

Easy

Read

We have
the Right

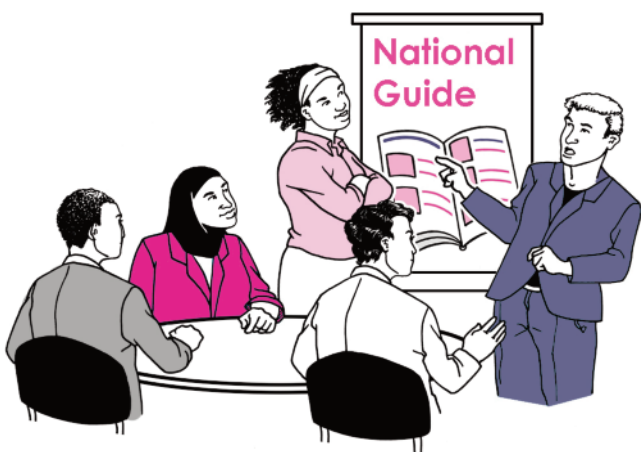


We Have the Right

People with learning disabilities setting the agenda



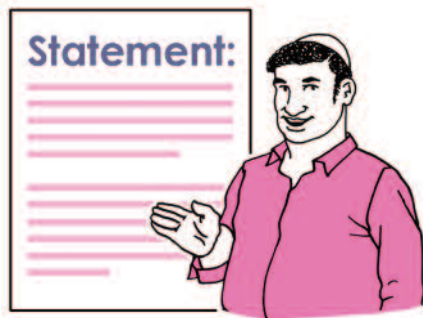
NHS England has asked Sir Stephen Bubb, the Chief Executive of charity leaders network ACEVO, to head a new group of experts and advisors to develop a national guide for local areas about how to arrange different kinds of care and support for people with learning disabilities who currently live in institutions or hospitals.



The group will write a report by the end of October. You can find out more here:



<http://www.england.nhs.uk/2014/07/14/learning-disability-support/>



Sir Stephen has asked the people with learning disabilities, who came to the Our Voices Our Choices Our Freedom event in Leeds, to help his group to draft a strong Statement about people with learning disabilities' rights and the need to support people to move out of institutions into ordinary homes.

We would like your views on the Statement, which starts on page 3.

We have been asked for a very short Statement, so we have not included all of the proposals from the event in it (but we did share those proposals at a summit with Sir Stephen, Norman Lamb (the Care Minister), the Chief Executive of NHS England (Simon Stevens) and others.



<http://changepeoplephilipa.wordpress.com/2014/09/09/our-power-to-change-things-for-the-better/>



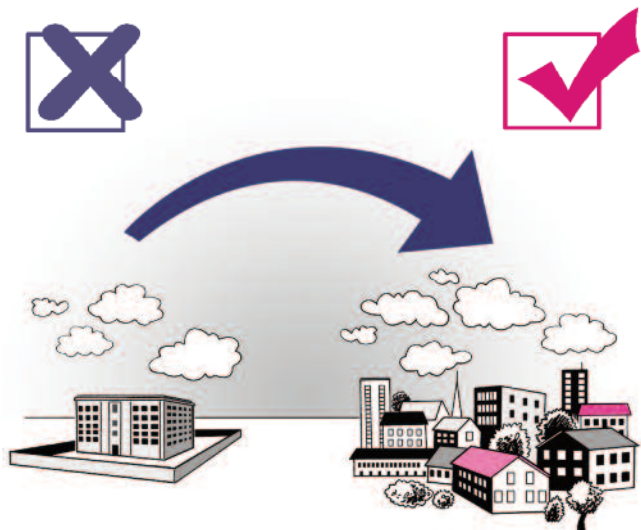
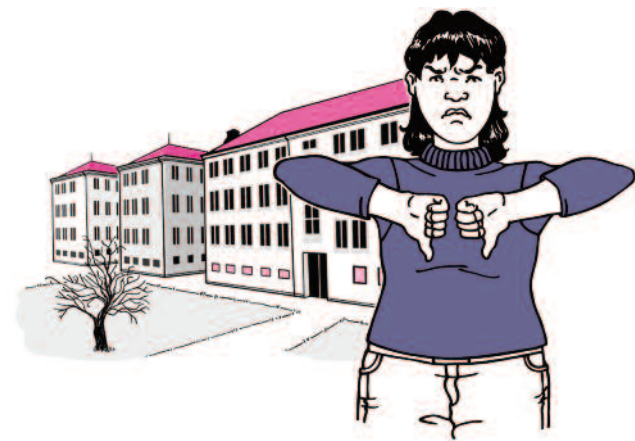
We will listen to your views and think about any changes you want us to make to the Statement. Then we will send it to Stephen and his group.



