

*Helping people in Devon
to have a say about
mental health and wellbeing services
by enabling involvement*



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Devon's new supported accommodation strategy 2009

Devon County Council and Devon Partnership Trust are currently consulting on what they call their '**Accommodation and Support Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Mental Health**'. The main consultation paper is very long and will be hard to understand if you don't read papers like this on a regular basis. Therefore we've provided a shortened easier read version of the document below.

We know that even though we've tried to make this version as short and clear as possible, it will still be confusing for many people. That's part of the reason we've organised three consultation events across Devon. The hope is that these events will help people get a clearer picture and ask about anything they're not sure on. If you would like to have the full document, or have any questions, please contact BID (see contact details above).

Shortened Easier Read Version

The idea is to change the way accommodation services are organised, so that there won't be so many people living in staffed accommodation and there will be more people given what's called 'floating support'.

Floating support involves a support worker visiting people who already live, or who have moved, into independent accommodation

The plan is that

- 'fewer people will be in longer term residential care'
- 'short term residential care will level out and potentially reduce'
- 'there will be an increase of people with mental health problems living in independent social and private rented housing with floating support'.

They will use a '**core and cluster**' approach within each network area in Devon:

- '**The core** will involve the development of intensively staffed accommodation based services and provide short term highly intensive supported accommodation to enable people with mental health problems to recover and move onto a more independent setting.

These services will not have 24 hour on site staffing cover, but the idea is each person will have their own package of services according to their assessed needs, on top of the services provided by the high support accommodation. This would include access to specialist mental health advice from health care professionals.

- **The cluster** will involve the provision of floating support, both for those who move on from accommodation based services as well as people who have less complex mental health problems’.

The plan is to remodel all other accommodation based services as floating support, while also retaining the existing floating support services.

They say that ‘this approach will provide a much stronger emphasis on recovery and moving towards independence. It will also mean that the capacity of floating support services will be increased so that more people can be provided with support in their own homes, potentially preventing tenancy breakdown and loss of accommodation’.

The idea is that floating support will be geared up for each person’s needs, so for example, some people will get lower level support over a long period, while others will get intensive support over a shorter period.