

For the last 25 years Golden Lane Housing has been providing good quality homes for people with a learning disability and autistic people and are landlord to over 2,800 people.

We've been talking to tenants, support workers and parents as well as GLH colleagues about their experiences of what good quality supported housing can do. In the last 12 months, 280[EC1] people with a learning disability moved into a Golden Lane Housing.

We recently had the pleasure of catching up with Steve Aldeguer, one of Golden Lane Housing's development surveyors.

Steve has worked for Golden Lane for just under 3 years. His role is based within the Development team. The team work in partnership with local authorities, health and social care providers including the NHS and investors to source and develop homes specifically for people with a learning disability and autistic people.

Steve spoke to us about a property he's been involved with over the last year in the Midlands developed for a tenant, who is extremely tall at over 7 foot.

'I wasn't having him going around his home constantly bending down to move about.' Steve says.

Alarmingly, the tenant had been living in a hospital setting for the last 11 years because suitable accommodation simply couldn't be found.

When the property was sourced by GLH, Steve was integral to designing a specification that would mean they could be happy and live long term in their own home.



Pictured: GLH Surveyor Steve Aldeguer

DEVELOPING INDEPENDENT LIVING SPACES

'It's just little things, you know like when a parent says to you, 'they're worried about moving out, they love their room, everything is as they want it,' so you take a look and think, right ok, well we'll replicate that in their own home. That's what we did for a tenant who was moving out of their parent's home and was a wheelchair user.'

We had to stop Steve here, and clarify – 'sorry Steve, so you actually did recreate this person's bedroom in their new place?'

'Yes that's exactly what we did, right down to putting the TV in the same corner and at the same height.'

It's a big deal for anyone moving out to live on their own for the first time, if we can, why shouldn't we make it that bit easier.'

