



Homes Not Hospitals

Supporting people with high support needs in their own homes through Individual Service Funds

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Why This Conversation Matters

Too many people are still living in systems designed to manage risk instead of support meaningful lives.

- The latest NHS England figures for 2026 indicate that 2,100 people with autism and/or a learning disability were in inpatient institutional settings in England.
- Many are detained under Mental Health Act 1983 despite not having a mental health condition
- Long stays in hospitals often reduce independence, wellbeing and quality of life
- People are too often “managed” rather than supported to thrive

Comparing Support Models

People need homes that support them to live, grow, and belong, not places that simply contain them.

Restrictive

- Hospital environments can increase distress and isolate people
- Risk management culture
- Staff changes
- Over medication
- Expensive placements

Outcomes

- People thrive with person centred support- wrap around service which suits the person
- Consistent relationships improve understanding
- Independence grows through positive risk-taking

The Human Cost

The impact institutional care can have on people's lives.

- ◆ Separation from family and friends
- ◆ Loss of routine and identity
- ◆ Increased anxiety and trauma
- ◆ Restrictive practices
- ◆ Over-medication
- ◆ Lack of purpose
- ◆ People becoming “stuck” in systems

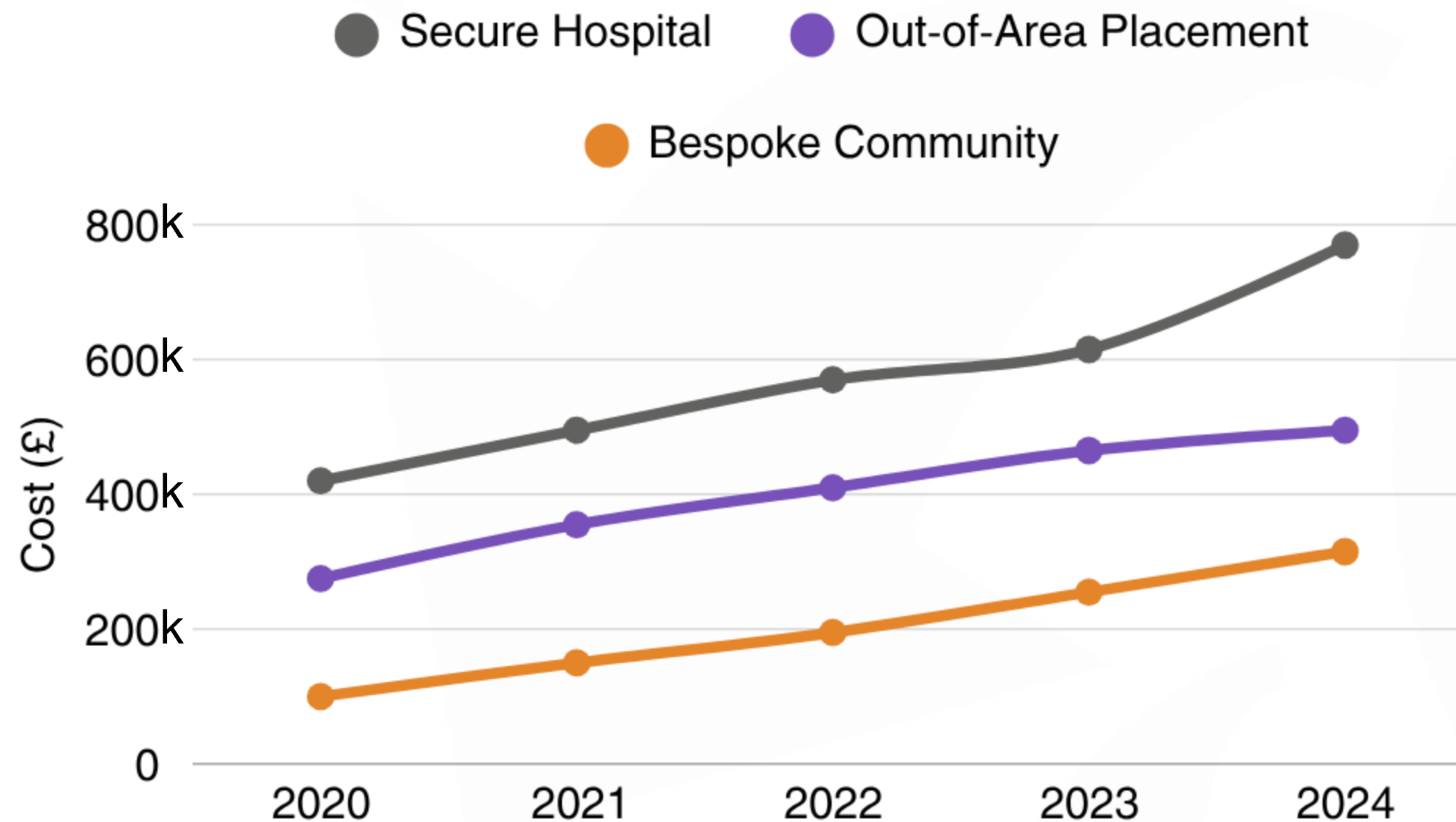
Why Do People End Up in Hospitals

The system failures behind
unnecessary admissions.

