

## **Care Homes, Covid-19 and Independent Living.**

### **What is the problem?**

The UK Government has been telling us every day how many people died in hospital from Covid-19.

Even more people may have died in care homes and other kinds of group homes where disabled people live.

We know how many older people have died there, but not other disabled adults - we are trying to find out.

There have been lots of people saying care homes need to be made better, to make them safer.

Care staff do need more masks, gloves, aprons, information, or equipment - but it's only part of the problem.

### **What do we want?**

Disabled people say we should get rid of all group homes that separate us from other people.

We want "Independent Living" - this idea says:

- We all matter;
- We can all choose;
- We all have a right to control our lives;
- We all have a right to join in the world around us.

This way of doing things means having real choices about who helps and how, where we live and who shares our home. Then we can all live in the community and enjoy the same rights as other people.

For example disabled people can hire our own support workers and personal assistants (PAs), using money from Councils called Direct Payment.

Disabled people who have our own staff have been safer than people in care homes and staff are less likely to get Covid-19.

### **Can we make it happen?**

Yes, and it will take time, money, housing, PAs/support workers and peer support.

The world is changing a lot, because of Covid-19 and the Government will need to do a lot to help society.

As a part of that change, they can decide that everyone has choice of Independent Living.