That’s how it appears, but First Choice and its partners have carefully chosen and adapted specialist supported accommodation to provide a therapeutic environment to reduce behaviours that challenge.

Our vast experience in providing Specialist Supported Accommodation for this client group means that we can work with commissioners to provide bespoke accommodation tailored to meet their individual needs.

The location will be chosen to maximise social integration and typical features of a property include:

- Quiet area (as noise can be a trigger)
- Large footprint
- Break out rooms to help manage and reduce behaviours that challenge
- Adapted bathrooms
- Concealed toilet cisterns
- Solid walls to minimise damage
- Specialist items

By working very closely with commissioners at design stage First Choice can tailor the design to ensure that tenant’s needs are met in a discreet way and deliver positive outcomes for tenants.

Adaptations First Choice have designed into a properties include:

- Secure radiators
- Concealed pipework and cables to avoid damage
- Boxing in of stairwells
- Alternatives to gravel to protect tenants with Picu
- Lockable cupboards with power points to protect belongings e.g. TV’s and building controls such as heating controls
- Flooring which enables furniture to be bolted to the ground discreetly

First Choice has worked with Health Boards and Local Authorities to provide bespoke Specialist Supported Accommodation that is specifically designed to reduce and help manage behaviours that challenge. The partnership has enabled people to move from expensive residential care to live fulfilling lives in the community.

As there is a shortage of suitable accommodation in Wales local Authorities Health Boards have been forced to house people with behaviours that challenge out of county and away from their families. First Choice have worked with them to provide a long term solution which improves lives and reduces costs.

We provide a home which:

- Gives the tenant independence and security of tenure
- Provides a bespoke environment designed to reduce and help manage challenging behaviours
- Enables the tenant to be near their family and support network
- Gives significant long term cost savings to commissioners
- Reduces admissions to acute services
- Provides a place where multi-agency services can be provided

Brian had ASD and lived in Swansea but when he was 11 he moved to a residential school. The distance meant that there was infrequent contact with his family and the cost was in excess of £300,000 a year.

Brian was 19 and needed new accommodation so we worked with Abertawe Br Morganwg University Health Board, City and County of Swansea and Walsingham to develop a housing and support package in Swansea which would meet his needs and help with his support. Brian is now able to carry out his own activities of daily living whilst engaging positively with his support staff. His quality of life has improved and his challenging behaviour significantly reduced. Brian was also able to see his family much more frequently, in particular his maternal grandmother with whom he has a relationship that is very important to him.

As there is a shortage of suitable accommodation in Wales Local Authorities Health Boards have been forced to house people with behaviours that challenge out of county and away from their families. First Choice have worked with them to provide a long term solution which improves lives and reduces costs.

We provide a home which:

- Gives the tenant independence and security of tenure
- Provides a bespoke environment designed to reduce and help manage challenging behaviours
- Enables the tenant to be near their family and support network
- Gives significant long term cost savings to commissioners
- Reduces admissions to acute services
- Provides a place where multi-agency services can be provided

For more information contact Richard Lloyd at First Choice Housing Association Ltd on 02920713757 or email richardlloyd@fcha.org.uk

By addressing the issues rather than managing Brian’s behaviour lower levels of support were needed. Within one year the cost of providing support to Brian had reduced from £300,000 to just over £100,000 per annum giving annual revenue savings of circa £200,000.

Beneficial to the Tenant and Commissioner - “A win-win”
First Choice has worked with Health Boards and local authorities to provide bespoke specialist supported accommodation that is specifically designed to reduce and help manage behaviours that challenge.

Our commitment

First Choice Housing Association Limited
Unit 10, Village Way, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Cardiff. CF15 7NE
Tel: 029 2070 3758
Email: customerservices@fcha.org.uk
www.fcha.org.uk

Our awards

IIP Gold • Silver Armed Forces Defence Recognition • Positive About Disabled Living Wage Employer
Small Workplace Health Award Gold • TPAS Award Service User Involvement

Registered with charitable status under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 Number 26118R.
Registered with the Welsh Government under Number 664.