

# Homes not Hospitals

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The professional association for  
social work and social workers

Webinar: Launch of Key Documents  
10th May 2021 **#swlistening**

Is your local area to make things better





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# Homes not Hospitals

## Introduction and Background

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# Background

- **The Homes not Hospitals workstream was established in response to the violation of the human rights of Autistic people and people with learning disabilities.**
- **At the 2019 BASW UK Conference and AGM a Motion was passed that BASW endorsed the association to focus on human rights practice, and to work with partners in this area.**
- **The purpose of this work is to look at ways to work collaboratively with service providers/Local Authorities/NHS and people with lived experience with a view to influence policy and practice reform, with a Human Rights focus.**
- **Homes not Hospitals supports and promotes national campaigning activity of the same name and that undertaken by #Right2Home.**
- **This work brings together a number of different organisations from across the sector and has involvement from people and families with lived experience.**

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# Phill Wills Parent/Advocate

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## Homes not Hospitals

Social workers and commissioners have a key role to play in ensuring people with a learning disability and/or autism are able to get the right support in the community – support that truly meets their needs. **Bella Travis, Policy Manager, Mencap**

“I pledge to work to ensure no one is admitted to hospital simply because their behaviour may be concerning to others.” **Jo Minchin, National Autistic Taskforce**



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## Homes not Hospitals

*"These documents will help to support social workers and care commissioners to recognise that, with high quality support in line with NAT's independent guide to quality care for autistic people, built on genuine empathy with autistic perspectives, autistic people with all levels of support needs can thrive in real homes with real control over our own lives.."*

**Dr Yo Dunn, Strategic Lead, National Autistic Taskforce**

*"These resources are a must read for social workers and will really help improve practice and deliver the best possible outcomes for citizens."*

**Fran Leddra,  
Chief Social Worker (Adults), DHSC**



# Liz Howard, Professional Officer, BASW England

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# Homes not Hospitals Workstreams

- Resources for young people, adults and families
- Practitioner perspective
- Legal literacy and the role of the social worker
- Models of commissioning- Best practice with citizens and communities





**IN FOCUS**

## Creative ways of working in lockdown

### Three innovations launched in recent months by Bradford's learning disabilities team

**Working creatively with OTs**  
During lockdown a lot of individuals who receive sensory support in a variety of settings have been unable to do so. This support is vital to wellbeing, providing stimulation and connection with others. Working closely with occupational therapists and alongside families, sensory items and support has been provided to people with learning disabilities to use in their own home.

**Preparation for adulthood team**  
Ordinarily the people we support would be in education. We wanted to do something to give them some positivity during this period. The team were tasked with putting together Easter gift packs. Within a week they were being delivered to more than 200 homes thanks to 4400 raised through local donations. The packs consisted of Easter eggs, sweets, a baking kit, bath bombs and face masks and small activity games. Aside from the benefit this had on families, social workers really enjoyed being together again and found seeing the people they work for energising.

**Project to tackle social isolation**  
The learning disability team worked alongside voluntary sector partners to identify those likely to be at increased risk of social isolation. Through a variety of funding streams tablets were purchased to be delivered by volunteers. Social workers have worked with individuals to identify their interests and volunteers personalised the tablets with apps and links ranging from football and Formula 1 to choirs. The volunteers helped individuals get going with their tablets and we also arranged access to the internet for those who did not have it.

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good practice. Social workers continue to keep human rights at the core, endeavour to promote relationship-based and personalised practice through working online and by co-production with people who need support. Above all, they have embraced strengths-based approaches. A good example is the Bradford learning disability team. It has spent the last year making significant changes to the way it works. It developed a 'front door team' which aims to be responsive, preventative, creative, flexible and strengths-focused. It looks to build networks of support and community resources and reduce the amount of bureaucracy.  
A two-page strengths-based conversation record, not an

**'This crisis doesn't mean the fundamentals of practice need to change'**

to respond creatively and flexibly with what's available continues to be of paramount importance.  
The final phase is post COVID-19. There will be fresh challenges but this crisis has highlighted how important values, ethics and rights are to practice. We need to promote increased awareness about people with a learning disability, and to focus on their strengths to better understand their needs.  
Through effective conversations and dialogue, we help people to define and identify their own needs so we are able to negotiate how best to work with them. Through this crisis and reduced services we have had to focus more on social and environmental supports, such as family, partners and friends and how to maintain and help this support.



