

new foundations

housing association

# Shout!

Spring 2022



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# LEARNING DISABILITIES TODAY

## Funding boost Social Care staff working with people with learning disabilities

The government recently announced that they will release a £500 million spending package for health and social care workers.

The package will fund the recruitment of new health and social care workers as well as retrain and support the existing workforce. The package aims to improve the wellbeing of current care workers through funding mental health support, something that is much needed after the extreme pressure of working during the pandemic. It is hoped that a boost in recruitment will also take some pressure off an already stretched health and social care

The British Association of Social Workers commented on the funding boost. They say that it is important that the government are clear in how the money will be spent. Knowing where the money will be spent is important because it helps us to understand how much support will be available for current healthcare workers.

The care sector is a historically underfunded sector. Although the spending package is a step in the right direction, the government must continue to invest in the care sector in the future if they want their support to be sustainable.



# The Lords pass amendment for mandatory autism and learning disability training in healthcare

The government's health and care bill might be changing. The House of Lords have suggested a change to the Health and Care Bill which would mean that learning disability and autism training will become a requirement for healthcare staff.

A new training package is being developed by people with autism and learning disabilities and family carers. The package is being supported by Health Education England and Skills for Care. The new training would mean that healthcare workers would be able to give better and more informed care when treating people who have learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions.

It is a positive sign that the bill is being developed by people with knowledge of care systems and lived experiences of how the current care system treats people with learning disabilities and autism. If this bill becomes a law, it means that the standards of care for people with learning disabilities and autism will be much improved.

This news is also good, because it shows that disability campaigners can have a real positive impact on policy and the lives of those living with learning disabilities and autism.

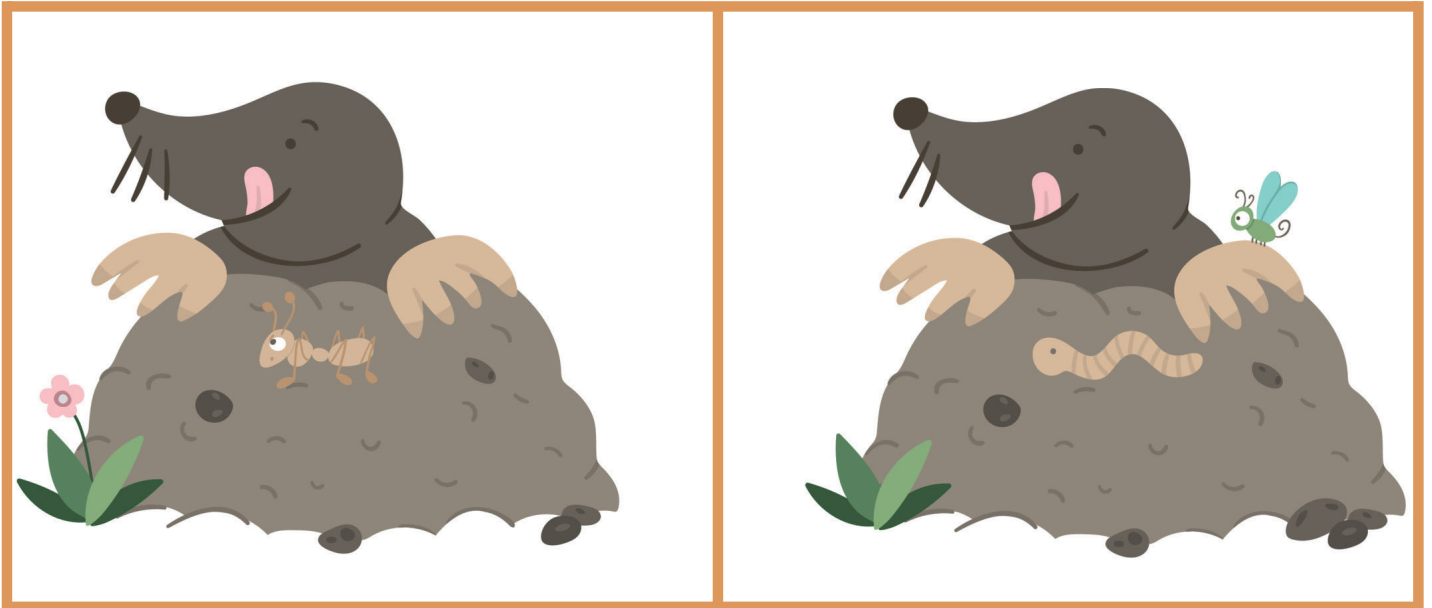
The House of Lords is a part of the UK Parliament. Members of the House of Lords look at laws and they can vote to change, support or reject laws before they are passed by the government.





