

## WORKING WITH HEALTH BOARDS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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

## BENEFICIAL TO THE TENANT AND COMMISSIONER - "A WIN-WIN"

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 Bro Morgannwg 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.



PHOTO ABOVE: ONE OF OUR COMPLEX NEEDS PROPERTIES  
PHOTO BELOW: THE SPECIALLY ADAPTED BATHROOM FROM THE ABOVE PROPERTY



## AN ORDINARY HOUSE IN AN ORDINARY STREET?

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 shower and 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.

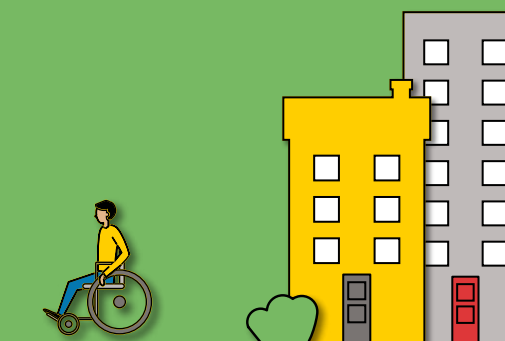
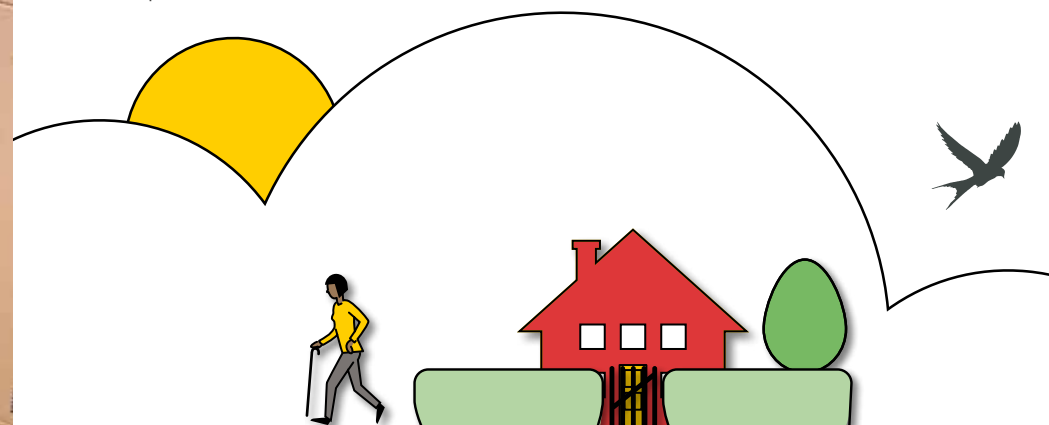
### Adaptations First Choice have designed into a properties include:

- ✓ Secure radiators
- ✓ Concealed pipework and cables to avoid damage
- ✓ Boxing in of stairwells
- ✓ Alternatives to gravel to protect tenants with Pica
- ✓ 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



**SAVINGS TO THE PUBLIC BY ADDRESSING THE ISSUES 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.**

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





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Our commitment



Building Independence

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

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# FIRST CHOICE HOUSING ASSOCIATION COMPLEX HEALTH SCHEMES - AN ORDINARY HOUSE IN AN ORDINARY STREET

