

Market Sustainability Plan for Learning Disability and Autism

Adult Social Care
2024-2026



North
Tyneside
Council

Adult Social Care – Market Sustainability Plan for Learning Disability and Autism – 2024-26

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Introduction to the Market Sustainability Plan (MSP)

North Tyneside Council is a unitary authority in the North East of England in the County of Tyne & Wear. It is 32 sq miles in size and is bordered by Newcastle to the west, Northumberland to the north the North Sea to the east and the River Tyne to the south.

The population of people with a learning disability by age is as follows, and that is expected to decrease slightly over the next 10 years by 3% from 2020 to 2035. The Population with severe Learning Disability is expected to stay static and those with challenging behaviour to drop from 55 to 53 by 2035.

People aged 18-64 predicted to have a learning disability, by age:

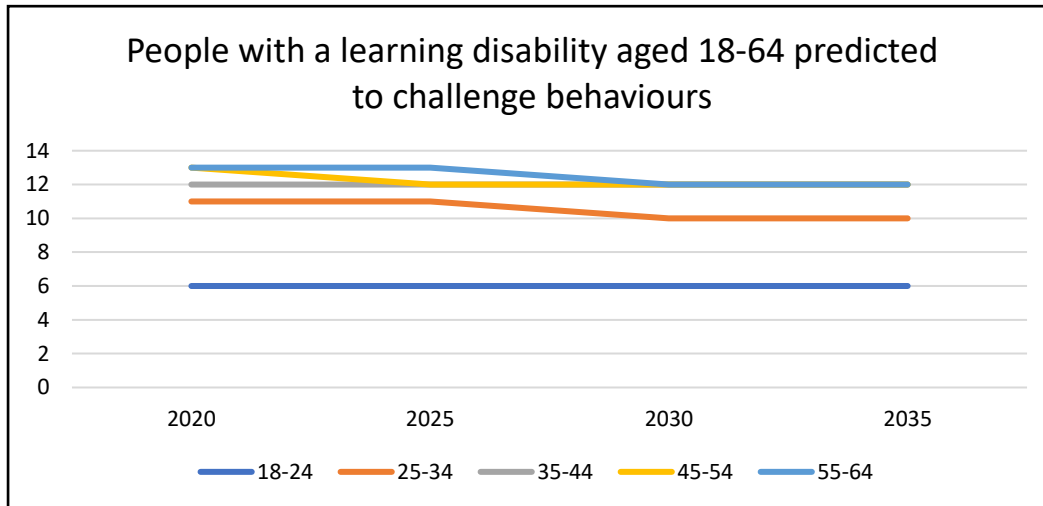
Age Range	Age Range	Age Range	Age Range	Age Range	Age Range	Age Range
18-24	356	352	384	380	7%	-1%
25-34	625	610	568	580	-7%	-2%
35-44	658	675	684	661	0%	3%
45-54	667	628	626	651	-2%	-6%
55-64	655	668	630	590	-10%	2%
Total population aged 18-64	2,961	2,933	2,891	2,862	-3%	-1%

People aged 18-64 predicted to have a severe learning disability, and hence likely to be in receipt of services, by age, projected to 2035

Age Range	2020	2025	2030	2035	15y change	5y change
18-24	27	27	30	30	11%	0%
25-34	38	37	34	35	-8%	-3%
35-44	45	46	47	45	0%	2%
45-54	33	31	32	33	0%	-6%
55-64	33	34	32	30	-9%	3%
Total population aged 18-64	176	175	174	173	-2%	-1%

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The numbers of people with challenging behaviours are predicted to reduce over the next 10 years.



There are 24 - 16/17 yr olds on the LD and ASD caseloads open to Whole Life Disability Adult Social Work Team and a further 861 are over the age of 18 years. These include people with and without services

The age gender split is as follows:

GENDER	AGE GROUP	CLIENTS
Female	18-64	331 (341 inc 16 and 17)
Female	65+	63
Male	18-64	392 (416 inc 16 and 17)
Male	65+	55

Of those there are 695 (all 18 years plus) with services, the table below summarises their gender and age ranges.

GENDER	AGE GROUP	CLIENTS
Female	18-64	262
Female	65+	52
Male	18-64	334
Male	65+	47

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Of these this is a split of services they are receiving, within the Individual Service Funds, clients will have all types of services including Independent Supported Living.

