



What are the biggest issues?

Financial:

Lack of funding was raised one of the big issues. With high costs of care people have nothing left for the social aspects of life. Some people may have parents or family who can support and cover costs for these activities but people who are not in this position don't get access.

Organisational/sector/system:

There were a number of issues raised around how providers, sectors and the system work or don't work to enable people to have choice and control around housing and community inclusion. One key message was that housing and health are not working together at a strategic level. In addition there are weak links between support, housing and commissioning. There was call for providers and organisations that work to support individuals to also understand the rights of people and that a cultural shift was needed to see change happen.

Housing options:

In terms of what housing is available for people there were concerns that there's no capacity to house people locally, there is a lack of appropriate accommodation and there's a disparity around provision where thresholds are too high. Conversations questioned a refocus and challenge to social housing sector and a call to look at the whole route into housing.

Workforce:

People discussed issues around workforce. There was a concern that providers of care are not thinking about the person beyond their functional needs, there isn't consistency with staff and their skills are not developed. A particular area of concern was around advocacy and the impact by funding cuts. A gap in advocacy services for people who don't have a voice was discussed and assessment and treatment orders that don't have advocates.

People:

The focus on individuals and families was centred around their lack of awareness and understanding of their human rights around housing and support. The impact on people who lack capacity was raised. The gap between personalisation and Independent Living was raised and linked to Making it Real – I have a place I can call home. Finally, there was discussions around risk aversion from citizens and family members and their expectations of what people's rights are.

What are the solutions?

Sharing learning and good practice:

People agreed that there was a need to share positive stories about what is working well for people, giving examples of strength-based approaches to housing. There's a need and opportunity to talk about what good looks like, provide information and empower people.

Financial:

People discussed showing the economic benefit of community, jobs, inclusion to help address the issues around finances and pooling budgets for system wide solutions.

Sector/Organisation/System:

Suggestions for solutions to the issues around organisations/sectors and the system included: changing the commissioning framework, statutory and voluntary sectors to collaborate so 'niche' services can fill gaps, improving how health & social care and housing work together. There were discussions on better planning for discharge to speed up transitions and a need to decrease out of area placements, commissioning services so people are provided with choice in their local area. Leadership in was a key factor and mandatory training around the Care Act and Human Rights for people working across the relevant fields.

Housing options:

There was a call for good quality accommodation **for all**, and that all new housing should be accessible. People are looking for the opportunities and environment for natural support 'to happen.'

Involving people and families:

Including and involving people and their families was highlighted as a key solution. Putting people at the centre of the conversations, planning, decision making. People and families need time and investment and communities need to be part of the conversation. It was acknowledged that community inclusion takes time but that inclusion/integration of all people through society was important. It needs to include people at every stage of the process, with everyone who has a stake to be involved in planning and this takes time to get in right. People also highlighted Making it Real, using co-production and the Law (ie Human Rights) using a rights based approach to help get this right. People suggested using experts by experience groups (eg Inclusion North) and people from communities to consult on housing and using advocates for assessment and treatment orders. There was also a call for equal access to the same situations of people of the same age.

Examples of Good Practice

- NHSE Capital Fund Programme used to fund innovative designs and very small/bespoke accommodation-based services for individuals -adapt properties involving people, families and landlords.
- Parent/carer stopping young people in street with their son to ask what they know about autism. Small steps in educating people about disability.
- Housing Association worked with the Housing Strategy Team in Adults Social Care, 3 people with a Learning Disability, living in shared accommodation were part of an intergenerational photography project which enabled a better transition into the community.

What next?

The key actions called for from the Round Table were:

- Network to share knowledge & practice (eg NHSE, TLAP Building Community Capacity events)
- Listen to the voice of lived experience and from the communities
- Non-decent private housing needs addressing
- Legal literacy programmes to be developed
- Raising awareness, understanding and commitment to deliver Human Rights
- Health & Social Care and Housing to work together