# Specialised supported housing

John Verge Chief Executive, Golden Lane Housing

Chair, Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network



- Golden Lane Housing and Learning Disability and Autism Housing Network
- Operating Environment
- Supported Housing Sector
- Providing sustainable supported housing
- New Supported Housing Regulation





























# Operating Environment – Supported Housing

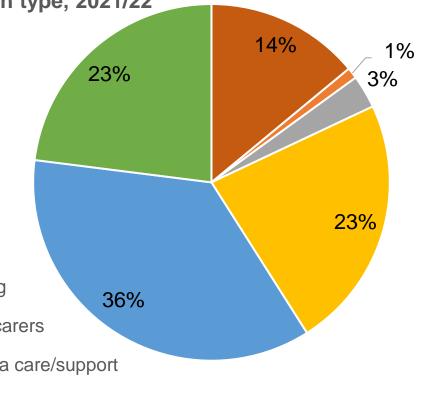


- Demand outstripping supply
  - 35,000 learning disability supported housing





Accommodation status of people aged 18+ with learning disabilities/autistic people in receipt of funding, by accommodation type, 2021/22





Nursing care

Shared Lives (adult placement)

Supported housing/supported living

Living with family/friends/informal carers

Living in mainstream housing with a care/support package



# Operating Environment – Supported Housing

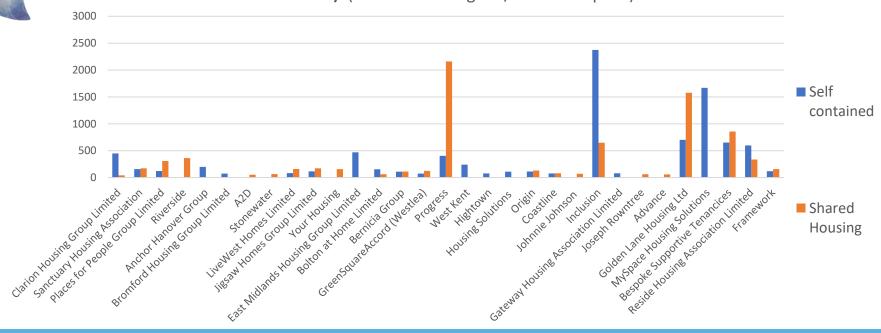


- Demand outstripping supply
  - 35,000 learning disability supported housing
  - 80% Housing Associations; 66% shared, 44% self contained; 56% Specialised Supported Housing
  - 1,800+ pa new learning disability homes
- Lower margins and higher risks for providers
- Reputation of parts of the sector
- Sector shrinking
- Fragmentation number, size, spread



# **Fragmented Sector**

1000 unit+ Providers of Specialised Supported Housing ranked by overall size in 2021 (Largest to left) (Source: Housing LIN/ LDAHN Report )







# **Specialist Compliant Providers**

- Long standing 20 years +
- Mix of owned, leased, shared ownership
- Some support providers
- Recent upgrading
- Members of network

















# **Specialist Non-compliant Providers**

- 7-25 years
- Long lease model
- Conflict of interest issues
- Majority <1000 units



























# The role of housing association sector

- Help local authorities' strategic plans to deliver quality solutions and value for money
- Purchase, new build and leasing solutions (<3 yrs,3-10yrs,10-30yrs)</li>
- Specialist services focus on wellbeing, involvement and scrutiny
- Evidence how supported housing can deliver quality of life and cost savings
- Partnerships between larger housing associations, specialist providers and support providers
- Active engagement with councils to develop new housing and share risks
- Needs Sustainable funding capital grant and revenue











### **Capital Funding models**

#### **Public**

- Affordable Homes Programme
- Care and Support Specialist Housing Fund
- NHS England

#### **Private**

- Bank and Building Society
- Bond Market
- Long leases social and private (e.g. Real Estate Investment Trusts)











#### Revenue – Rent Regime

#### **Public funded**

- Social Rents low cost rent formula
- Affordable Rents 80% market rent formula
- Specialised Supported Housing Rents (loan or charge) 'uncapped' under DWP exempt rents rules

#### **Private funded**

- Specialised Supported Housing Rents Regulator rules
- Exempt rents DWP housing benefit rules



# Specialised supported housing

Guidance for local government and NHS commissioners





#### **Specialised Supported Housing Rents**

- Flexibility offered in relation to capital cost, rent and speed of delivery
- Exception created in 2002

#### Criteria

- Commissioned
- Rents agreed by commissioner
- High levels of support (equivalent to care home)
- Grant loan, charged or negligible uncharged grant











#### **Development**

- High spec new build / extensive remodelling
- Additional space for communal areas/ support staff
- Specialist equipment
- Fire safety
- Decarbonisation

#### **Housing and Property Management**

- Intensive management
- Higher wear and tear
- Compliance Fire, Water Safety, Lifts
- Higher voids
- Service Charges council tax, communal costs









#### **Rent Setting**

- Loan/Lease charge
- General and Specialist Housing Management
- Maintenance responsive, planned, compliance
- Voids nomination arrangements
- Service charges (eligible and non-eligible)
- All rents need to be discussed and supported by Housing Benefit











# **Supported Housing Regulation**





- New Supported Housing Regulation
  - National Standards
  - Licensing
- Social Housing Act
  - Enhanced regulator powers
  - Tenant Empowerment
  - Housing Ombudsman new powers



## **Focus on Consumer Standards**

Understand the diverse needs of tenants, including those with additional support needs

Ensure that communication and information is clear, accessible and appropriate to the diverse needs of tenants

Ensure landlord services are accessible and published to tenants



## **Focus on Consumer Standards**





# Standards for social housing tenants:

Rules about homes and services tenants can expect from landlords when they live in social housing













#### Tenant Satisfaction Measures

How you can see how well a social housing landlord is doing





## **Tenant Involvement**

















Thank you Kelly!

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