

Commissioning Position Statement

Supported Living – April 2025

Current Position

Oldham council commissions a range of providers to deliver supported living services for people with learning disabilities and / or autism (LDA), and complex mental health needs. There are currently six providers who support people with LDA and one for our MH service. A new Greater Manchester (GM) framework has recently been established which provides the overarching framework for these services under the remit of Supporting People to Live Well at Home.

The service's primary aims are to enhance the quality of life for residents by focusing on personalised care that promotes independence, improves overall well-being, and re-enables skills and abilities. It emphasises preventative care while delivering tailored support that meets individual needs and aspirations.

The services operate on a *core and flex* model. The core element funds the background support for each property and is commissioned on a block contract arrangement. The flex elements are based on an individual's Care Act assessed needs and are therefore specific to each person yet taking into consideration the needs of the whole household where this is applicable.

Current Gaps in the Oldham Market

Currently, approximately 30 residents with learning disabilities who live outside the borough – this can be for several reasons and is often the most appropriate placement for the individual at that time. Another reason for out of area placements is a lack of available specialist housing through registered providers (landlords).

We know there are challenges with Oldham housing stock and a number of people who require single occupancy properties to meet their assessed needs.

Commissioning Approach

The council is legally obligated to comply with its contract procedure rules and all relevant procurement legislation in delivering services. Under a supported living model, adult social care is responsible for commissioning the care and support services. This means that the housing component of a supported living service is

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<https://www.oldham.gov.uk/mps-commissioning-approach>

and Capacity and Demand Profile <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/mps-capacity-and-demand-summary>.

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met by registered providers (RPs) who provide the housing stock and operate as the landlord which is classified as specialist accommodation.

The council is in the process of re-tendering the LDA Supported Living services under the GM Framework through mini competitions. This opportunity will be advertised through The Chest, with an indicative timeline of going out to the wider market in Summer 2025. The service is driven by the following ambitions:

- **High-Quality Support:** Ensuring individuals with learning disabilities and complex needs receive the highest standard of support in their living and accommodation arrangements, enabling them to live as independently as possible.
- **Strengthened Framework:** Reinforcing and enhancing the current commissioning framework and delivery model for supported living services.
- **Future-Ready Provision:** Ensuring the availability and mix of supported accommodation align with both current and future needs across the borough.
- **Addressing Identified Challenges:** Resolving specific issues highlighted during the supported living review to improve outcomes for all stakeholders.
- **Value for Money:** Delivering cost-effective supported living services within the allocated budget while maintaining quality and meeting user needs.

This approach reflects a commitment to providing personalised, sustainable support that empowers residents to lead fulfilling lives in their communities.

All opportunities to engage and work with us in Oldham will be advertised on the e-procurement portal, *The CHEST* (<https://www.the-chest.org.uk/>).

For more information or to discuss opportunities in Oldham, please contact us at asccommissioning@oldham.gov.uk

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