

Independent Living



**Royal Association
for Deaf people**

Providing accessible, personalised support to help deaf people lead fulfilling, self-sufficient lives at home and in their communities.

RAD's Independent Living services provides deaf people with the access to tailored support to empower them to live independently where possible. This service is also available to be tailored to those with all ranges of deafness / hearing loss and varying communication needs.

How can the Independent Living services help me?

All too often, deaf people are supported by someone who has no sign language ability or lack of Deaf Awareness, which can result in a breakdown of trust and confidence, and deteriorating health and wellbeing.

Delivering caring and effective support in a person's first language and in an accessible way is essential to maintain a successful support arrangement and achieve positive outcomes.

Through our support, we enable independent living, build important life skills and support deaf people to participate in activities or hobbies.

We work with social work teams to build a meaningful, outcomes-focused support packages that are tailored to individual needs. Our care and support team can provide expert help and guidance to create a package that works for you.

Our support can be delivered both at home and in the community, 1:1 or in groups.

All our Independent Living team are either deaf themselves or fluent in British Sign Language (BSL). We provide support in BSL or other preferred visual communication such as Sign Supported English (SSE), or Deafblind manual/hands on. We can support with:

- Community outreach (advice service)
- Community engagement
- Life skills and independence training
- Social opportunities
- Support to live independently
- Support within supported living or care home

For BSL





What we can help with

RAD can help with:

- Deaf people with additional needs struggling to live independently due to a lack of accessible support for managing daily tasks like tenancy agreements or paying bills.
- Limited access to healthcare for deaf individuals when providers fail to arrange sign language interpretation or accessible communication.
- Difficulty developing life skills such as budgeting, meal preparation or personal organisation due to inadequate support tailored to deaf individuals' needs.
- Deaf people with mental health conditions feeling isolated or unable to engage with mental health services because of language barriers.
- Social isolation and loneliness caused by a lack of opportunities for deaf individuals to join activities or social clubs in their local area.
- Challenges faced by deaf individuals in transitioning from institutional care to independent or supported living due to a lack of appropriate guidance and advocacy.
- Difficulty ensuring that care reviews or assessments fully consider the communication preferences and additional needs of deaf people.
- Undertaking meaningful opportunities such as weekend breaks and social events.

How we can help

RAD can help with:

- Supporting someone to complete everyday tasks, such as grocery shopping or paying bills, while building their confidence to handle these independently.
- Helping individuals learn essential life skills, such as cooking simple meals or creating a weekly budget.
- Facilitating communication with healthcare providers by attending appointments and ensuring accessible language is used.
- Creating opportunities for social engagement by supporting access to local groups, events and hobbies.
- Assisting in finding and applying for supported living accommodation or navigating the housing system.
- Providing support for deaf people with mental health conditions to attend therapy sessions or community mental health services.
- Providing direct support to manage stress, anxiety, or low mood, such as helping to implement self-care routines.
- Offering tailored workshops or 1:1 training on topics like using public transport, job applications or personal hygiene.
- Advocating for individuals in care reviews to ensure their needs and communication preferences are met.



How it works



If you are interested in our Independent Living service, you need to complete a referral form on our website.



One of our team will contact you within five working days to understand your situation and provide tailored assistance.



Independent Living can be funded by:

- Individual Service Funds (ISFs)
- Local authority spot/ individual contracts
- Frameworks
- Self-funding
- Direct payments

To find out more about RAD's Independent Living services, please contact us via a referral form on our website:



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