

Video transcript: Lived experience, coproduction and innovation from the WM Housing Event: My home, my care, my way

Rich Amos: Having a good home isn't just about the bricks and mortar of a property.

Having a good home is being able to have a stable place that an individual can build a community from, it's about being part of something bigger.

I live in a bungalow, and I live in Shropshire, which I have done for two years. It's accessible in the fact that I've got a wet room, I have an overhead hoist, I've got ramps to avoid steps and I'm able to say that I live in my own home, compared to where I lived before, which was in shared care, where I pretty much lived out of my bedroom.

Graeme Jackson: A home is very important to everybody but it's equally as important to people with support needs. It's more than a house: it is somewhere where you can control who comes and who goes. It's a place where you can control what happens. It's not necessarily just about the house, about the bricks and mortar. Your home is also within your community where you feel safe and secure. Having a good home, having a house that is your home enables you to feel that you can do things that maybe you can't if you are in accommodation where you are having to move every few months or every year.

Sue Deeley: Having your own home and the right support is probably the thing that makes the most difference in terms of people's quality of life for people with learning disabilities.

Only 15% of people with learning disabilities have their own home or security of tenure. More than 50% of people still live with families, and other people live in settings where it's not their own home, and I think part of our thinking when we set up GettaLife 20 years ago was that if people have their own home and they could establish their sense of self and who they are from the security of having their own home with the right support, people with really complex needs I'm could live really successful lives in the community.

And I think having your own home just gives people so much more security than living in a service. You can't get moved and you get to know your neighbours you get known in the local community, you get connected which makes people much safer than if they're living in a kind of service type support service.

Kate Pieroudis: [If you] have a conversation about social care or healthcare, housing is a central part of this because it's about having a home it's about having a life and a community and that has an essential impact on people's well-being.

We've got this document called 'Making it Real' which is a framework. It's a document that lays out what a good life looks like and what good personalised care and support looks like. It can be applied in any situation across housing, social care, or health. It's made-up of a series of 'I statements' and 'we statements' about what a good life looks like, what good personalised care looks like.

The 'I statements' are from the perspective of the person drawing on care and support, and the 'we statements' are from the perspective of organisations who are working in care and support.

So this is really about people being at the centre of their care, having choice and control as part of TLAP we work very closely with the National Coproduction Advisory Group or NCAG. This is a group of people with lived experience who draw on care and support or who are family carers.

They've defined coproduction as a way of working where everyone works together, on an equal basis, to create a service or come to a decision which works for them all. It's based on the idea that those who access a service are best placed to design it, and that those closest to the problems are those often closest to the solution.

It basically implies a transfer power away from professionals or policymakers and when it works best, people who access services and carers are being valued as equal partners and they share power and have influence over final decisions being made.

Sue Deeley: In the new government housing strategy what I would want to see is that people with complex learning disabilities don't get left out, but actually those people can live in an ordinary home in an ordinary street and they're people who are going to need support and a home for all of their life. Quite often people with learning disabilities never get to experience having their own home.

Graeme Jackson: We do welcome the White Paper and the funds that are available through that. In particular the revenue fund that will enable local authorities to look more into different housing options.

Within the conference we were talking about HOLD - home ownership for people with long term disabilities. In essence that's a shared ownership product, so part buy, part rent. The difference of HOLD is that we buy existing properties for people with support needs. We buy properties with the individual in an area that they feel safe. We offer a budget but it's very much down to the individual to find the property that's going to suit their needs in the area that they want to live in.

We always work with the individual applicant we don't have a stock of properties, a stock of houses that we will say to somebody: 'Well you can live there, but you can't live somewhere else.' HOLD is really about giving the individual applicant that the choice, the control, over where they live. They can choose to live in the community where they feel safe they can choose to live in the community where they are known and where they know. Coproduction is so important.

Rich Amos: that word [coproduction] has been used probably from each of the speakers, and so in terms of how we move forward as a region, I feel very empowered that providers and local authorities are understanding the principles of what coproduction actually means.