



What are small supports?

February 2021

Small Supports organisations provide support through a service designed around an individual. This bespoke support enables people to have their health needs met as well as their wants and wishes fulfilled.

1. **From the first steps the person** (and their chosen family and friends) **enjoys as much control as possible** and there is a commitment to this control growing.
2. **The starting point** to developing great support **is the person's aspirations about where they want to live and the life they want to have**; a conversation about support then follows from this.
3. **Supporters (staff) are recruited by and around the individual**. They don't work across services. Staff are not a substitute for friends, community peers, co-workers and neighbours.
4. **The person chooses where they live and who, if anyone, they live with**. The person is the tenant or owner of their own home or perhaps they live with family. There is a clear separation of housing and support.
5. **Funding is sustainable** and is designed and used around the individual.
6. **Small supports organisations stay with people**. Change and challenges are expected so they don't withdraw support or 'sell' services on.
7. **Small supports organisations are rooted in their local community** - in their work, leadership, recruitment and actions.
8. **The organisations stay relatively small**. Knowing each person well means not growing by more than three to five people a year and finding a natural size where people are known and valued, and the organisation is financially sustainable.
9. **Small supports organisations are developed around these practices**. Taking some of these practices and making them aspirations within large, segregated services and will not deliver the desired outcomes.

We are a partnership of two development organisations (the National Development Team for Inclusion and the [Local Government Association](#)) working to achieve local changes alongside three small supports organisations ([Beyond Limits](#), [C-Change](#), [NDTi](#), [Positive Support for You](#)) by sharing our experiences and expertise. We are financially supported by NHS England.

More information about the Small Supports programme can be found [here](#).