

# Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities: opportunities and challenges for housing

## Key Findings and Recommendations



Easy Read Version

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made with  
**photosymbols®**





## What this report is about



This is an easy read report by the Scottish Commission for Learning Disability and **IPSOS MORI**.



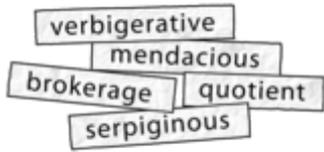
We will call The Scottish Commission for Learning Disability by the name **SCLD** in the rest of this report.



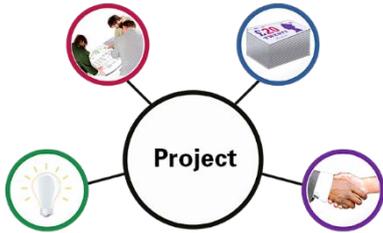
The report is called Improving outcomes for people with learning disabilities opportunities and challenges for housing.



You can read the full report on the **SCLD** website if you want to. [www.sclد.co.uk](http://www.sclد.co.uk)



When you see a word in **bold** in this report that means that the word is explained in the report.



This report talks about work done on a project about **housing** for people with learning disabilities.



When it talks about **housing** this means the types of home people live in.



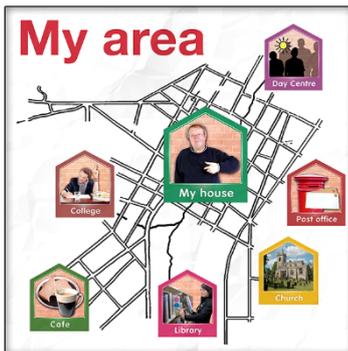
Types of **housing** could be flats or houses or hospitals.



**Housing** also means where people live.



This means in cities or towns or villages.



This means in areas that are nice and areas that are not so nice.



**Housing** also means who people live with.



This means when people live on their own or with other people.



It means looking at if a person lives with family or a partner or a friend or people they did not know before they moved in.

## About SCLD



**SCLD** stands for Scottish Commission for Learning Disability.



**SCLD** is a charity that works closely with The Scottish Government to make sure the things in Scotland's learning disability **strategy** happen.



A **strategy** is a big plan.



The plan for learning disability in Scotland is called **The keys to life**.



You can read more about The keys to life **strategy** at [www.keystolife.info](http://www.keystolife.info)

## About the work the report talks about



**SCLD** asked a company called **IPSOS MORI** to find out about housing for people with learning disabilities.



**IPSOS MORI** are a company who do lots of this kind of work across the UK.



The Scottish Government paid for the project.



A group of people who are experts in **housing** helped **IPSOS MORI** with the project.

# Why we did this bit of work



**SCLD** want to find out about where people with learning disabilities live.



This means finding out about the types of home people live in.



This means finding out about where these homes are.



It means finding out if people with learning disabilities get choice about where they want to live.





Goal number 3 is called Independence



Goal number 4 is called Active  
Citizenship



In **The keys to Life** these goals are  
called outcomes.



You can read more about them at  
**[www.thekeystolife.info](http://www.thekeystolife.info)**

# How the work was done



**IPSOS MORI** looked at plans written by local councils about housing.



These plans said things like how the council will make sure there is enough good housing for everybody.



They looked at information that tells us about the numbers of people with learning disabilities living in different places.



**IPSOS MORI** also interviewed people.



They interviewed 17 people with learning disabilities.



They interviewed 4 carers.



They interviewed 23 people who work in jobs to do with **housing**.



All of the interviews were with people in Scotland.

# What we found out about where people live



The report looks at the difference between where people with learning disabilities live and where people who do not have learning disabilities live.



People with learning disabilities live in a home they rent from a council or housing association more often than people who do not have a learning disability.



People with learning disabilities are less likely to own their own home.



Some people with learning disabilities live in care homes or special supported accommodation.



Lots of people with learning disabilities live on their own.



A smaller amount of people with learning disabilities live with a family member who helps to look after them.

# How things have changed for people with learning disabilities.



15 years ago a lot more people with learning disabilities lived in hospitals or care homes.



Some areas have been making new types of housing for people with learning disabilities.

This is called **core and cluster**.



**Core and cluster** is when people live in their own flat or house that is in the same building or scheme as other people with learning disabilities.



There will be some staff nearby to help people when they need it.



Some people think this is really good because it gives people independence with support when they need it.



