



Bespoke, local, person-centred, and most importantly small

June 2025

Over the past three years, NHS England has supported this programme of work, and this has enabled us to work with 18 different local authorities from across England. Three years of hard work have enabled us to learn in detail what it takes to successfully seed and set up new Small Support organisations.

These organisations all provide highly skilled, round-the-clock support (when needed) and local support to people with learning disabilities and autistic people; some are at risk of admission to mental health in-patient service, and others are already there and awaiting discharge.

Whether you are looking at the ICB area programme of work or one focused on your local authority area, we can support you in taking up the challenge of market shaping and setting out to develop support that can and will ensure people are moved home, and the numbers being sent out of the area are continually reduced.

More information

What are Small Supports? Read our sheet detailing the characteristics of small support organisations [here](#)



Read our Evaluation of the Leeds Small Supports programme [here](#), a detailed evaluation documenting the work over two years to develop new small support organisations in Leeds working in partnership with the City Council and West Yorkshire ICB



Read the “Deep Dive into the Plymouth Small Supports Experience” [here](#) and find out about the long-term life and economic outcomes of Small Supports within the city of Plymouth

These two evaluation reports provide compelling evidence of the impact of investing in Small Supports; although not a short-term solution, in the medium to long term, the improvements in people’s lives and well-being and the economic efficiencies achieved make it abundantly clear that this approach works.

Our support

- Scaled to the size of the area that wants to take forward the Small Supports programme
- Commissioning, funding and ensuring contracts are all supportive of individual commissioning support, including the use of direct payments and third-party budget arrangements (including Individual Service Funds)
- Advertising, recruiting and supporting potential new small support providers to understand the work they will need to undertake
- Providing mentoring from existing successful small support organisations and supporting new organisations through the registration process with CQC
- Specific support in the development of Individual Service/Life Design
- Training and information about Small Supports and the person-centred foundations of this support for various audiences, including multi-disciplinary teams, social work teams, families and the wider workforce
- Expertise in housing solutions and connections with networks bringing together support providers and investors
- Monthly calls and an annual residential bringing together existing and new sites with small support organisations
- A huge bank of online resources and learning from our work over the past few years

For a discussion about this programme of work and how it could work in your area please email: smallsupports@ndti.org.uk