

Media release – 10 May 2017

Respond has formed a strategic alliance with Choice Support.

Formed in 1991, [Respond](#) works to lessen the effect of trauma and abuse on people with learning disabilities and/or autism, their families and supporters, through psychotherapy, advice, training, education and research. In common with Choice Support, Respond has extensive experience supporting people to move from institutions, and by bringing together our complementary skills and experiences we can offer improved support to people wanting to move back into the community from secure environments.

Initially the alliance will embark on a joint initiative to provide joined-up packages of support for people with learning disabilities and/or autism who have a forensic history and have been in secure or in-patient settings.

Dr Noelle Blackman, Chief Executive of Respond, says:

“This vital collaboration with Choice Support will help people with learning disabilities or autism to live fulfilling lives in the community beyond their discharge from private hospitals and assessment and treatment units. I believe our partnership will make a real difference. Respond’s expertise in supporting people to long lasting emotional recovery from trauma and abuse is invaluable in helping people to get out of hospital and stay out.”

Steven Rose, Choice Support’s Chief Executive, says:

“Both organisations have a strong track-record of supporting people to move out of private hospitals and assessment and treatment units. By working together we think we can be more effective in helping the 2500 people still stuck in such places to move on to something better.”

In time Choice Support and Respond will work together on research projects and other initiatives.