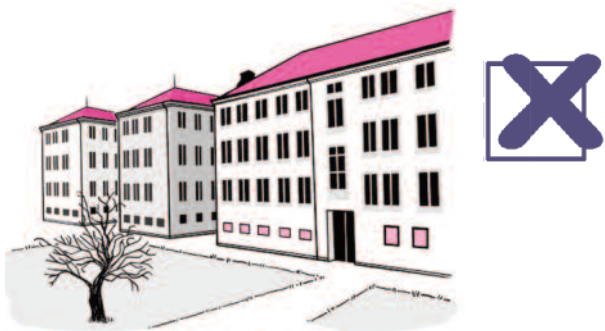
They will discuss our Statement at a meeting on October 2nd and then they may make more changes to it.

Our suggested Statement is:

People with learning disabilities have the same rights as everyone else. No one should be made to live where they don't want to live, just because they need support.



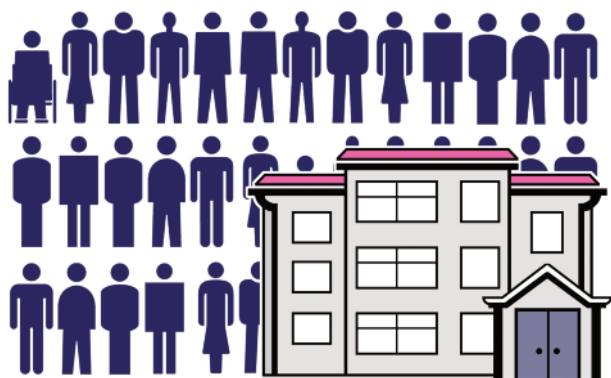
Yet tens of thousands of people with learning disabilities in Britain do not have this right and they should.



Institutions are not the right model of care and they should be closed and replaced with ways of supporting people with learning disabilities which allow us to live in ordinary homes, in our community, with the people we choose.

Institutions aren't just big buildings. Some small buildings are really institutions, because they are places where people don't get to choose who to live with and how to spend their time. No kind of institution should be seen as acceptable.

Whenever someone moves into an institution, they and their advocates should have the right to challenge that decision and to keep on challenging it.

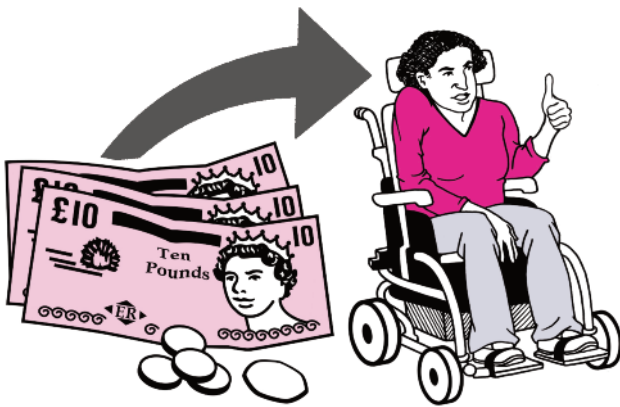




To challenge decisions, people with learning disabilities need to have more power.

We could have more power if we are able to:

- Have high quality accessible information that is quality checked by employed people with learning disabilities
- Have Access to a personal budget (such as a Direct Payment) or a Personal Health Budget
- Have an advocate to support us to make decisions and a person who looks after our personal budget money (broker) to support us to spend our money differently





- Be employed and work in support of other people with learning disabilities as advocates, peer supporters, service planners commissioners and inspectors
- Have powerful representation from employed people with learning disabilities at every point where decisions are made about us
- Hold people who make decisions about us to account at regular meetings, which commissioners and directors have to attend

Please can you send us your views on this Statement by October 1st 2014 to:

info@changepeople.org



This easy read Statement was produced by CHANGE
www.changepeople.org