This small research project aims to explore the differences between living in Residential Care and Supported Living settings for people with learning disabilities.

**Project Aims**

Most adults with learning disabilities who need support and a place to live are offered either Residential Care or housing with support (sometimes called Supported Living). Very little is known about how good these services are – Supported Living is supposed to give people more rights and control over their lives, but we don’t know if peoples’ lives are actually any different in Supported Living to Residential Care.

Our starting point was to ask people with learning disabilities and family carers what is important to them in terms of housing decisions. We also spoke to 3 commissioners and 2 housing and support providers.
What people said was important to them

“*The starting point should always be about providing individual and personalised support*”

“*Families support in many ways and so people without family are at a disadvantage*”

Family Carers Said

“*In residential care you just get pocket money, but in Supported Living you have your own money – this can mean more choices in how you live and the staff treating you as an individual*”

Self Advocates Said

Good Support and control over own life and home

Type of housing is less important than independence

Control of your own money leads to more choices

Your own money means you’re treated as an individual
"We are considering requiring providers to use a quality tool as part of their contract."

"Commissioners don’t consider how services interact therefore a ‘whole systems approach’ would help."

"Commissioners are not proactive around quality of life."

"Focus: moving people from residential care into supported living."

"Reasons: closure of residential service & cost savings."

"We pay for the support element only so it is cheaper for us."

"be more than just a service provider."

"Compatibility between residents is often ignored."

"Ethos, values & culture are important."

"Compatibility between residents is key."

"Experts by experience within the team is important."

"Act to improve quality, don’t just tick box."

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Next Steps...

Have **in-depth conversations about money** with self advocates, family carers, providers and staff

Identify and review the evidence on **quality assessment, self and peer assessment tools and frameworks**

Conduct a **survey** of service providers and commissioners about how they monitor the quality of services

The next stage will involve visiting service providers. The results of this field work will feed into a more in-depth housing research project that is currently being planned.

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