# JUST FOR FUN!

Spot 5 differences between these pictures!



## Word Search: Top of the Pops!

S	O	Y	R	A	L	I	R	S	E	Y	O	L	E
E	D	E	O	R	I	E	I	X	A	E	G	E	L
L	I	L	R	Z	T	D	X	B	O	O	L	B	A
Y	T	T	Y	E	T	A	L	B	E	G	V	I	Z
T	L	O	D	E	L	I	Y	R	O	T	T	B	S
S	T	N	I	G	E	N	O	O	H	A	N	G	L
Y	D	J	S	R	M	D	E	C	O	L	E	H	E
R	B	O	B	O	I	G	A	I	B	Y	Z	S	L
R	H	H	T	E	X	C	B	V	T	L	N	V	E
A	O	N	J	G	R	O	R	Y	E	B	I	E	D
H	E	D	S	H	E	E	R	A	N	N	T	N	A
N	E	R	D	B	I	A	L	E	R	L	B	S	R
V	A	P	I	L	A	U	D	E	O	Y	A	T	E
A	A	A	L	T	S	E	B	E	Y	O	N	C	E

There are 10 pop stars or bands in this word search who have had hit songs in 2022. Can you find them all?

Words can be arranged upwards, downwards, forwards, backwards and diagonally.

We've given you one to get started!

Adele

Beyonce

BTS

Dave

Dua Lipa

Ed Sheeran

Elton John

George Ezra

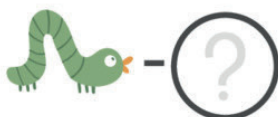
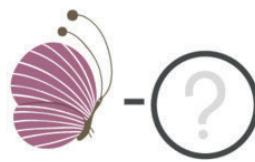
Harry Styles

