



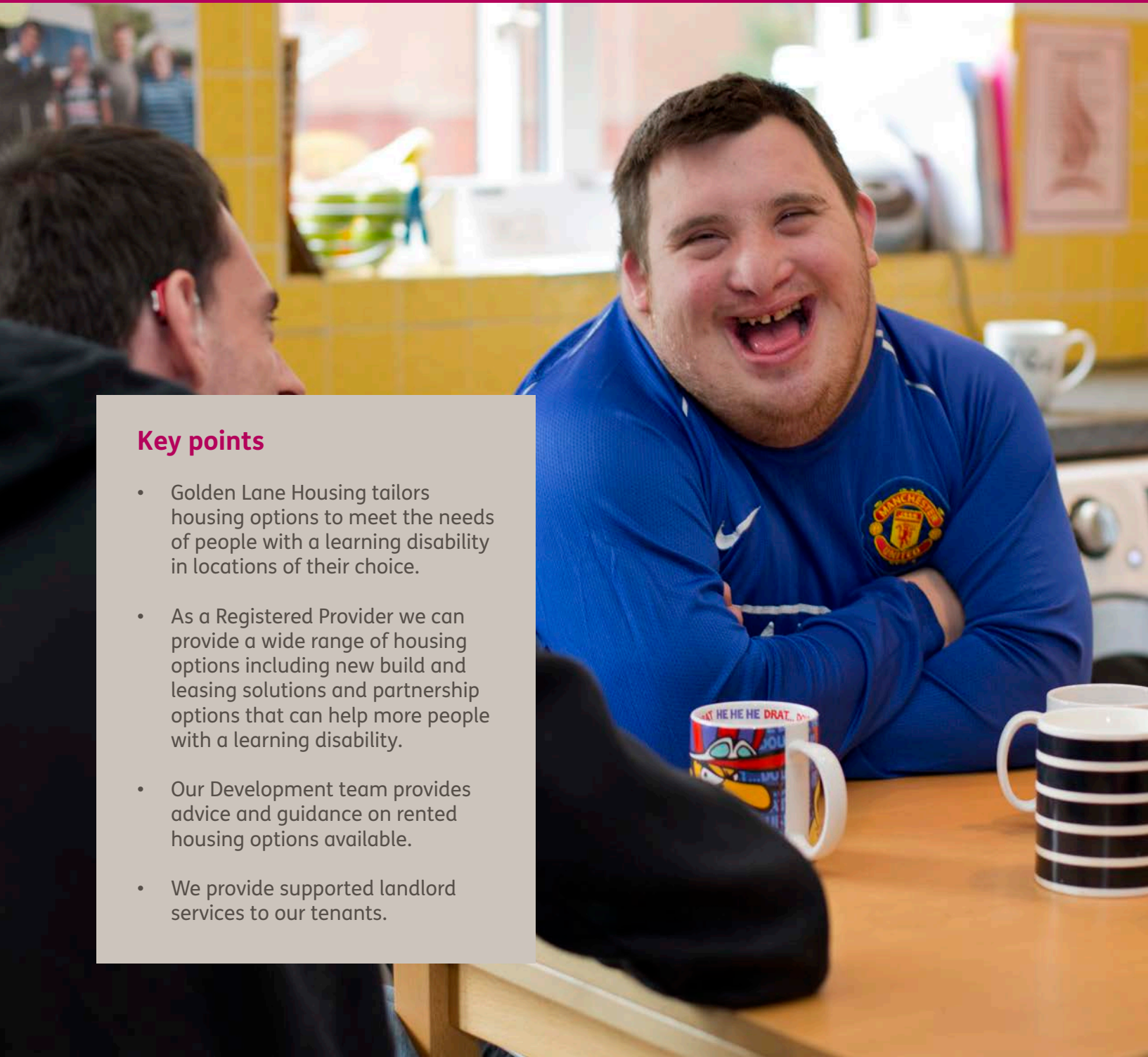
Golden Lane Housing

working in partnership with 

Housing for people with a learning disability

Key points

- Golden Lane Housing tailors housing options to meet the needs of people with a learning disability in locations of their choice.
- As a Registered Provider we can provide a wide range of housing options including new build and leasing solutions and partnership options that can help more people with a learning disability.
- Our Development team provides advice and guidance on rented housing options available.
- We provide supported landlord services to our tenants.