## Sticking to our **VALUES**

The current crisis is reinforcing the need for a rights-based, person-centred approach and, despite challenges, it's also highlighting innovative practice, write **Nina Riddlesden** and **Philip Heslop**

They have all been affected by the

Before COVID-19, social workers made sense of

# Practitioner Perspectives

The Practitioner Perspective Sub-group captured positive and challenging experiences supporting adults with learning disabilities and/or autistic adults, from social workers perspectives, during Covid-19.

The focus was on ways of working with people that have a learning disability and or autistic adults and families in a range of settings.

Recognising the inequalities and the disproportionate increase in the number of deaths of autistic adults and adults with a learning disability compared to the same period last year.

# Key Documents

- Building on learning from the named social worker pilots and evaluation, providing clarity about the role of the Named social worker in relation to people with learning disabilities and/or autistic people.
- Top Tips and Quick Guide to legal Literacy
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## Homes not Hospitals

The Role of the Social Worker  
and Legal Literacy



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## Key Documents

Key partners from across the sector including people with lived experience, families and carers have co-produced a set of resources, webinars and policy statements to support best practice.

The suite of documents include:

- A statement setting out the absolutes, principles and key messages for commissioners alongside an appendix of best practice examples of services across the country

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*"It is vital that the person is fully involved in decision making, and planning, at every stage of their care whether at home or hospital. System leaders, practitioners and Social Workers must robustly promote and ensure person-centred and strengths-based support at every opportunity".* **Jenefer Rees & Simon Homes, Chairs of the Adult PSW Network**

*"ADASS would like to place on record our thanks to BASW for the enormous time, effort and expertise which was invested in the production of these resources. We will be recommending to ADASS Members that they take careful consideration of the content".* **Stephen Chandler, President, ADASS**

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**Mary Simpson**  
**Chair of the Autism Alliance**



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# BASW England and the Autism Alliance

- Working in Partnership
- Know your Rights
- Care Needs Assessment



# Supporting Homes not Hospitals, The Autism Alliance

"The Autism Alliance are proud to support the work undertaken by BASW on the Homes not Hospital workstream to ensure the positive outcomes for autistic people and people with a learning disability. This work and the new resources are vital to support the role of the social worker and commissioning to reduce the risk of situations reaching the point of hospital admission, this will ensure autistic people and people with a learning disability can live fulfilling and rewarding lives in their communities."

**Mary Simpson, Chair of the Autism Alliance**

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*"I have been involved in the production of the best practice commissioning documents. I am pleased to say there has been a high level of co-production involved throughout this process. We need to take these documents further and show commissioners everywhere that it is possible to do the right thing for and with the people who need support. Let's just roll up our sleeves and do it!"* **Andrew Reece, Head of Integrated Learning Disability Service, Camden Council**

*"These key documents, designed to support best practice commissioning and the role of the social worker and legal literacy, have been co-produced by BASW England in partnership with people and families and key stakeholders from across the sector to and bring about positive change and freedoms."* **Maris Stratulis, National Director, BASW England**

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**Charlotte Goulding**  
**Social Care Policy and Practice**  
**Support Manager**  
**NICE**

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## Homes not Hospitals

- The importance of commissioning person-centred and local services.
- The importance of social workers and other health and social care professionals using these resources to ensure they are up to date and well informed about legislation and evidence-based guidance.
- Links in the resources that could be used to support person-centred decision making that considers human rights and what is in the best interest of the person.

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## Homes not Hospitals

“This has been a collaboration with people with lived experience and key partners from across health and social care organisations. With the right skills and knowledge social work practitioners and commissioners can work alongside people with learning disability and autistic people, using preventative approaches to reduce the risk of hospital admission and develop local support offers which enable people to live well.” **Skills for Care**

“NICE has worked with BASW to highlight the evidence about what works in practice in relation to integrated local services and person-centred preventive and responsive approaches.” **Judith Richardson, Acting Director of Health and Social Care, NICE**

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**Dr Karen Dodd**  
**Learning Disabilities**  
**Professional Senate**

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- Prevention is key – with the right community support for families from childhood to prevent the pathway to admission.
- Commissioning is key – community support needs to be funded properly, developed in co-production with people with learning disabilities and families.
- Limited and appropriate use of Assessment and Treatment Units
- Role of the Senate in promoting the campaign

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## Next Steps



This suite of documents and resources is now available with endorsement from strategic partners



The opportunity to invite a BASW representative to any future meetings to explore how the key documents can be used.



Campaign activity and opportunities for partnership working will continue

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**Questions & Answers**



# Thank you to our Partners



Learning Disabilities Professional Senate



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Thank You!