Little Mix



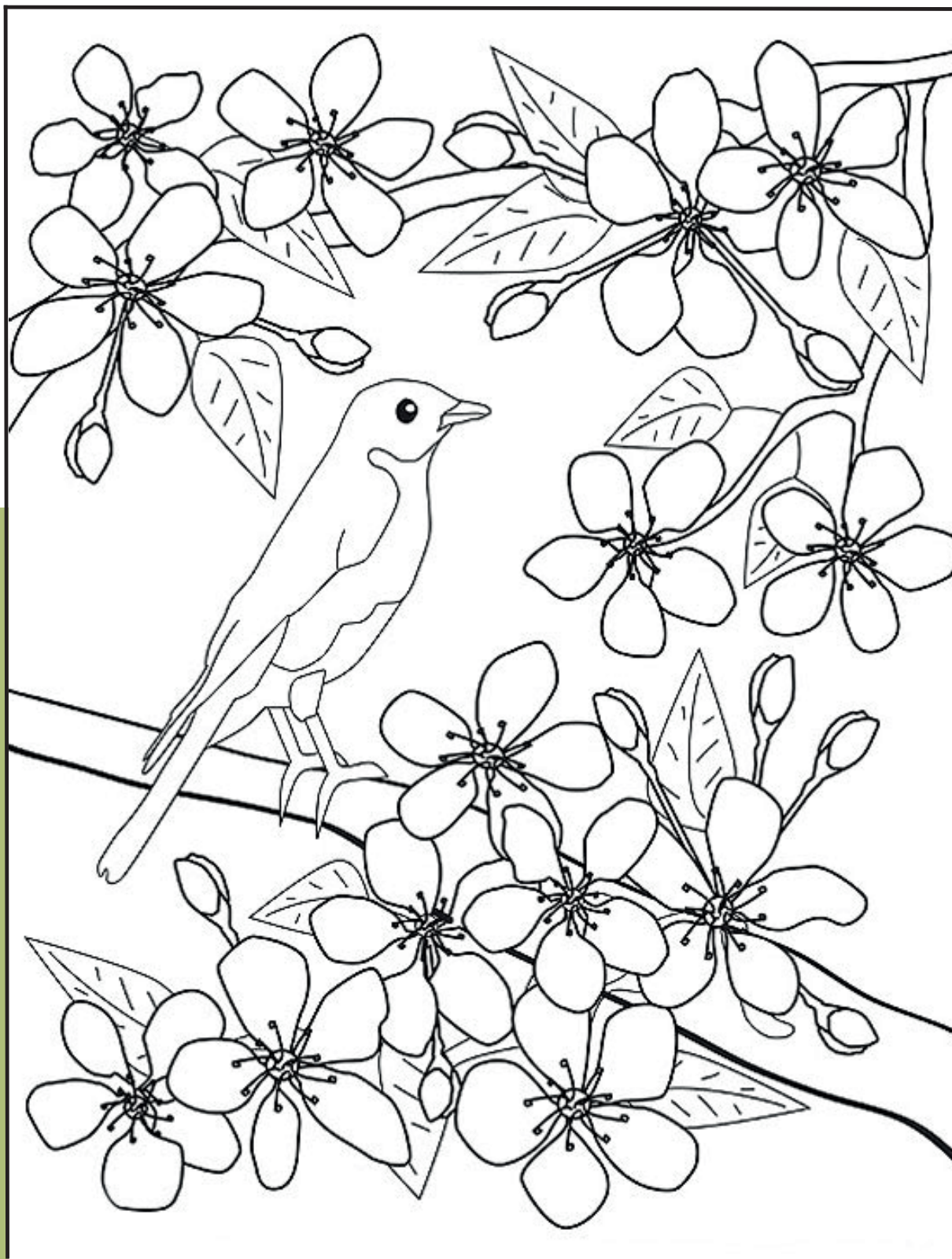
# I SPY

How many of each picture can you find on this page?





# COLOUR ME!



# SPRING WATCH

## MIDLANDS

### Moseley Bog & Joy's Wood

Mosley Bog & Joys Wood are part of a beautiful nature reserve just a 15-minute drive outside of central Birmingham.

One of the most exciting spring attractions at Joy's wood is the carpet of bluebells which blooms at this time of year. There are many birds to be seen at the site including the goldfinch, jay, tree-creeper and tawny owl. You can also see rabbits, hares and plenty of unusual insects.

J.R.R Tolkein, the author of the Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit grew up close to this nature reserve. The surroundings inspired the magical landscapes of his writing.

A number of the site's paths are wheelchair accessible and there is on site disabled parking.



Bluebells at Joy's Wood



The lapwing bird at Solway Wetlands

## CUMBRIA

### Solway Wetlands & Campfield Marsh

The Solway Coast stretches across the northeastern coast of Cumbria and is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Solway Wetlands Centre and Campfield Marsh are two great spots for bird watching along the Solway Coast. In spring you can see many birds including the rare lapwing as well as unique butterflies and dragonflies.

Campfield Marsh RSPB Reserve is a natural wetland that offers a number of short walking routes around the site, as well as an accessible route to its bird hide.

The nearby Solway Wetlands Centre is a cultural centre where you can learn about the local wildlife and stop for a refreshment break.

## WHAT IS A BIRD HIDE?

Bird hides are often the best places to go bird watching. They are structures or shelters that allow you to look out at birds. They normally have windows or shutters that you can look out of. This means that the birds won't be scared away by your movements - because in a bird *hide* your movements are *hidden*!