- ◆ Lack of suitable housing
- ◆ Workforce shortages
- ◆ Risk-averse commissioning
- ◆ Lack of bespoke support models
- ◆ Crisis-driven decision making
- ◆ Poor transition planning
- ◆ Services saying people are “too complex”

The Financial Reality

Better outcomes are often more cost-effective



Outcomes

- Institutional placements are extremely expensive
- Emergency placements often cost more than proactive community support
- Poor outcomes lead to repeated crises and higher long-term costs
- ISF models can provide flexibility while still maintaining accountability



What Good Support Actually Looks Like

People with high support needs do not need more restriction. They need better understanding.

- Trauma-informed
- Relationship-led
- Consistent staffing
- Communication-focused
- Sensory-aware environments
- Flexible support
- Community integration
- Family involvement
- Positive behaviour support



What Is an Individual Service Fund?

A more flexible and person-centred way to provide support.



Personal Budget

Commissioned by the Local Authority and managed by a specialist provider.



Bespoke Design

Support is designed around the individual and their needs.



Flexible & Responsive

Adaptable support plans able to change with people and circumstances.



Inclusive Decision Making

Providers work with the person and their family every step of the way.

Why ISFs Matter

How Individual Service
Funds improve support.

- ◆ Choice and control
- ◆ Flexibility
- ◆ Faster decision-making closer to the person
- ◆ Creative support solutions
- ◆ Better continuity
- ◆ Stronger accountability
- ◆ More personalised outcomes



ISFs in Practice

What personalised home support can achieve.

“Average well-being scores increased from 2.6/10 to 8.3/10 across the 9 individuals studied.”

Before	What Changed	Outcomes
Repeated crises and institutional support	Bespoke support built around the person	Increased wellbeing and stability
Distress and restrictive environments	Consistent staff and routines	Reduced incidents and restrictions
Lack of control and independence	Flexible person-led planning	Improved relationships and independence

Based on findings from an independent NDTi deep-dive evaluation of Beyond Limits’ small supports model.



How Beyond Limits Uses ISFs

Delivering person centred support
in real-life settings.

Practical Delivery

- Building truly bespoke support
- Recruiting teams around the person, with the person and family
- Designing environments that work
- Supporting meaningful lives, not just care tasks
- Working collaboratively with families and professionals
- Adapting quickly when needs change

Examples

- Supporting access to things the person loves
- Creating personalised routines
- Supporting communication methods
- Reducing restrictive interventions



Voices of Change

Hear from the people
we support.



Moving Away From “Too Complex”

The right support can
succeed where the wrong
environment failed.

Challenge assumptions:

- ◆ “Too complex” often means systems are inflexible
- ◆ All behaviour is communication
- ◆ Risk cannot be eliminated, only managed positively
- ◆ People deserve Gloriously ordinary lives regardless of complexity of their support needs



What Needs to **Change** **Nationally**

Creating a system that supports
people to live in their own home

- More investment in early intervention and support
- Better housing pathways
- Flexible funding
- Workforce development
- Reduced reliance on inpatient settings
- Stronger legal protections
- Better collaboration between health, social care and housing



What Commissioners Can Do

How commissioning can
help people thrive.

Practical recommendations:

- Commission outcomes, not just hours
- Allow flexibility in support models
- Invest in prevention
- Trust providers to innovate
- Include families and people supported in decisions
- Avoid one-size-fits-all approaches
- Find local small support providers



The Core Message

The principle at the heart of
Homes Not Hospitals.

People do better in their own homes, surrounded by people who love and care for them than they do in institutions.

- We know person centred support works
- We know institutional models can fail people
- The challenge is not capability
- The challenge is courage, flexibility and system change



Final Call to Action

A shared responsibility to create lasting change.

Homes not hospitals, is not just a campaign slogan. It should be the standard.

- ◆ We must stop designing systems around buildings
- ◆ We must design support around people
- ◆ Every person deserves:
 - A home
 - Relationships
 - Choice
 - Dignity
 - Community
 - A meaningful life that makes sense to them



Questions & Discussion

Thanks for your support!