



## SOCIAL SERVICES

*Shirveishyn y Theay*

### Supported Living for People with Learning Disabilities The (Success) Story so Far

*"I like having my own house, I like where I live. I can do what I want when I want to do it. Nobody tells me what to do."*



So speaks one of the happy customers of the Learning Disability Supported Living Service. Margi Quirk and Lizzie Gould are employed as support workers in the service and now support six tenants mostly in local authority housing. "Our role is to help people look after their own homes, help them to budget and pay rent and bills, help them to shop, and generally support them to be part of their local communities. The support we provide varies according to what people actually want and need on an individual basis".

Up to now most people with Learning Disabilities have either lived with their parents or relatives or in care homes, and Supported Living gives people another choice of living more independently in their own accommodation and then having a separate and individual package of support according to their needs.

Bryan Masterson, Deputy Manager for the service says, "It has been our aim to develop a supported living service for some time but we were all delighted when this became possible in 2006. The service enables people with learning difficulties to determine how they live, with whom they live and what support and help they require to live their lives. A lot of hard work has gone into developing all the necessary backup policies and procedures, and we have a user friendly referral and application process which is working well".



It is hoped to develop supported living further as part of the Learning Disability Strategy now being implemented, both to provide an alternative to care homes for people and to enable people to move towards greater independence. Joint working with housing providers is crucial to the success of the service, and further partnerships are planned.

We will leave the final word to the first user of the service who moved into her own home 12 months ago, *"I am loving it!"*

**Tony Lever**  
**General Manager**  
**Services for People with Learning Disabilities**