## LONDON

### London Wetland Centre

London Wetland Centre is an over 100-acre urban wetland nature reserve in Richmond, south west London. There are a number of lakes, pools, marshes and gardens. You can see birds such as sand martins (who prepare to nest in the sand banks at spring) wheatears, wagtails, warblers and lapwings. There are 6 bird hides which are wonderful spots for birdwatching and photography.

3 native reptile species become active in spring, the common lizard, the grass snake and the slow worm. You might even see first of the season's new ducklings as they hatch.

Paths around the site are all flat, there are plenty of benches for rest en route, and their bird hides are all accessible. Their website has a great page for accessibility resources and information. They have a helpful attitude towards accessibility needs and a team who you can speak with ahead of your visit.



## LANCASHIRE

### Mere Sands Wood

A view from one of the bird hides at Mere Sands Wood

Mere Sands Wood is a nature reserve close to Ormskirk in South West Lancashire. The reserve is a fantastic spot for woodland walks and bird watching. 95% of the pathways in this nature reserve are wheelchair accessible. They also have 6 hides, a viewing platform and an educational visitors centre which are all fully accessible.

In the spring the reserve comes alive with the hum of dragonflies and birdsong. You can see many beautiful plants and flowers at the reserve, including vibrant marsh orchids.

Whilst walking through the woodland, and looking from the hides you can see many exciting birds, including bullfinches, tree sparrows and great spotted woodpeckers.

# THE NEW CHARTER FOR SOCIAL HOUSING



## WHAT IS THE CHARTER FOR SOCIAL HOUSING?

The government has written a **white paper**, which explains some changes to the **social housing charter**. A charter is a document that explains both the powers, duties and structures of government and the legal rights of citizens. White papers are policy documents produced by the Government that show their proposals for future laws.

The Charter for social housing white paper shows what the government's powers and responsibilities are in relation to housing, as well as what the rights of tenants living in social housing are.

White papers are not finalised laws. This means that white papers provide a basis for further consultation and discussion with interested or affected people. It means that changes can be made before a law is formally presented to Parliament.



According to a recent House of Commons Research Briefing, the UK Housing Secretary, Michael Gove, has suggested that the Bill should be discussed in parliament by May or June of 2022.



## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT & WHAT IS CHANGING?

The new charter for social housing white paper has set out 7 areas of change. The 7 areas explain the proposed improvements to the way that the government regulates social housing. It is important to know about the white paper because it means that you can understand new proposed changes, and how they might affect your life or the life of somebody you care for.



## 1. SAFETY IN YOUR OWN HOME

The government wants to change the Regulator of Social Housing's **consumer regulation goals** to explicitly include building and fire safety. This will include a strengthening of the regulations on carbon monoxide detectors, as well as electrical safety. They want to make sure that social landlords have a designated person who is responsible for building safety. They also want to make sure that there are better structures for tenants' safety concerns to be heard.



## 2. KNOWING HOW YOUR LANDLORD IS PERFORMING

The government wants to make social housing landlords record tenant satisfaction in relation to their building's safety. They also want to make it easier for tenants to see what decisions are being made by landlords, and how their money is being spent. With more transparency, it should make it easier for tenants to assess and respond to the decisions made by their landlords.

## 3. COMPLAINTS BEING DEALT WITH QUICKLY AND FAIRLY

This change aims to make it easier, and quicker for tenants to contact the **Housing Ombudsman** to make complaints. It wants to reduce the wait time for this process. The white paper also proposes to increase the powers of the Housing Ombudsman so that they can make decisions more quickly when taking action against unsatisfactory landlords. Another proposed change means that landlords must assess their own complaints handling processes and ensure that their tenants know their rights, know how to raise complaints, and have confidence in doing so.

## What is the Housing Ombudsman?

The Housing Ombudsman Service (HOS) is a service that looks at complaints made against registered providers of social housing. The service is free, independent and impartial. If a housing association or landlord is being unresponsive to a complaint, a tenant can bring their claim forward to the Housing Ombudsman.

### 4. BEING TREATED FAIRLY & WITH RESPECT: THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING A STRONG CONSUMER REGULATOR FOR TENANTS

The paper proposes that housing regulators explicitly prioritise **safety** and **transparency**. It also wants to give the regulator stronger powers to tackle failing landlords and to hold local authorities to account as landlords. This means that council-owned social housing is held to the same standards as housing associations.

