

Easy Read

# Homes Not Hospitals

## Stolen Lives Manifesto

What we want to change for people with a learning disability and autistic people living in hospitals in Wales

The **Stolen Lives Campaign Group** wrote this document. It is an easy read version of 'Stolen Lives Manifesto'.

April 2024

# About us



We are families. We have loved ones with a learning disability or who are autistic who are:

- living in specialist hospital services
- or have lived in them in the past.



Hospital services are for people who need hospital treatment. **People should not be living in them.**



We want things to change.



We are joined by people, groups and organisations who support us.

# What we want

We want the **Welsh Government** to:



1. Tell us how many people with a learning disability and autistic people are in hospitals.



2. Explain how you will bring children and young people closer to home and out of these places.



3. Listen to us and understand what families go through.



4. See that **sectioning** people is not the answer just because services fail to meet their needs.

**Sectioning** means making you stay in hospital whether you agree to it or not. It uses a law called the Mental Health Act.



5. Work with us and people with a learning disability and autistic people to make support better.

# More about what we want

## 1. Tell us how many people with a learning disability and autistic people are staying in hospitals.



We do not have enough clear information about this.



We want there to be a **National Learning Disability Observatory**. This would be a place to collect and share better information about people with learning disabilities.

## 2. Explain how you will bring children and young people closer to home and out of these places.



There is no clear plan for making these things happen.



In 2020 there was a review called **Improving Care, Improving Lives**. This looked into people with a learning disability in these hospitals.



It had ideas about what needs to change but did not say how or when.



We think money could be better used to help people to be at home.

### 3. Listen to us and understand what families go through.



We worry social services and health boards will not listen to us. We want them to treat us better.



Sometimes we do not tell them how bad things are or how much we are hurting. We do not think they understand.



We want them to take better notes when they make decisions about our children. We want to see these notes.



We want to see and talk to our children more. We want you to hear us and treat us fairly.



We think our children should get legal help when they need it.

**4. See that sectioning people is not the answer just because services fail to meet their needs.**



Doctors and services must follow the law. The Government must do more to check they are.



People should get the right support. They should not be kept in a place that is not right for them.

## 5. Work with us and people with a learning disability and autistic people to make support better.



Disabled people's groups can give advice and help.



We can all work together to find better ways to do things.



People should get the support they need. At home and in their community.



They should not live in specialist hospital services because there is nothing better for them.



**Homes not hospitals.**



# Hard words

## Sectioning

Sectioning means making you stay in hospital whether you agree to it or not. It uses a law called the Mental Health Act.

# Homes Not Hospitals



Where the document says **we**, this means the **Stolen Lives Campaign Group**. For more information:

**Website:** [stolenlives.blog](http://stolenlives.blog)

**Email:** [StolenLivesWales@gmail.com](mailto:StolenLivesWales@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [Stolen Lives Wales](https://www.facebook.com/StolenLivesWales)

#StolenLivesWalesProtest



[Easy Read Wales](#) made this document into Easy Read using **Photosymbols**. [To tell us what you think about this easy read version, click here.](#)

[Photosymbols Licence number 403527247](#)