

SON INSPIRED CARE PROJECT

Homes scheme grows

By NEIL HODGSON Industry reporter

A FATHER'S unerring drive has led to a shake-up in care for the disabled and people with learning difficulties in north Liverpool.

Waterloo-based Housing Initiatives converts properties into living accommodation, where vulnerable people can receive care in their own home rather than a care home.

Until recently, disabled people have been restricted to care homes and if they were unhappy with their care were forced to leave for a new home.

Sometimes, young people with learning difficulties were inappropriately placed, either in nursing homes or even hospitals.

But Alan Chesworth explains: "We get the house to fit them, rather than them to fit the house. The whole reason for the business is to give people independence."

Tenants are from 19 upwards.

"With help and understanding, they can live ordinary lives. Our tenants have the same rights as any other. The property is theirs for life."

He said the inspiration behind the not-for-profit company was his son Steven, who suffered from autism and epilepsy.

Five years ago, it was obvious Steven needed a bungalow. Wavertree Labour MP Jane Kennedy, now the company's patron, helped him win joint funding.

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of the Week**