The white paper proposes that the Regulator of Social Housing proactively monitors whether landlords are meeting required consumer standards. This includes introducing routine inspections for the largest landlords to make sure they are complying with regulations.



### 5. HAVING YOUR VOICE HEARD BY YOUR LANDLORD



The government want to make it so that landlords must seek out engagement with their social housing tenants. They also want to review how housing providers are trained and to make sure that residents receive the highest standard of customer service. They want to deliver a '**new opportunities and empowerment programme**' for social housing tenants, which aims to make communication better between landlords and tenants and to make it easier for tenants to hold landlords to account.



## 6. HAVING A GOOD QUALITY HOME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD TO LIVE IN

The paper proposes that the **Decent Homes Standard** is reviewed to consider whether it is suitable for social housing in 2022. The government say that every person should have the right to a decent home, the Decent Homes Standard is a government document which outlines the standards and definitions of a decent home.



The review proposed by the white paper will focus on access to green spaces as well as tackling anti-social behaviour. This section of the white paper also proposes a review of housing allocation services, to make sure that allocation is fair.

## 7. BEING SUPPORTED IN TAKING YOUR FIRST STEPS TOWARDS OWNERSHIP

The government say that they are investing more money into building affordable homes. The white paper says that they want to make **Shared Ownership** models fairer and to make it easier and more accessible for tenants to get shared ownership of their home.



At New Foundations Housing Association we value feedback from our tenants. We always strive to have good communication between ourselves, tenants, family and carers.

Some of the ways that we do this are; through our annual tenant survey, maintenance review slips sent out after each repair, having a designated housing manager for each tenant and providing accessible complaint forms and policy in each property file. If you think that there are other ways that we could improve communication, we'd love to hear your feedback! Our contact details are at the back of this magazine.

# EAT ME

These Mars-Rice Krispie bars have got to be one of the quickest and easiest sweet snacks you can make. They use a no-bake recipe, meaning that you can whip them up in less than 30 minutes when you're craving a sweet fix!



## INGREDIENTS:

:

### **For the cake:**      **For the topping:**

4 mars bars      175g choc chips

75g Rice Krispies      115g butter

55g butter

1) Slowly melt the Mars bars and butter together in a heat-proof bowl. You can do this in the microwave on a very low heat, or by placing a glass bowl over a pot of boiling water and letting the steam from the water slowly melt the chocolate.

2) Make sure to stop and stir the mixture whilst you are melting it.

3) When everything is melted, mix the Rice Krispies in with them, coating the cereal completely.

4) Transfer to a well-greased baking sheet, and flatten down with a spatula.

5) Melt the chocolate and butter for the topping using one of the above methods. Stir the chocolate and butter regularly until smooth, then pour it on top.

6) Cool in the fridge then cut into pieces and enjoy!



# DRINK ME

As the parks have begun to bloom, you might have found yourself craving the sweet, floral flavours of elderflower. this recipe is a seasonal delight and a great way to refresh on a warm day. The added rosemary gives this drink an extra special touch. If you're feeling especially crafty, there are plenty of recipes online for making your own elderflower cordial!

## INGREDIENTS:

:

2 tbsp Elderflower Cordial

2 Fresh Rosemary Sprigs

2 slices of lemon

Old Fashioned Cloudy

Lemonade

Ice Cubes

1) Add a few ice cubes to each of the tall glasses.

2) Add a dash of elderflower cordial to the glass. About 1 tbsp per glass.

3) Add a slice of lemon and a sprig of rosemary.

4) Top up with cloudy lemonade and serve straight away.



# new foundations

## housing association



New Foundations always welcome hearing from our tenants, support teams, advocates and parents. If you have been up to anything interesting or exciting and would like to be featured in the next newsletter, we'd love to hear from you! If you would like to get in touch us for this or any other reason, you can contact us by phone, email or post.

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## PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

