

Throughout all our homes, we guide our service users into acquiring the skills that are necessary to function in a modern world. We focus on 'Life Skills' such as money management, personal hygiene, cooking and social skills/interaction. Skills are passed on to service users in a way which is tailored to them as individuals. Each person learns, through one-to-one sessions, group tuition and constant reinforcement with staff guidance and support. We are also able to offer communication assessments to service users, which identify the method of communication that will best suit their needs. This could be anything from British Sign Language and pictorial communication to total communication where a combination approach is used.

Our philosophy is to provide core support in a signing environment where British Sign Language is used by both D/deaf and hearing staff, so that tenants can identify with positive role models. All staff are British Sign Language users, with the higher percentage of our staff group being D/deaf themselves. Hearing members of staff are also fluent BSL users. This has enabled us to create an atmosphere of total inclusion and equality, a philosophy which we have found facilitates personal and social development for all our service users.

Referral Process

Referrals usually take the form of visits by the prospective client and family together with their Social Worker, completion of a referral document, then a series of interviews to assess suitability and the needs of the prospective client, followed by a 6 week placement to complete a comprehensive needs assessment.

Further details of the referral procedures and other enquiries can be made to:

Supported Living Services Stepping Stones

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Supported Living Services

Deafness Support Network (DSN) Supported Living Services provide a supportive environment for D/deaf and D/deafblind adults who have additional learning difficulties and/or challenging behaviour and complex needs. Our aim is to encourage personal growth and development, in order to facilitate as independent a lifestyle as possible.

Supported Living Services consist of four group homes offering support and care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, through the Supported Living/Care model.

Stepping Stones is our core facility, offering placements for up to 11 people, with an extra bed space for respite and emergency situations. Stepping Stones is built over three floors and the first floor contains a wing, which is designated and fully adapted for service users who have a physical disability. Placements are offered on a tenancy basis for a duration suited to the individual.

Lavender Lodge is our newest property and was custom designed and built to meet the complete and diverse needs of tenants who are D/deafblind with a learning disability and challenging behaviour. Lavender Lodge is a bungalow situated across the road from Stepping Stones and offers en-suite accommodation with special adaptations. We have commissioned a Multi-Sensory Room – a facility that works by stimulating the senses in a multitude of ways, with the creative use of lights, vibration, sound, smell and texture. We are able to create specific 'themed environments' to suit the mood and purpose of the client. This can range from offering a relaxing atmosphere, or stimulation of the senses, to education – teaching concepts such as 'cause and effect'.



Multi-Sensory Room & Sensory Garden

We have also created a Sensory Garden, which complements the Multi-Sensory Room. Service users can take a guided journey through the garden along differently textured walkways, scented seats, water features and lit areas, which enhance the senses of a person who has dual sensory loss. It is also a relaxing meeting area where tenants can sit and socialise with their peers. The Multi-Sensory Room can be booked by external users for a small fee.

No. 15 and No. 66 are our small group homes, which are situated around the corner from Stepping Stones and offer long-term placements for four males and four females respectively. These smaller group homes are an ideal transitional placement before moving back in to the community, or for longer-term accommodation with the appropriate level of support. Tenants are able to experience living in the community with the guidance and support of skilled and dedicated staff members who provide the appropriate levels of support to best suit individual needs.