About Golden Lane Housing

Everyone has different needs when it comes to their home. Whether they want to live alone or share, live in a particular location or need specialist adaptations, Golden Lane Housing (GLH) can help people with a learning disability to rent their own home.

GLH was established as an independent national charity by Royal Mencap Society in 1998 to help tackle the immense problems that people with a learning disability face when it comes to finding a home. We provide quality housing to suit the needs of a person in a location of their choice.

In January 2015, GLH became a Registered Provider that provides additional security for our existing tenants and enables us to offer a wider range of housing for even more people with a learning disability. It opens the door to enter into partnerships with other Registered Providers to help us deliver more housing and/or better value for our tenants and opportunities to raise additional capital.

We work very closely with local commissioners of care and support to ensure that our housing solutions are commissioned in line with their social services and health strategies and priorities.

We start with the individual

Unlike many housing providers, GLH understands the needs of people with a learning disability. We also know that everyone we support has different needs. That's why we always start with the person – and look for housing to meet their specific requirements rather than simply placing individuals into properties we own.

Partnerships are central to everything we do. We work closely with more than 80 different support providers, including Royal Mencap Society, to make sure all our tenants can access the personal support they need to maintain their tenancy.

We provide specialist landlord services – such as specialist housing adaptations, repairs and maintenance service, support to keep safe and money management advice – to all our tenants, helping to bridge the gap between housing and support. Whether a person is receiving support through a local authority contract or an individual budget, our aim is always to ensure a joined-up approach.



Rent

The majority of GLH's tenants use Housing Benefit to pay for their rent. We work closely with local Housing Benefit departments to agree rents that are reasonable and paid outside of the normal rules. This provides more financial stability and certainty that rent will be paid in full for our tenants.

If you have a disability you may be entitled to higher levels of Housing Benefit – for example if you need an additional room for sleep over support.

This is a complex area but our expertise and relationship with local authorities is invaluable in making sure people understand and receive what they are entitled to and get the right housing.



Looking at housing options

Our Development team gives advice and guidance on the rented housing options.

Privately rented accommodation

Our Great Tenants scheme enables us to lease properties from landlords, support providers and families. GLH acts as the landlord and liaises directly with tenants.

Planning with relatives

We help families find long term housing solutions for their loved ones by using a discretionary trust with Mencap Trust Company. GLH can help people to manage and maintain such properties – this scheme is called Our House.

GLH purchased properties

Where Mencap is the support provider and funding is available, there is potential to purchase specific houses that are adapted where necessary before being let to individuals or groups. There are opportunities for families to make a financial contribution to the purchase of the property.

Property Search

We will look to either purchase or lease a suitable property based on a person's housing needs. We work closely with individuals, families, social services, social and private landlords and developers to find the right property. Once a property has been identified and viewed, we will secure it and arrange for any works to be done.

Becoming a Golden Lane Housing tenant

We allocate a named housing officer who will get in touch with all details about moving in and signing the tenancy. We provide supported landlord services to our tenants - such as housing related benefits advice, keeping safe and a 24 hour helpline number.

“James is living with three friends and they're very happy. It's a great home in the right location and they've got a great support team.”

Ged, James' Dad

Change in needs

We are always there to help our tenants through the changes. For example, if a person needs external funding for adaptations or wants to move to somewhere new. Whilst we can not guarantee we will always be identify external adaptation funding or able to provide alternative housing, we will always try to do everything we can to help them to find the right home to meet their needs.