Type of service	18-64 years	65 years plus
Adult family placement	29	1
Day care	112	11
Direct Payments	145	4
Extra care	8	4
Home Care	32	8
Individual service funds	195	17
Nursing care – ICB	2	3
Nursing care	4	5 (3 are ST*)
Nursing care – dementia	1	1
Reablement	1	0
Residential care (Short term)	45 (4 are ST*)	20 (2 are ST*)
Residential care – Dementia	0	1
Respite Care	1	1
Supported Living	252	44

This plan covers the period 2024-26 and should be read in conjunction with:

- Adult Social Care Strategy
- Commissioning Plan and Market Position Statement 2024-26
- Commissioning Intentions
- All age Autism Strategy 2021 to 2026

The Adult social care priorities related to supporting people with a learning disability and Autism are:-

- Support for people to move into the community from inpatient specialist hospitals or acute hospital settings, that may have been hospitalised for years but have completed their assessment or treatment in that setting.
- Developing a mix of residential provision for under 65's, Independent supported living and step down into dispersed tenancies with specialist social care support, with a number requiring bespoke accommodation and

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staff teams, to work with these complex medical and behaviour presentations.

- Development of specialist short break residential and short break respite care for clients with Autism in the community.
- Develop a community model including specialist accommodation and support for people with a learning disability with a forensic background. Planning permissions is being requested in Camperdown to develop a nine unit ISL.
- Increase the use of assistive technology to compliment paid care/ support for individuals.
- Development of properties for people with Autism that address their sensory needs and adapted to meet their sensory needs, including noise limitation, heat regulation, limit sensory overload are low stimulus environments, with space to allow clients to regulate their behaviours and not overwhelm them.
- Grow capacity in the learning disability and autism care sector in the local community.
- Increase the transfer of service users who can move from out of area residential care into their own tenancies in borough, with a mix of core and cluster independent supported living, some larger and smaller and solo supported living schemes that are adapted to meet needs, ranging from flats, bungalows, houses, and shared housing, with 24/7 care support, and a move to a step down to their own dispersed properties with reducing staff support.
- To manage budget and expenditure across a range of different service types.
- To work with care providers that can offer a whole life offer of support across the age ranges and to develop a localised offer from the market to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities and autism to lives their best lives possible.
- To support development of services for younger women in the community with a forensic background that might have a Learning Disability or Autism.

This plan is for two years in line with the Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-26 and other commissioning plans. This is so that from April 2026 there can be a full refresh and update of the strategies and plans to take account of:

- A new Our North Tyneside Plan following appointment of a new Elected Mayor

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- Refresh and update of the Equally Well Strategy – Health and Wellbeing Board
- Update from emerging and detailed government policy relation to health and social care

Engagement with the Market

We have engaged with the care home and home care market in the completion of this market sustainability plan and we will continue to engage with the market going forward to ensure we have a collective narrative and position and that we have a viable and sustainable market over the coming three years.

The engagement has included conversations with individual providers, discussions at provider forums and market events as well as bespoke engagement with providers specifically on the proposed content of the submission of this MSP. The views of providers have helped define the content of this MSP.

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Assessment of the current sustainability of local care markets

There are 167 beds in under 65 years registered care homes who specialise in learning disability in North Tyneside. They are a mix of national and local providers. We have no dedicated Autism specific residential beds locally.

This has been a static number over the last five years.

Providers support people with a range of learning disability needs and behaviours that challenge.

There are also two care homes supporting that are forensically aware.

