

# Thinking About Housing

## Reach Parliament Report

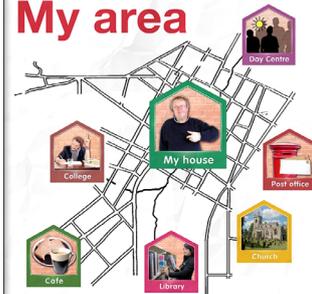
March 2017



Reach  
Parliament



My area



City of  
**Stoke-on-Trent**



Is part of



advocacy services in staffordshire

## About Reach



Reach is a group advocacy project based in Stoke-on-Trent, supporting people with learning disabilities.



We arrange meetings and events for people to speak up together, talk about issues, share opinions and ideas.



We are part of Asist, Advocacy Services in Staffordshire.



You can telephone us on 01782 747872 or email us on [reach@asist.co.uk](mailto:reach@asist.co.uk)



Thanks to Photosymbols for some of the images used in this report.



## What We Did



Commissioners (managers who plan and pay for services) from Stoke-on-Trent City Council asked Reach to find out what people think of some new ideas.



These are some new ideas the council are thinking about for housing for people with disabilities in Stoke-on-Trent.



One of the ideas is to make changes to Abbots House, an old council nursing home that closed down 3 years ago.



The council are thinking of knocking down Abbots House and building new bungalows for people with disabilities and their families.



The council want this to happen in the next 3 years but want to know if people with disabilities want this kind of housing.

# What We Did



We said we would find out about Reach members' ideas and experiences about housing and ask what they think of the council's plans.



We said we would work with Reach members in Parliament meetings, focus groups, one to one meetings and drop-ins.



We used the information from the council and the Sentinel (the local newspaper) to make a poster that would help people share their ideas.



# Thoughts and Ideas - Reach Parliament, March 2017



"I'm a woman and I live in a small residential home with 3 men. I want to move out so I'm closer to my family, and because there's 3 men and me. I do get lots of support from the staff and we've been planning me moving out independently for ages. It's happening soon and I'm excited."



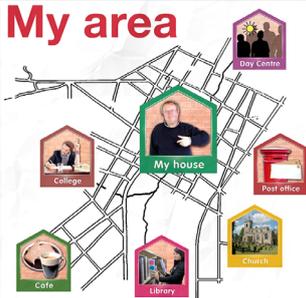
City of  
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"I like this [the idea from the city council]. It's a good idea, if you know what you're doing with it."



"I think they should build it more like a retirement village sort of place. Make it wheelchair accessible on the ground floor and have lifts and that. Put in things like a restaurant and a gym and a lounge. Somewhere like a community space for people who live there."

**My area**



"It's a big thing, to go living independently. Especially if you've lived in residential or with your family a long time."

## Thoughts and Ideas - Reach Parliament, March 2017



“A bigger complex with more support staff would be better for people who need 24/7 care.”



“I wouldn't move again. I live in a small residential. It's nice. I like there being a few people around and we get to go out with the staff and in the car.”



“Perhaps if they do this sort of thing they could arrange some coffee mornings for the people there, bring people together. Not separate people as much.”



“People do need supported living.”



“There's definitely a need for it, for people wanting move out of a residential home.”

# Questions from the Reach Parliament - March 2017



"I think this is a good idea if you've got the right support. But who pays? Who pays for that support?"



"It all depends on what support people get though, doesn't it? Where's it coming from?"



"How small are they talking - these flats? Is it one or two people? And how many places will there be for people?"



"The location of it [in Abbey Hulton], I know it. You're five minutes walk from the shops, the post office, the doctors. Will they get other places like that as well, in the community?"



"Will these places be to buy or are they for renting?"

# What Happens Next?



We will share this report on housing with the council, Reach members and services where adults with learning disabilities go.



We will share this report on Facebook, and the websites for Reach and the Stoke-on-Trent Learning Disability Partnership Board.



We will use the poster, this report and other information and ideas people share with us to talk about housing with lots of people.



We will bring all the information and ideas we collect to the next Reach Parliament meeting in May 2017 and talk about housing with the commissioners.



After that meeting we will write another, big final report on housing and share it with lots of people and organisations.