

## Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill Consultation Briefing

# Housing and Independent Living

### What is the consultation proposing?

#### [Click Here for Housing and Independent Living Easy Read](#)

The Scottish Government is proposing five areas for action in relation to housing:

1. The development of advice, advocacy and guidance.
2. The development of local neurodivergent and learning disabilities strategies which could require that local authorities must report how independent living principles are embedded into assessment and allocation policies.
3. The development of mandatory awareness training for housing professionals.
4. Improving data collection at a national and local level which could include collecting data on how many people with learning disabilities are considered not to have access to appropriate housing.
5. Documents in relation to housing to be available in easy read formats.

### What you have told us

Based on what we have heard from people with profound learning and multiple disabilities and their families over the past thirty years, PAMIS have identified the following key priority points relating to Housing and Independent Living:

- **Lack of choice and severe restrictions on independent living options.**
- **Persistent challenges around supply, availability and suitable, accessible housing with the right adaptations and necessary space.**
- **Current models unable to deliver a person centred and tailored, individual approach.**
- **Serious human rights breaches relating to out of area placements and delayed discharge from inappropriate clinic settings is preventing people with PMLD realise their right to independent living and participating fully in their local communities.**
- **Unacceptable delays and waiting list times for essential housing adaptations.**
- **Lack of consistency in knowledge and understanding of PMLD amongst housing professionals across Scotland.**
- **Lack of appropriate training and understanding of complex health and communication support needs for care staff to enable care teams to provide the support required for people with PMLD to live purposeful and meaningful lives independently in their own homes.**
- **Lack of consistency around continuation of care teams and inadequate transition when moving home. The recruitment and retention of staff causing unnecessary stress.**
- **Difficulties recruiting appropriate care staff.**
- **Difficulties accessing the right advice and guidance about housing options for people with PMLD requiring specialist input from PAMIS.**

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### What PAMIS wants to see

- Far greater availability of appropriate and adapted accessible housing across Scotland including single storey dwellings.
- Housing for people with PMLD needs to be located with consideration of nearby services and public transport and planning should consider how the housing fits in with the wider community and local amenities.
- Consider introduction of minimum floor size for rooms which include adequate storage.
- Consideration given to the introduction of a target or measure for the number of homes being built for those with complex care needs.
- Workforce development – care staff fully understand the needs and requirements of people with PMLD and have the appropriate knowledge and skills to support new as well as more traditional models of independent living.
- A person centred approach to housing is adopted, tailored to the individual with PMLD.
- Families are able to maximise choice and control over where they live and in what type of housing.
- Young people able to exercise full freedom of choice about who they live with and not simply presented with the sole option of living in a care home. The individual with PMLD must be at the heart of the decision making process to make sure all housing and accompanying care packages are appropriate.
- Housing adaptations are prioritised for people with PMLD and their families with target wait list times introduced as well as accountability.
- Significant shift in attitudes and knowledge of PMLD within local authorities, social care, health and other statutory bodies in relation to upwards trends in life expectancy of a person with PMLD as many more young people are now more likely to become users of adult social care services and require appropriate housing as a result.
- PAMIS will respond to the consultation based on what you have told us about your experiences and requirements in relation to complex care – coming home, independent advocacy and social care in more detail in the dedicated section for that topic whilst also highlighting the impact on housing and independent living.

### Your Feedback

Do you agree with what PAMIS wants to see?

Is there anything else you think is important relating to this section?

Please send any feedback or suggestions to [info@pamis.org.uk](mailto:info@pamis.org.uk) before April 10th 2024.