

Welcome to Choice Support

My name is Sarah Maguire,
and I am privileged to be the
CEO at Choice Support.

I began my career in the late 1980's when the old learning disability hospitals were closing across England. Since starting my career in social care, I have worked in many roles including support worker, house manager, training officer, and director of operations and quality assurance.

Throughout my career I have worked alongside families to ensure that people we support are active members of their communities. This includes making sure their rights as citizens are upheld and to challenge any injustice they may face.

These ideals are part of the Choice Support Vision: *We want to be part of a world where everyone matters, and everyone cares. We want all our staff to understand the part they play in helping us achieve our purpose: To create opportunities for people to be happy.*

Our values were co-produced with the people we support and reflect what is important to them. The way we achieve our purpose is through living out our values:

We care

We care about people and stand up for what is right.

We respect

We are open and honest and value people for who they are.

We learn

We listen, we work together, and we continue to improve.

We lead

We are experts at what we do and make good ideas happen.

Supporting people to build a life starts with having a place to call home. We have found that families often struggle to get the right advice on housing and support. It can be very complicated. So now we have a housing team that provides advice to families to find individual solutions.

We are very proud of our safeguarding standards and commitment to providing all our staff with the skills and training to keep people in our care safe and happy.

Like all providers I know that we won't always get things right, but we will always listen and learn. We know that when it comes to your family, you are the expert. Our role is to work with you, to support you, to involve you. Together we can make sure people we support get to live their best lives.

Once again,
welcome to
Choice Support.

Sarah Maguire
CEO





About Choice Support

Who we are and what we do

Choice Support has been in existence since 1984. We started in a small way supporting people with learning disabilities leaving the old learning disability hospitals which were closing across England. We offer support services around the country, from Hampshire and East Sussex in the south to Yorkshire in the north.

Over the years, our expertise has extended to supporting adults with a wider range of support needs, including learning disabilities, mental health issues and autistic people. We have built a strong, nationally recognised track record for quality and innovation. Placing control with people and families has always been an important part of our work. We were one of the first social care charities to commission support directly from a family and have continued to champion the use of individual budgets.

Listening to the voices of people who use our services, and their family carers, is built into our Quality Assurance system. We have a paid team of Quality Checkers (people who use our services) who check that we are supporting people in the ways that matter to them. As a result of our expertise in this area Choice Support now holds the national contract to provide Experts by Experience for the Care Quality Commission (CQC). Experts by Experience deliver the voice and experience of people who use health and social care to the CQC. They work alongside CQC Inspectors as part of their CQC inspection teams for all regulated services.

We also build new homes in partnership with the NHS and local authorities designed specifically for people leaving Assessment and Treatment Units (ATUs). We are committed to helping people with the highest support needs to live in their community, with the right support, and close to their family and friends.

We are also working as part of a consortium to deliver national training for health practitioners as part of the government drive to improve the experience of autistic people. Campaigning for rights has been a proud tradition at Choice Support. This includes making sure peoples' rights as citizens are upheld and injustices are challenged. We lead the Supported Loving network that highlights the importance of good support in helping people find friendship and love. You can read more about this on our website www.choicesupport.org.uk