

## **EAST BORO HOUSING TRUST**

### **JOB DESCRIPTION**

#### **Post**

Learning Disability Accommodation “Move On” Project Worker

#### **Responsible To**

Housing Support Manager

#### **Purpose**

- Be led by a project group of people with learning disabilities, who are ready or aspire to moving on from group living, to access social rented, private sector and shared ownership options for living.
- Work with a project group of people with learning disabilities and providers/stakeholders to develop, implement and model person centred move on plans. This work would utilise resources developed by the campus programme (Moving on from Hospital Living), Dorset People First and other good practice examples, check these and make sure they were suitable for use across a range of settings including settings where service users may not have social work input, may not meet FACS criteria and may have very limited statutory entitlement to adult and community care services.
- To develop appropriate materials to test the market and develop methods of raising awareness of the housing options available to people with learning disabilities among, people with learning disabilities, providers of services to people with learning disabilities, carers, families and landlords, mainstream advice and support agencies, and the voluntary and community sector.
- To develop relationships with sympathetic landlords and increase the understanding of learning disabilities and housing options in the mainstream housing sector, linking with Citizens Advice Bureaux and other advice agencies.
- Visit and evaluate a range of accommodation in the public, private or leasehold sector.
- Produce a guide to using ‘choice based lettings’ by people with learning disabilities for local people with learning disabilities and the people who support them.
- Utilise existing resources, developed by the Moving on from Hospital Living programme and Dorset For You among others, in the development of a guide

and menu on the full range of housing options for and with people with learning disabilities, mainstream and specialist advice agencies and advocacy organisations.

- Produce a housing information pack to go on the LDPB website, Supporting People website and Dorset for You.
- Develop relationships with existing advocacy or advice groups and seek commitment from the local housing authority to ensure the housing information pack is kept up to date and remains accessible for people with learning disabilities. Recruit 3 housing 'champions' in the community/voluntary sector/the mainstream housing advice sector/local authority/social housing/private sector who will commit to ensuring the housing information pack is updated every 6 months.
- Evaluate the options for floating support, or provide or enable access to suitable floating support in the transitional resettlement stage of move on.
- Enable move on to more independent living for a group of clients ready to make this move.
- Provide regular update reports for service users, project sponsor/leader, LDPB and evaluations of the project against its objectives.
- To build on results from peer reviewing and service user consultation, undertaken by PeopleFirst and funded by the Supporting People (SP) programme.

The project will provide a model for move on that support providers and service users can follow and update.

The project will build on resources developed within campus and with local advocacy organisations and will work to provide guidance and context for the use of materials with people with learning disabilities living in a wide range of settings with various levels of eligibility for statutory provision.

The project will provide a model or journey map showing how people with learning disabilities can access and improve the mainstream supports currently available to vulnerable adults with housing related support needs.

The project will improve access to social rented housing and the private sector is governed by housing benefit income to which clients will be eligible.

Access to support for clients living more independently. Person centred planning means that when we look at projects being sustainable we need to look at how the project will be sustainable for each individual. When we consider move on to more independent accommodation sustainability is reliant on individual needs and whether somebody has needs which can be met through an individualised budget, this depends on whether they are assessed as being eligible for adult care services and how they choose to receive services.

The creation of a peer group to enable mutual support and the establishment network of social supports in the local community with links to existing statutory services and existing floating support provision supports the aim of the project creating a self sustaining group of clients living independently.

### **Expected outcomes.**

- Increased access to a range of housing options in the social and private rental sector for people with learning disabilities.
- Increased access IT and software to ensure documents are produced in 'easy read.'
- The development of appropriate materials to test the market and methods of raising awareness among providers, service users, carers and landlords of move on opportunities for people with learning disabilities.
- Development of 'how to' guides for people with learning disabilities and support providers looking at finding and applying for accommodation, housing rights and choices, support options etc.
- Increased advocacy and leadership skills among service users who are waiting to access more independent housing.
- Raised awareness of the need to for move on for this client group for housing providers and stakeholders.
- Increased throughputs from supported accommodation
- Clients supported to begin to source suitable accommodation with units within easy walking distance of each other.
- Clients supported to build a social support network involving local statutory, voluntary and community sector stakeholders with the aim of becoming self sustaining.
- The project would contribute to achieving the cross cutting objectives within the Dorset LAA and Community Strategy by increasing access to affordable housing for groups that have traditionally found the sector hard to access.

#### **Affordable, sustainable and appropriate housing**

**NIS 141 – number of vulnerable people achieving independent living**

**NIS 145 – adults with learning disabilities in settled accommodation**

### **Links with Valuing People Now priorities.**

- Increased access to a range of housing options in the social and private rental sector for people with learning disabilities.
- Increased employment opportunities for members of the steering group gaining skills in the areas of citizen advocacy, peer reviewing, report production, use of IT etc.
- Ensuring the personalisation agenda becomes more embedded with district housing authorities, housing and support providers as well as advice agencies and family carers.

- Raising awareness of Valuing People Now with local housing and support providers, Supporting People funded providers and providers of supported lodgings through a project where service user involvement is embedded with a service user led steering group focussing on housing and support solutions for people with learning disabilities.

### **Administration Duties**

- 1) To deal with service user and public office enquires.
- 2) To respond to and produce correspondence as directed by the Housing Support Manager.
- 3) To record information on the Trusts computer system.
- 4) To assist in the production of literature/newsletters for general distribution.
- 5) To undertake any other office administrative task commensurate with the post as requested by the Housing Support Manager.

### **General Duties**

- 1) To attend staff meetings as requested by the Housing Support Manager.
- 2) To promote the East Boro Housing Trust and the Dorset County Council Learning Disability Partnership Board and its work in the community and in all areas of its operation.
- 3) To attend forums, meetings and conferences as and when directed by the Housing Support Manager.
- 4) To communicate clearly with other staff, managers, service users, customers and all other agencies and interested parties.

### **Equal Opportunities**

To comply with and promote the terms and conditions of the East Boro Housing Trust equal opportunities policy.

### **Data Protection**

To comply with the terms and conditions of the 1984 & 1998 Data Protection Acts.