Get in touch

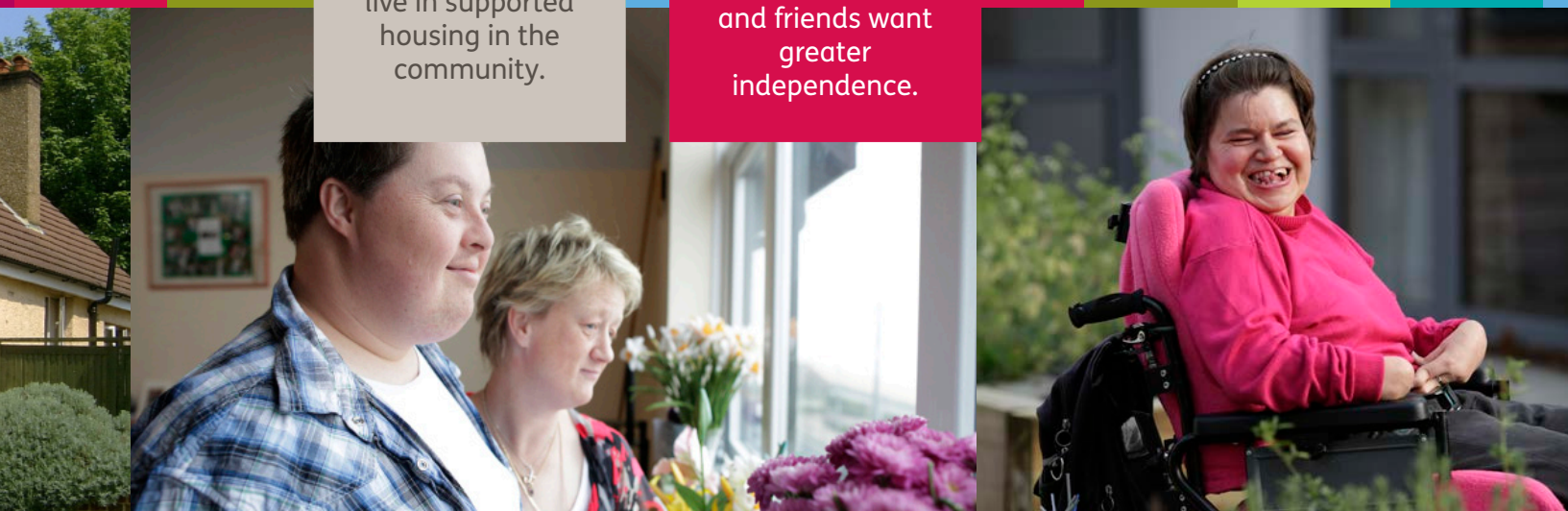
For help and advice, call

0300 003 7007

or email
enquiries@glh.org.uk

Only 16% of people with a learning disability live in supported housing in the community.

Around 70% of people with a learning disability who live with family and friends want greater independence.





Sacha's story

Life has improved in so many ways after Sacha moved into her own place.

“One day I said to my parents, I want to find my own place to live. I'd been thinking about it for a while, but it came out of the blue for them. They asked me why so I told them I was ready to do things for myself and wanted to become more independent,” says Sacha, GLH tenant.

“That was the start, and look at me now two years on, my life is so much better. I used to be really quiet but not anymore – having my own place has changed everything, I'm more confident.

My social worker found my flat, and I came to view it with my Dad and Mencap were there. I liked it straight away, it was just right for me, close to my parents, shops and local buses, there's much more going on here.

After finding out I could move in I was so excited but nervous too, I'd never done anything like this before. When the big day came, my parents helped me move my things. I met Kathy, my housing officer, signing my tenancy was a big thing, I was so happy because it was officially my home. Mencap have been great, they've helped in so many ways and I've not looked back. I've learnt how to look after my flat and cook, and I'm involved in different activities and made new friends.

Four of us live in the flats. When I first moved in everyone was friendly but no-one really socialised, I helped to change that! It's so funny, we play practical jokes on each other and have water fights when the weather's warm. I started off with a water gun, then David got one, now Symon has got one too. We'll go to each other's flats for a chat and sometimes go out together. This year I started going to a music group with them. When it was my birthday they threw a surprise party, I've never had that before, which was really nice of them.

I love doing voluntary work at WCR, community radio station in Warminster, I work every third week. It makes mornings worth getting up for. It's fun and we have a laugh, everyone makes me feel so welcome. I've learnt so much. Now I answer the phones, get the traffic and travel updates from the internet, work the music desk, link to the satellite for news, local news and jingles, and play the music. I make a great coffee too! Sometimes I have my own live show on a Saturday.

I've achieved so much since moving into my flat, but this year is going to be my year, I just want to keep on achieving. I'm about to start a travel scheme so eventually I can catch the bus to Bath on my own. I also do voluntary work in a charity shop twice a week, I enjoy it there too. Everything's going well but what I'd really like is a paid job. I keep looking but nothing's come up so far, I'm hoping that's going to change.”

“Look at me now, two years on, my life is so much better.”

Sacha, GLH tenant

To contact Golden Lane Housing:
0300 003 7007

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