

Supported and Older Person's Housing

Briefing for political stakeholders

Supported housing enables people with complex needs to live independently within their communities, saving taxpayers money

- **Our home is the foundation of our lives.** It should be a place where we feel safe, and that benefits our health and wellbeing. Many people living with complex needs like a mental health condition or a disability don't need to be in a care home or a hospital, but they do need more support at home.
- Supported housing supports some of the most vulnerable people in our society, including those with experience of homelessness, older people with support needs, young care leavers, veterans, women escaping domestic violence, individuals with mental health needs and people with learning disabilities or autism spectrum disorders.
- A supported home is more than just a roof over someone's head; it's a lifeline and a bridge towards building independence, confidence and community. It means people can live on their own terms and access the support and resources that will enable them to participate fully in society.
- Over half a million people in England live in supported housing. In partnership with local authorities, the NHS, and other key organisations, not-for-profit housing associations provide nearly 75% of all supported housing.
- Supported housing saves taxpayers £3.5bn a year by easing the pressure on a range of public services, including the NHS. It provides excellent value for money and improves outcomes for residents who would otherwise be at risk of homelessness, hospital/institutional admission or being placed in costly and unsuitable temporary accommodation.
- Without supported housing, 41,000 more people would be homeless, 30,000 people would be at risk of homelessness; we would need 14,000 more inpatient psychiatric places, 2,500 additional places in residential care and 2,000 more prison places.

But supported housing faces a worsening financial crisis while need continues to rise

- Supported housing has endured years of funding cuts (with support funding reduced by 75% between 2010 and 2020) alongside rising cost pressures, including an increase in staffing costs and competing demands on council budgets amidst rising demand for services.
- As a result, there is a shortfall of 80,000 supported housing places for working age adults and between 73,000 and 245,000 places for older people across England.
- Research carried out by the National Housing Federation in 2025 revealed that more than 50,000 supported homes could be at risk of closure or decommissioning, 60% of providers will have to close supported housing schemes in the future and 1 in 5 providers may be forced to stop providing supported housing altogether.
- To meet the needs of our ageing population, by 2040, at least 157,830 additional homes for older people will need to be built.
- For too long, public spending has focused on managing the consequences of housing insecurity rather than preventing them. Across homelessness, health, social care and the criminal justice system, the costs of crisis are rising.

This Supported Housing Week, we are raising awareness of and support for these vital services and asking the government to:

- Establish a sustainable funding settlement for supported housing, including long-term revenue funding for housing-related support, recognising its crucial role in preventing homelessness, improving health outcomes and reducing pressure on public services.
- Invest in supported housing as part of wider reform of homelessness, mental health, social care and hospital discharge services, supported by more joined-up working across Whitehall and in local places.
- Retain Housing Benefit for supported housing rents and service charges and improve the viability of specialist supported housing through targeted policy and funding reforms.

More information about the benefits of supported housing and the crisis we're facing can be found on the National Housing Federation's website:

- [National Housing Federation - The financial benefits of supported housing](#)
- [National Housing Federation - Research into the supported housing sector's impact on homelessness prevention, health and wellbeing](#)
- [National Housing Federation - Finding a safe home after hospital](#)

- [National Housing Federation - The risk of closure for supported housing providers: member survey 2025](#)
- [National Housing Federation - How much supported housing will we need by 2040?](#)