

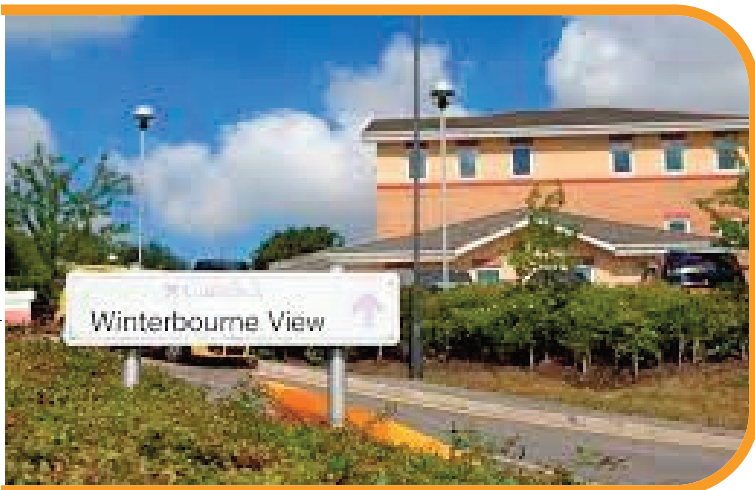
BASW England

The professional association for
social work and social workers

BASW England

Homes not Hospitals

Campaign briefing for Parliamentarians



The British Association of Social Workers (BASW) is the professional association for social work in the UK with offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. With over 22,000 members we exist to promote the best possible social work services for all people who may need them, while also securing the well-being of social workers working in all health and social care settings.

INTRODUCTION

This campaign pack has been produced by BASW England's **Homes not Hospitals** campaign.

We hope this briefing information will support and enable elected representatives and their caseworkers to champion and advocate for the human rights of constituents with learning disabilities and/or who are autistic. Too many people have been subject to an abuse of their human rights in state funded health or care settings and this must stop.

If you want to find out more about how you can support our campaign, or if you want to discuss these matters further with some of our members or people with direct lived experience, then please contact england@basw.co.uk



WHY WE NEED HOMES NOT HOSPITALS?

Many will remember the events at Winterbourne View in 2011. Instances of serious abuse were exposed by BBC Panorama through secret filming at the institution. The events at Winterbourne View led to arrests of staff as well as a government commitment to move all people with learning disabilities and/or those who are autistic out of hospital settings and into community care.

Yet in the ten years since, we've seen further instances of abuses of people and the undermining of their human rights at institutions such as Whorlton Hall and Cawston Park.

Despite national reviews from both Government and NHS England, we have witnessed over a decade of slow progress and missed Government targets. This is why the Homes Not Hospitals campaign exists today.

Too many people with learning disabilities and/or those who are autistic have been admitted to secure settings because of a lack of housing and care. Unnecessary hospital detentions continue due to insufficient funding and lack of the right support. Once in hospital citizens experience lengthy delays to discharge and situations where people are detained long distances away from their families and loved ones.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) in their 'Out of Sight - Who cares?' report identified excessive use of prolonged and long-term seclusion, segregation, restraint, human rights violations, and abuse. This report highlights the scale of inadequate, undignified, and inhumane care with people subject to abusive institutional cultures and practices.

A series of recommendations were made which the CQC report on. An update published in March 2022 showed that none of the seventeen recommendations initially set out have been fully achieved yet.¹

This cannot be allowed to continue.

The Homes not Hospitals campaign exists because no person should be failed by the health, housing, and care systems. And everyone deserves to feel safe and for their rights to be upheld when receiving care.

We campaign for community care and provision that can make sure that people with learning disabilities or autism are supported to live independent and fulfilling lives in their own communities.

The Government recently published its 'Building the Right Support' action plan to reduce reliance on mental health inpatient care whilst strengthening community provision.² However, we fear that without sufficient funding mistakes will be repeated and abuse will persist.

At the end of January 2024:

- Targets to reduce the numbers of children and adults in inappropriate settings have been set and missed for the past 10 years.
- The average length of stay in inpatient services is 5.1 years.
- The total number of children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or who are autistic in inpatient services at the end of December 2023 was 2,030, including 200 under 18s.
- 215 people had a delayed transfer of care; the key reasons identified were lack of social care and lack of suitable housing.
- At the current pace of change, the most recent (and revised down) target commitment to reduce inpatient numbers by 50% by March 2024 will not be achieved until November 2028 at the earliest.³
- Instead of going down, the number of autistic people in these hospitals has increased. In 2015, 38% of people in inpatient care were autistic – in May 2023, this figure was 65%.⁴

This shows that the current system is not working.

We're here to challenge this. But we must do this together.

¹ www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20220325_rssreview-progress-march_print.pdf

² www.gov.uk/government/publications/building-the-right-support-for-people-with-a-learning-disability-and-autistic-people

³ Transforming care data: The Challenging Behaviour Foundation and Mencap www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/DRAFT-January-2024-Infographic.pdf

⁴ Analysis by the National Autistic Society: www.autism.org.uk/what-we-do/news/number-of-autistic-people-in-mental-health-ho-14#:~:text=Despite%20some%20progress%20moving%20people,%2C%20now%20it%20is%2065%25

THE HOMES NOT HOSPITALS

2011

MAY

Panorama expose pattern of abuse of people with learning disabilities and autism at Winterbourne View private hospital in Bolton.

