

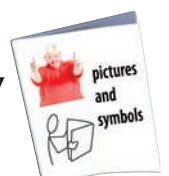


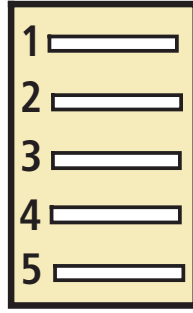
Learning Disability Housing Strategy

2009-2014



easier to read summary
hard words in **bold**



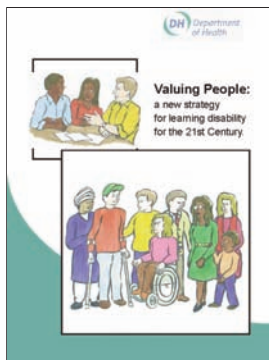


Contents

	Page number
What is the strategy?.....	3
What is it about?.....	4
What has happened in Wigan so far?	6
What is happening nationally?	9
What we want to do now	12
Further information	14



What is the strategy?



In 2001, the government produced a document called '**Valuing People**'.

It said that people with learning disabilities should have more choice and control over where and how they lived.



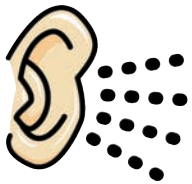
In Wigan, the **Learning Disability Partnership Board** wants to make sure that there is a good range of housing and support services available across the borough for people with learning disabilities.



So they asked a group of people to meet regularly to see if this is happening and to produce a **Learning Disability Housing Strategy**. This group of people are called the **Housing Sub-Group**.



What is it about?



The strategy has been produced after getting the views of:

- people with learning disabilities,
- their families and carers, and
- people who work in housing and social care services.

By doing this, we have found that:



there needs to be better access to good quality information;



we need to be given the opportunity to plan for housing; and...





...people need to be given a choice of housing.



The strategy contains 'good news' stories about how things have got better in Wigan in recent years.



The stories are about local people and show how important good quality housing with the right support is, to enable people with learning disabilities to be more involved in their local communities.



What has happened in Wigan so far?



1. The Housing Sub-Group meets regularly. The people who go to the meeting:

- are interested in developing different housing choices and the housing strategy;
- want to make sure that the strategy is working for people with learning disabilities;
- want to plan future housing services.



The group includes:

- people who work for the council;
- people who work for Wigan and Leigh Housing;
- family members;
- people with learning disabilities.





2. We have a Housing Options Development Worker, who is concentrating on housing for people with learning disabilities.



3. We have asked lots of people what housing they want and need.

4. We are planning future housing for people with learning disabilities, for example:



- people whose carers are older;
- people who don't live in the borough;
- people with **complex** needs;
- people with **dementia** (as well as a learning disability);
- young adults.



We are also planning for how people can get better housing and support through **personal budgets** and **self-directed support** (see page 10).



5. We look at what we already do to see if we can do things better, for example:
- supported living
 - respite/short breaks
 - equipment to help you stay independent at home (**assistive technology**).



6. We have a range of housing options including:
- shared ownership
 - extra care housing
 - leasing from private landlords



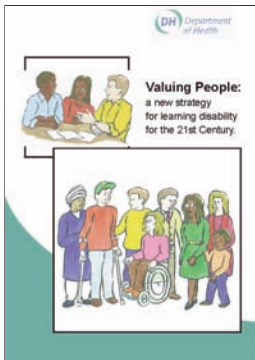
7. We look at other support options, like **Housemates**, which we ran for one year.



8. We have had lots of training and development days for our staff and for people with learning disabilities and family carers.



What is happening nationally?



1. **'Valuing People'** and **'Valuing People Now'** are documents written by the government, telling councils how to improve the lives of people with learning disabilities by giving them more choice and control over their lives.



Another document, the **'Independent Living Strategy'** says that all parts of the government should work together to make sure that people with disabilities get the same chances in life as everyone else in society. This includes:

- making sure they have support when they need it, in a way that will enable them to be more independent;





- tackling problems with housing, transport, education, health and employment;
- getting equipment that can help.



But there is no more extra money, so each council has to think about how it better uses what it has already got.

2.



A new way of delivering services has been developed, where the person with a disability (and the people that support them) is in charge of how they live, and are supported using money provided to them by the government.

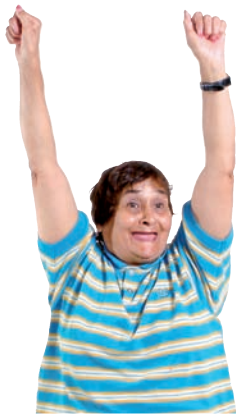
This is called '**self-directed support**' or an **individual budget**.

In Wigan it is called '**Personalisation**'. In some parts of the country it is also called '**In Control**'.

3. **inControl** is clear that housing is an important part of a person's life plan.



The **Local Housing Allowance** is a new kind of housing benefit. It was introduced across the country in April 2008. It only applies to new tenants of privately rented housing.



The money you get is about 20% higher than the housing benefit that was paid before.

This is good news as there is quite a lot of privately rented housing that is now more affordable for people on benefits or low incomes.



What we want to do now



Our main aim is to enable people with learning disabilities and their families to have greater choice and control over where and how they live.

We will do this by:

- producing better information on housing and support options through
 - a housing options information manual
 - newsletters
 - workshops and training





- holding housing related advice and guidance drop-ins

- making sure there is more variety of housing to choose from, for example:

- rented
- shared ownership
- developing new housing (such as extra care schemes)
- sheltered style houses
- individual housing
- ground level or adapted housing



- using the support and care people receive in their homes more effectively, including better use of new technology.



Further information

The full Learning Disability Housing Strategy includes a two-year action plan. The Housing Sub-Group is responsible for making sure the actions in that plan are carried out and will report back to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

For more information:

**Write to:**

Steve Sargent,
Housing Strategy Team,
Wigan Council,
Environmental Services,
Gateway House,
Standishgate,
Wigan.

Phone:

01942 828952

Email:

s.sargent@wigan.gov.uk

Write to:

Paula Daley,
Housing Options
Development Worker,
Wigan Council,
Adult Services, Oaklands,
196 Newton Road,
Lowton.

Phone:

07917 506525

Email:

p.daley@wigan.gov.uk

Website:

www.wigan.gov.uk

The Learning Disability Housing Strategy was produced by Jayne Knight and the Housing Sub-Group in March 2009. Copies are available to download from the council's website at www.wigan.gov.uk

This easier to read version was produced by:

Media and Communications Team,
Wigan Council,
Chief Executive's Services,
Town Hall,
Library Street,
Wigan, WN1 1YN.
Phone: 01942 827173 • Email: mct@wigan.gov.uk

Produced May 2009

