

APPENDIX 1

RESIDENTIAL CARE AND SUPPORTED LIVING DEFINITIONS

Residential Care home and Supported Living or Housing are important terms that are used throughout this report. These describe two different types of accommodation for people with learning disabilities.

Residential Care Homes

This is a living arrangement in for people who are not able to live alone or in their own homes. Residential care homes provide help with everyday tasks such as bathing, dressing, and taking medication. Residential care has been the traditional method of supporting adults with disabilities in the community; it provides security and 24 hour support giving peace of mind to family and carers.

Residential care homes are registered with and inspected by the Care Quality Commission. People living in residential care receive a small weekly allowance of approximately £20, and are not entitled to any state benefits. Charges for all aspects of the service are paid either by health or social care commissioners or by the service user and their families.

Supported Living

Supported Living encompasses a range of services designed to help people to retain their independence in their local community. They enable people to hold their own tenancy and to have personal support provided by a range of organisations. Supported living gives people more choice and control over the way that they live their lives, and to tailor their support the way they want it.

Supported living is seen as an alternative to institutional residential care. It is often seen as suitable for people with lower level support needs, but has been used to successfully support people with complex and challenging needs in their own homes, using detailed planning and focused personal assistance.

Supported Living is not registered by the CQC, as it is support delivered to people in their homes. Instead it is the personal care agency that is registered and regulated. Another key difference is that people within supported living services are able to access state benefits including housing benefit, given them a greater opportunity to make choices in how they spend their money. People in supported living services are also able to access personal budgets.

In relation to the services included in this review the main impact of changing from residential care to supported living will be that people are able to access welfare benefits and have a greater influence over their day to day lives. This will for example allow them to work with those supporting them to design arrangements which most closely meet their needs, rather than assuming 24 hour support in the home. The move will enable people to access personal budgets and to enjoy the personalisation which has transformed social care for those living in their own homes. Harrow uses the term Supported Living plus for supported housing with a package of support and care provided over a 24-hour period.