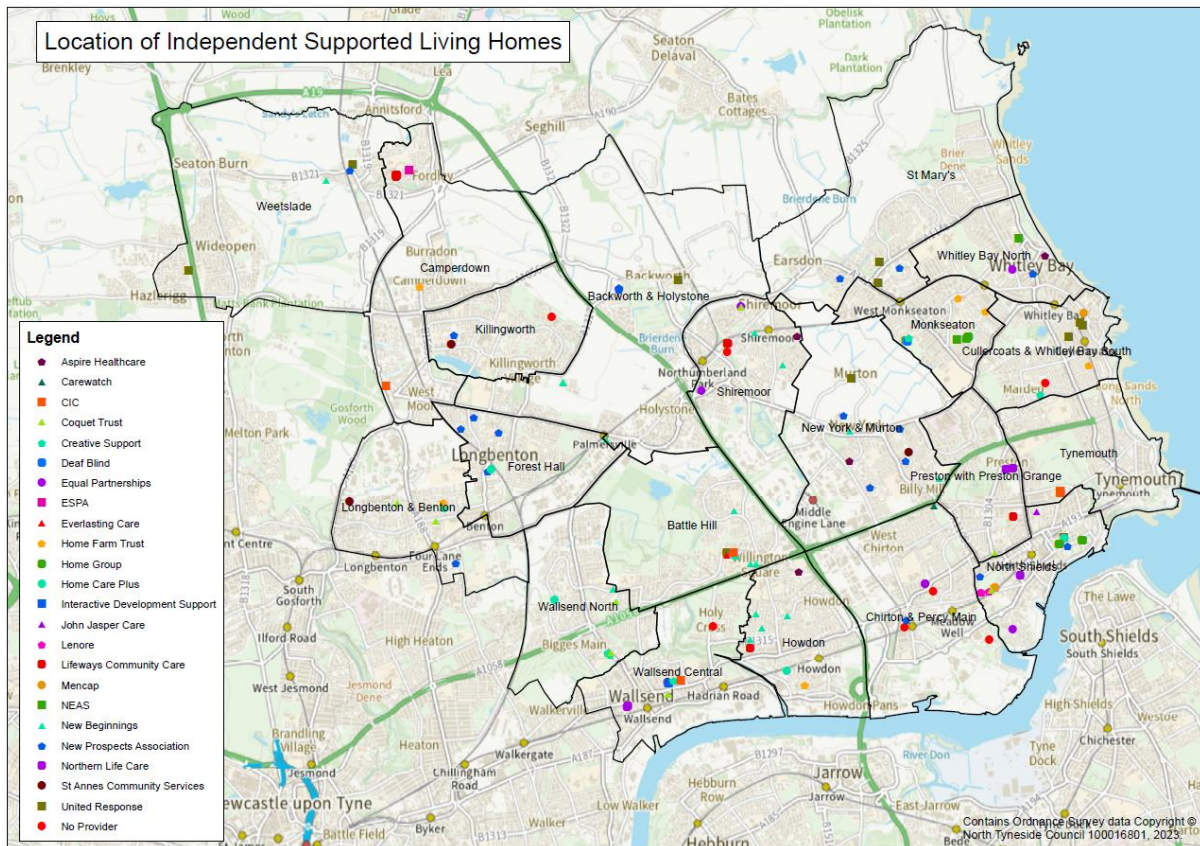
There are a further 211 supported living provisions in North Tyneside, that range from multi occupancy houses, single flats with communal areas, some smaller houses, and single flats, to solo units, where staff support with a mix of provision from a few hours per week to 24/7 365 days of the week, that are supporting 313 clients open to North Tyneside Whole Life Disability Team.

We have 10 voids in our current ISL's and new ISL's are being created yearly, working with our localised Registered social landlords or through use of existing re purposed Council housing stock.

We have 36 people waiting for homes from our Independent Supported Living services, that are currently on our waiting lists. Of these 23 are at home, 4 are in Childrens residential homes, 1 is in Acute Hospital, 1 is in an unsuitable ISL, 2 are in MH hospitals awaiting discharge, 2 are in an out of area residential and would like to move to in borough, 1 is in an emergency respite placements, 1 has an unsuitable Shared lives placement and another has a tenancy but has changing physical health needs and needs to move to a more suitable adapted property on a single level.

The following map shows where the ISL services are located across the borough and also the providers that are supplying the care.

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In the lead up to the COVID pandemic and during it we saw limited appetite from providers on the framework to bid for new work through the range of mini-tenders that were invited. However in the last year this has improved and we regularly have a number of bids being submitted against tenders for new services – this includes services for individuals with a range of needs and behaviours.

We have seen only one care home closure in the last three years and this was as a result of low numbers and people moved to a sister home that the provider operated in North Tyneside. We also have one “new” care home under development, more on this in section 2.

Our top three challenges for learning disability and autism services are:

- Recruitment and retention of care staff continues to be an issue but not as big as it has been.

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- There is a steady increase in demand for services to support people with more complex needs – hospital discharge and transition from children’s services.
- Uncertainty on rising costs and how these will be met in year and as part of inflationary increases going forward;

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Assessment of the impact of future market changes

North Tyneside has 36 on a waiting list for new Independent Support Living services, that is being managed through our housing group, which ranges from a need for:

- 5 to 6 bed houses
- 3 to 4 bed houses
- 2 to 3 bed houses/ flats or bungalows
- A choice of smaller bedded homes for solo occupancy

We have a small number of forensic clients, that either need a move into out of area residential, or are hospital discharge, or move for in borough specialist forensic residential into a step down independent supported living service, or into dispersed properties, with 24/7 or reduced staffing.

We currently have 10 voids in our existing ISL's, where services users are being matched, to allocate the right accommodation to the right person.

As such we regularly work with Registered Social Landlords and our housing team, to source new properties and to identify land availability for social housing.

Demand changes

We are expecting a 3% rise in the population of people in North Tyneside by 2035 with a diagnosed Learning Disability, however we know that there is a larger number that do not have a Learning Disability diagnosis but will require most specialist support.

We also do not flag those service users with Downs as a primary diagnosis, as such our population figures will greatly underestimate need.