People are able to get involved in the community when they live in this type of **housing**.



Other people think this is a bad idea because they think it is a bit like in the past when people with learning disabilities lived in big hospitals.



These people also think this is just a way of saving money.



There are now more people registering as homeless who need support to help them to live independently.

## What some people think needs to change



There are people with learning disabilities living in care homes for older people.



Sometimes councils tell a person who is living independently that they will be offered a care home place because it is cheaper.



Sometimes it is hard to stop people with learning disabilities being moved into a hospital when they are well just because they need somewhere to live.

# What works well in **housing** for people with learning disabilities



The project found that some things work well for people with learning disabilities.



We have written these under headings of **The keys to life outcomes.**

## Active Citizenship



When people live somewhere that they feel safe and like part of their community they are able to be part of the community.

# Choice and Control



A **housing options approach** helps people to look at the choices they have about where they live.



A **housing options approach** is when advice is given about housing.

The advice is about what the person wants from where they live and other things like if the person has money problems or health problems.



People say this works well.



When there is a choice of **housing** available to people and they are supported using the **housing options approach** this helps people to have more and better choice about the type of **housing** they prefer.



This works best when there is also a lot of choice about different places to live.



A more **person-centred** way of planning with people where they want to live and what they want from their life also helps people to get to make better choices about where they want to live.



**Person-centred** means that the person gets to make decisions for themselves with support to understand all of their options.

# Independence



**Accessible design** can help people with learning disabilities to live more independently in their own home.



**Accessible design** means changes that can be made to make a home easier to live in.



This can be things that help people get around if they have physical disabilities like kitchen counters that move up and down so that wheelchair users can get into them.



Other things might be technology so that people can easily make video calls to talk to their support provider.

# What makes it difficult to get **housing** right for people with learning disabilities



There are not enough houses and flats for everyone.



There is an even bigger shortage of places to live for people who have trouble getting around or using stairs.



Advice is better in some council areas than in others.



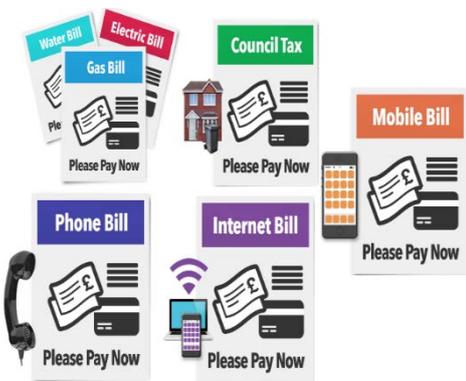
There is not enough money to give support for people to manage living by themselves to everyone who needs it.



The UK government are making a lot of changes to the benefits system.



This means that people can have a lot of changes to the amount of money they have.



This can make it hard to budget.



Sometimes when people with a learning disability want to rent a home they are told they have to have a legal guardian to sign for it.



This can take a long time to organise.



It can also cost money.



Some professionals can think that people with learning disabilities are not able to live on their own.



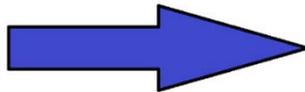
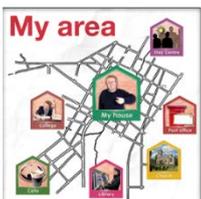
People with learning disabilities might not feel confident to move to somewhere different.



People with learning disabilities might not know about the options that are there.



Not all local councils are good at planning for the housing needs for people with learning disabilities.

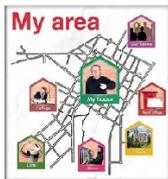


When planning is not good this can mean that people have to move to a different area or wait a long time for a place that they like.

# What should happen next



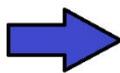
**SCLD** should make sure that people across Scotland talk and plan for how to make things better.



The Scottish Government should pick an area of the country to look at to learn what are the best ways to help people with learning disabilities to get good homes.



The Scottish Government should write a plan to stop people with learning disabilities having to stay in hospitals.



The Scottish Government should work with councils to make sure that council's plans for housing think about what people with learning disabilities need.



Local councils should pay attention to what **The keys to life** says when they are writing plans for housing or planning the support services they will have.

### The keys to life



Councils and Housing Associations should work together to make sure that **housing** for people with learning disabilities is good.



Make a place to share and learn about what works well in supporting people with learning disabilities to get good homes and support.



Make sure that information is clear and that people with learning disabilities have the information and support they need to make good choices.