2015

OCTOBER

Building the Right Support national plan released by NHS England, LGA and ADASS to guide and support commissioners to reduce the number of people with a learning disability and autistic people in mental health inpatient settings.

2012

AUGUST

Independent report into Winterbourne View leads to calls for changes in how care of vulnerable adults is commissioned and monitored.

DECEMBER

Transforming Care report released with Government calling for a "dramatic reduction" in the number of people with learning disabilities and autism being placed in hospitals.

2019

MAY

BBC Panorama expose mistreatment of adults with learning disabilities and autism in a hospital setting pushing the issue under the spotlight yet again.

JUNE

BASW England adopt policy to respond to the human rights abuses faced by people with learning disabilities and autism in the wake of Whorlton Hall scandal.

HOSPITALS JOURNEY SO FAR

MARCH

MPs raise campaign issues in Westminster Hall debate to mark World Social Work Day.

MAY

BASW England formally launch Homes not Hospitals campaign alongside sector partners and affected families with suite of resources for social workers and commissioners to support and strengthen human rights-based practice.

JUNE

Campaign briefs MPs taking part in the Parliamentary debate responding to Winterbourne View: ten years on.

JULY

House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee The treatment of autistic people and people with learning disabilities: Fifth Report of Session 2021-22. Reinforces the fundamental need to invest in the right support so that people can lead better lives. Recognises that long term detention is fundamentally a human rights issue.

2021

Strengthening coalition activity with key partners and launch of Campaign pack for Parliamentarians.

2022

JULY

Campaign group meets with Minister of State for Care, Gillian Keegan MP on the day of the release of the Building the Right Support Action Plan with key concerns raised about pace of change and actions taken.

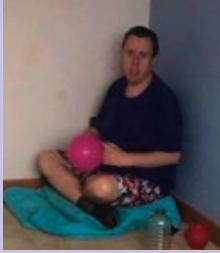
2024

2023

Coalition activity with key partners to lobby the government challenging missed targets and the slow pace of change to implement its action plan: Building the Right Support.

OCTOBER

House of Commons House of Lords Joint Committee on Human Rights: The detention of young people with learning disabilities and/or autism – Second Report of Session 2019 published highlighting a loss of confidence in the system and setting out the practical and legislative changes urgently required.



Tony Hickmott is an autistic man who has spent 21 years in a secure hospital. Tony, who is now 45, was sectioned after he had a mental health crisis in 2001.

Through the determination of his family and national coverage of his situation by the BBC, he is finally being released and returning home.

In November 2021 an investigation by BBC News found that over **100 people had been held in Assessment and Treatment Units for over 20 years.**⁵

Tony was one of those very people who had been detained. The same report identified that **over 350 people have been detained for over 10 years.**

**Tony's
story**

VOICES FROM HOMES NOT HOSPITALS

Amy Telford is autistic and spent three years in a hospital unit. She recalls "no real autism support" and her struggles to "integrate into the everyday life of the ward".

"The unit was loud and so intense, it just wasn't nice," says Amy. "I got stuck there because they couldn't find a more suitable autism specialist unit."

"They were the wrong environments, they weren't recovery-based and autism specific, even though they were saying they were."

Living in the community with a support plan, Amy is much happier. "If I had the plans I have now when I was younger, a lot of what I went through could have been avoided. Also, having the support in the community rather than having to be in an in-patient unit would have really helped."

"It has been a long journey and it's so sad it has taken that long to get the help I needed."

Andrea Attre, who has struggled to get support for her daughter Danielle:

"We need to stop thinking we need more hospitals. We wouldn't need these places that cost millions of pounds to build and run if we had the community services. If we don't break that cycle, we are just investing in a broken model."

Samantha Lamb who has learning difficulties said:

"If I was to meet the Prime Minister my message would be stop putting people in assessment and treatment units and put more funding into the community so people can live a normal life in the community."

⁵ www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-59388886

TIME TO TAKE ACTION

The lived experience of families and individuals which are painfully shared repeatedly and the consistently failed targets have so far not been enough to force the Government to take the action needed on this crucial issue.

We need the voices of elected representatives across the political spectrum to help us make a difference.



3 WAYS TO HELP

- 1** Challenge your Local Authority and Integrated Care Board to share information on the number of people in your local area with learning disabilities and/or who are autistic who are in Assessment and Treatment Units or Mental Health Units.
- 2** Engage with families and campaigners for those affected by meeting with the Homes Not Hospitals campaign.
- 3** Spread the word to help make Homes Not Hospitals a reality by showing your support and tagging @BASW_UK and using the #HomesNotHospitals hashtag

Adequate investment to deliver community support and housing is desperately needed alongside investment in the social care workforce to ensure the right support is available. By providing and incentivising the right support, in the right place, at the right time as alternatives to detaining people in mental health hospitals, we can end this scandal and give people the life they deserve.

Our campaign needs your voice and your support. By working with us we can help end abuse and injustice in your community.

To find out more please contact england@basw.co.uk

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www.basw.co.uk/homes-not-hospitals