As part of Building the right support and Transforming Care, we are seeing an increase in more complex service users planned or discharged from specialist hospital, with severe Autism and / or a Learning Disability, that have acute sensory needs, that might be segregated in a hospital setting, as a risk to themselves, other residents or staff, as these are planned to move as part of hospital discharge, the ask on Providers to manage these complex health needs as well as

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their sensory needs is putting pressure on local health and social care providers, for more solo and specialist bespoke services.

This will continue to be an area, of development in the next 5, 10 and 15 years.

Market changes

We have a new Housing Needs Assessment and Housing Market Position Statement being produced in mid 2024 and this will give an indication of our requirements for suitable and affordable housing for vulnerable adults including those with a learning disability.

Our framework agreements are in place for the next three years and we will continue to commission services from them as required.

We are also linked into and working with colleagues in NHS England and the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) to support hospital discharge for the most vulnerable adults. This includes development of frameworks for some individuals on a cross-border basis and the ICB and a number of Authorities coming together to support this.

Key challenges:

The key challenges over the next three years continue to include:

- Cost pressures relate to energy costs (fuel and utility) as well as staffing wage costs / terms and conditions to remain competitive and not lose staff to other sectors;
- Workforce – Generally speaking, there is a poor perception of care and compared to other sectors, care staff have low pay for high responsibilities. The local care workforce is ageing with fewer people joining the sector and new recruits coming from the existing workforce. There have been a lot of new international / overseas workers in the care market.
- Housing – reference to the new Housing MPS (to be finalised and published) to ensure we have sufficiency of suitable accommodation in the right places across the borough.

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Key opportunities:

There are a number of opportunities for new service requirement and development across the borough:

- Extend the offer of CQC registered residential home provision for forensic clients in North Tyneside aged 18-64 years. Particularly for residential care home beds for females, currently we have ALL male services.
- Extending the offer of residential adapted services in the community for those with Autism who need a low sensory environment.
- To expand the offer of regulated young people with learning disabilities and autism residential provision, including independent supported living, overnight respite and longer-term residential care, that is age appropriate and adapted to meet needs.
- To expand the offer of short break residential overnight support, for autistic young people who may also have a learning disability and complex health needs aged 18 to 64 years. This is needed in a controlled environment (the Authority has recently completed building works at our residential short break / respite service “Queensbridge” that has created a mixed arrangement to use two of the six available beds, with a low stimulus secured environment with its own garden space, to extend the offer to clients and families locally.
- To develop any social care housing or land, with private and regulated housing providers, with a multiple offer on a core and cluster arrangement over the next 5 years. See more detail on this in the updated Housing MPS.
- Develop a core and cluster approach, that can be adaptable to meet changing needs in close proximity to allow residential and ISL’s close to each other, to make better use of available staffing and upskilling staff, and to assist with recruitment of a localised staff team.

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Plans to address sustainability issues, including fee rate issues, where identified

The Authority is committed to the delivery of high quality services that meet the needs of vulnerable people either in a care setting or for people living in their own homes.

The Authority recognises the value of a highly qualified, competent, capable and supported workforce to do this. This requires staff to be paid an economic level to encourage them to stay in care or to enter care. There are a number of other factors alongside this and through our engagement we have talked with providers and the market and will feed this into our new / refreshed workforce strategy which will cover the external sector.

This is across all sectors and types of provision.

Recruitment and retention of specialist social care staff, who are trained to manage, this client group, is an issue both locally and nationally, with a severe shortage of qualified, experience and suitably trained staff, who are English speaking to assist with communication needs of the client group.

The plan is to work with Local Providers and our workforce development team alongside Skills for People, through targeted recruitment, job fairs and specialist training offers from specialist health teams, working alongside health commissioners and as part of our workforce strategy with our “Care Academy”.

There is a planned roll out of specialist Oliver McGowan training, to all social care providers, that work with people with a learning disability and with Autism, this commenced for health in November 2022, and is mandatory for social care in June 2023. We continue to work with our health and HR colleagues to increase that training availability, with help from local people with lived experience, with a programme of training also available to our social workers.

The cost of living is having an implication locally, and as such North Tyneside has increased independent supported living rates by 8.63% in 24/25 to take account in the changes in Minimum Wage and cost of living.

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This work is likely to be ongoing, to better understand the pressure on local providers, both on transport costs, but also the cost of utilities and food. The social work teamwork with individual service users and their families to maximise benefits claimed and to offset any costs where they can. And to look at access to low cost or no cost options. But it remains a significant challenge for individuals and the Council's budgets.

We continue to work at regional level with our partners from the Learning Disability and Autism network and NE-ADASS to prioritise the need for specialist social housing and with our Occupational Therapy and Adaptations services to ensure best use of assistive technology and to provide adapted homes to best meet our clients' needs. To ensure we have an increased supply to meet demand, and also consider the impact on dry and warm homes and an aging population with our clients with multiple health needs.