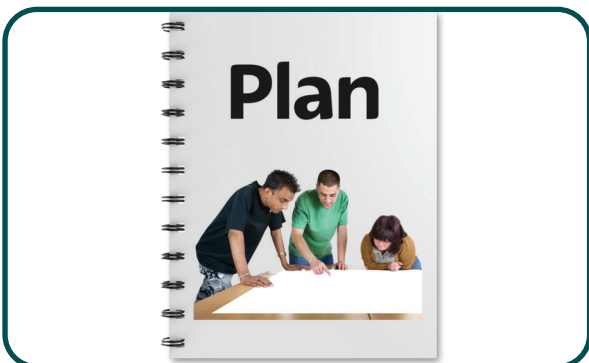
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There are not enough services for autistic people in Rotherham, and people said they needed housing that would help them with different needs.



As one autistic person said: “Home needs to be the place where we can relax, unwind and work off that stress.”



We have done some work to find out what young autistic people and people with learning disabilities need in the future, to make sure services are the best they can be.



The law says that there should be good, accessible services to the right people, in the right place and at the right time. We want Rotherham services to be like this.

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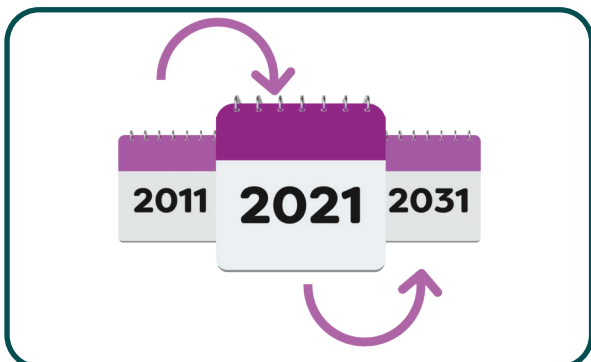
Work has happened to look at how we can make the move from children to adult services better, so that the support helps young people and their families' hopes and dreams and it gives the best possible service.



Work has happened so that we know how many people will need a high level of support.



This work will help social care workers plan with families the move from children to adult services, and plan for the future.



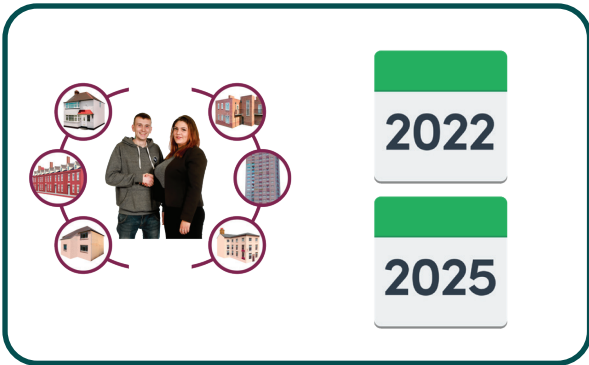
Over the next 10 years, Rotherham is expecting to see:

- More people with additional needs moving to adult services.

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- More autistic adults getting support



Work has happened which tells us that Rotherham will need 12 new of supported living places each year for the next few years.



2. Important things

Where are we now?



Rotherham council pays for 206 supported living places for people with learning disabilities and autistic people. Most of these places are shared housing.

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There are quite a lot of supported living places in Maltby and Wath; and a few in other places.



So the council wants to give better supported living opportunities across Rotherham, working together with everyone including families.



Rotherham Council wants to look for new local supported living organisations, so that there is lots of choice. Small organisations can also be part of the services.



At the moment, there are lots of shared supported living. Some of these are really good, but in the future there might be problems matching people with similar interests and hobbies to others who share the same house.

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There is not enough accommodation called “core and cluster”, this means that there might be several flats or houses with support staff to help people living in them.



There are no supported living places in Rotherham that were made especially for autistic people.



It is hard to meet the needs for supported living places, because there is not enough choice.



It's important that the council gives more choices and more independence to people with a learning disability and autistic people.

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It is also important that they are close to friends and family.



At the co-production meetings in June and July, people with learning disabilities and their families told the council workers that they want:



- flexible services that can give whatever the person needs throughout life



- choice and housing that is close to their families and friendship circles

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- support for more independence skills at home and in the community, this might mean getting a job



Rotherham needs to build on its strengths. For example, the “Employment is for Everyone” movement aims to make jobs and apprenticeships available to everyone, no matter what disability they have.



Support to be more independent:

People with learning disabilities and their families want to continue to improve their independent living skills and be able to work or have an apprenticeship in supported living.



They also want to be able to move on to more independent housing.

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Flexibility (able to change)

A person's use of housing often changes as they grow older.



In Rotherham, a person with a learning disability who lives in supported living will stay in the same property for life.



This is good, but sometimes a person can get stuck in a house that no longer meets their needs. Rotherham needs to make housing and support options more flexible as the person's needs change.



Choice:

We are making sure that choice is at the centre of Rotherham Council's plans for autistic people and people with a learning disability.

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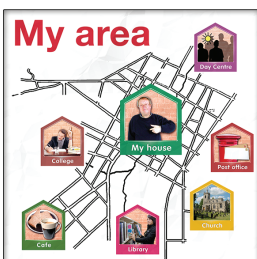
Rotherham's small enterprises are successful. When talking with them, we found there is a lot of interest in giving supported accommodation.



In speaking to Rotherham's autistic people, we found that they want to see supported living services available to meet their needs.



Many autistic people and people with a learning disability said that they want services that are close to their friendship circles and their families. This was a very clear message.



When the council pays for more supported living places, they need to make sure there are supported living places all over Rotherham.

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We will use more digital technology, such as 'Brain in Hand' – which supports autistic people to plan their days.



We want to link our supported living services to this new digital technology to help increase independence.



Rotherham needs to work with services that can deliver these new opportunities, and be able to make new and interesting supported living places to make sure housing needs are the best they can be.



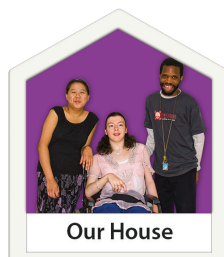
An example of what we want to do: The Old Bakery

The old bakery is a block with 5 flats with 1 shared apartment. The flats are in a safe place, with security cameras and an intercom.

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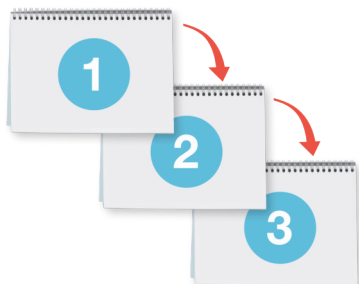
Staff will be at the Old Bakery 24 hours a day to give both shared and 1-1 support to improve independence skills.



They will also help people with a learning disability and autistic people understand how to be a good tenant.



The service will support improving independence skills and, if the person wishes, will link to other services offering employment skills and work placements which can lead to a paid job and improve their future well-being.



This supported living service is a step towards getting an independent 'Home for Life'.

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A peer support network will also help people to support each other and help new people who are using this service. It will give an opportunity to help others build confidence and wellbeing.

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