



An ordinary life: 11 big ideas

**From an essay about commissioning
and citizenship.**

by Vinesh Kumar, 2026





2,100 people with learning disabilities live in mental health hospitals in England. But hospitals are not homes!

The way we spend money on care has the power to make people's lives better.

Here are our ideas about creating a better future for **everyone** who needs care, by spending public money well.



1. Everyone is a citizen

When councils pay for care, “success” is when people live ordinary lives in their own homes. Nothing matters more than this.



2. Stability makes everything else possible

Stability means that people can trust those who support them. Change is planned and agreed. The person is in charge.



3. We must work together

Work as a team to support communities, to give people control over their money, and help the organisations who provide care.



4. Care organisations must be good!

Care organisations are “good” when they support people well. They must also be honest about where their money goes.



5. Support workers are crucial

They must get good training, pay and support. Relationships with the people they help will be longer and stronger.



6. Co-production must be real

People with learning disabilities and families must help to decide how public money is spent on care.



7. Support communities

The government should spend money on helping whole communities to be strong, supportive and welcoming.



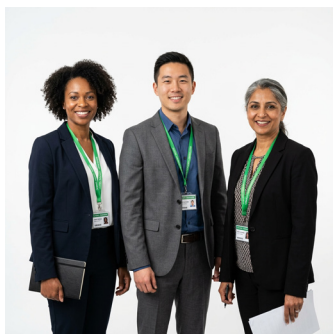
8. Health and care money from 1 place

The money for both health care and social care should come from just 1 place. This will help to solve many problems.



9. Help new and growing care providers

When a large care provider shuts down, it can cause big problems. Encourage small new providers, so they are ready to help.



10. Care for people and communities

People who spend public money must care about supporting people's rights, communities, families and support workers.



11. Make plans, in case things go wrong

Relationships between people are very important when life is difficult. Remember this when we make plans and decisions.



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