

Dear Sir/Madam in Prime Minister's Strategy Unit

Hounslow Homes is the ALMO of the London Borough of Hounslow, and we manage all the council tenancies in the borough.

Our Senior Management Team, Equalities Team, and the internal Disability Strategic Group have been briefed regarding the government's draft strategy report - "Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People" and make the following comments/suggestions:

- That the 2025 strategy is welcomed by Hounslow Homes and the organisation supports the overall strategic aim and vision of this draft report.
- That to ensure disabled people have "full opportunities & choices to improve their quality of life and be respected & included as equal members of society" it is essential that the government ensures that the necessary level of new funding is made available to support the delivery of the strategy. This is particularly important in the field of independent living, employment and proportionate consultation.
- This is particularly vital in support of the expansion of Direct Payments system, ensuring disabled people can purchase their own care independently, through real choice.
- Local authorities should not be the only key drivers in delivering the new system - the voluntary & private sector should also be encouraged, to ensure no disparity between the public, private & voluntary sectors. Currently this Strategy places a considerable onus on the part of local authorities in delivering this system and does not fully take into account multi agency responsibility.
- That there is recognition that there is a largely lack of capacity amongst the voluntary sector to assist and scrutinise this function.

kind regards,

Neghet Khan
Policy Officer (Equalities)
Hounslow Homes