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JOAN LOVE

**AUTISM-FRIENDLY PROTOTYPE
HOUSING SCHEME FOR HOME GROUP**

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FRAMEWORK DATA COLLECTION

February 2023

The University's Research & Enterprise Service has requested information on knowledge exchange and engagement with the public and communities. Please complete the form below and return it to Professor Simon Morris (S.DC.Morris@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) and Dr Tina Conkar (t.conkar@leedsbeckett.ac.uk) by **21 February 2023**.

Many thanks for your support with information gathering for this submission.

Name:	Joan Love
Job Title:	Senior Lecturer
Email:	J.Love@leedsbeckett.ac.uk
School:	School of Arts

Please use the template below to detail information on all projects you have undertaken since 1 January 2019 that involved public and community engagement. Please use one form per project.

Project Title:	Research for young people's autism-friendly prototype housing scheme for Home Group
Project Date(s):	Jan 2022 – July 2022
URL Link to Project:	https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/staff/joan-love/
Brief Description of Project (250-1000 words max.) In the field below please give a brief outline of the project and what it entailed.	
Joan's expertise is in the advancement of autism-friendly design assisting future professionals to shape responsive enabling environments.	
Home Group, a national housing association https://www.homegroup.org.uk/about-us/ contacted Joan with a new opportunity for learning and research for both staff and students. They requested an expert in design for autism, to support their new build prototype, cul-de-sac orientation, cluster design. This is a group of 6 purpose built single occupancy supported living houses alongside associated communal spaces and gardens.	
The aim of the project is to provide specialist, long term housing for a cohort of young autistic people. The project will require a deep understanding of the needs of the individual to make a necessary change to improve health and well-being and quality of life.	

In tandem with the part-live student project, Joan has provided specialist consultancy for Home Group providing feedback on their plan layouts to make sure that human-centred design is incorporated, to ensure that the prototype housing is a success.

Joan tailored ten design principles to inform Home Group's design layouts, incorporating specialist autism-friendly: Community Hub/Social Spaces; Landscaping, Activity zones, Pause spaces, Hobby zone, Bathroom/Kitchen, Bedroom, Lighting, Windows. The long-term proposition is to test this prototype through a post occupancy evaluation, with a view to rolling it out across the country.

†X Background: Yearly, between 2013-2022, a part-live design project has been embedded into the BA(Hons) Interior Architecture and Design course which includes working with autistic children, and adults and case study visits to 9 local SEND schools, colleges and residential environments in North, East and West Yorkshire. Sensory and behavioural issues have been identified within these environments which has created a series of design problems for the students to incorporate into their autism-friendly design projects.

The autism-friendly housing project has been run parallel with the autism-friendly school project so that each positively influences and enriches the other.

On completion of each project, autism experts provide feedback to the students and in response the design brief has shifted and deepened. Joan's autism specific research papers have recorded the findings and interpretations of these projects and resulted in the innovative creation of 'Ten Novel Sensory Living Themes':

Love J (2022) Sensory spaces: sensory living – studio teaching the design of autism-friendly adult accommodation. ArchNet – IJAR
<https://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/id/eprint/8524/>

And:

Love JS (2020) UNIVERSITY AS ENABLER FOR INCLUSION: THE CERAMICIST, THE TUTOR, THE STUDENT AND THE AUTISTIC ADULT. In: McLane Y; Pable J eds. Experiential Design – Rethink†††g;”ing relations between people, objects and environments., 16 January 2020 - 17 January 2020, Florida State University, USA. USA: AMPS C.I.O..
<https://eprints.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/id/eprint/7330/>

Joan's The Conversation article (15 Feb 2023): Ever smaller, darker houses with limited access to outside space has been highlighted as a major issue for many autistic people: <https://theconversation.com/how-to-create-better-homes-for-autistic-people-with-significant-additional-needs-182909>

Inclusive Design. Design courses readily embed the teaching of design for physical disabilities e.g., wheelchair access requirements, but rarely teach design related to the growing populations of those with sensory/neurological processing differences e.g., neurodivergent, neurodegenerative, hypersensitive...

In a world which is designed for neuro-typical people, Joan's autism-friendly design research helps to provide a voice for autistic people, whose needs are often misunderstood and overlooked.

<p>Organisations Engaged with: Please list the names of any organisations engaged with, such as Schools or Community Groups.</p>	<p>The Team of external professionals (clients) involved with the student project:</p> <p>Jenny Mace: Strategic Lead - Service Design and Practice, Home Group, London office.</p> <p>Adrian Wellington: Senior Architectural Technologist, Home Group, London office.</p> <p>Tom Hilton: Senior Behaviour Analyst, Home Group, Leeds office and Henshaw's Specialist College, Harrogate.</p> <p>Victoria Darcy: Clinical Practice Expert - Occupational Therapist, Home Group, Newcastle office.</p> <p>Adrian Sugden: Head teacher, Woodley Special School & College, Huddersfield.</p> <p>Louise Newton: Specialist Occupational Therapist/Advanced Sensory Integration Practitioner, OT4me, York.</p>	<p>Total participants: Please give an approximate figure for the number of people who engaged with your project.</p>	<p>10 people directly involved; shared knowledge with another 24 approx. Plus: readers of 2x papers, (recommendations, citations) 2x blogs.</p> <p>The Conversation online article (4k+ reads as of 20 Feb 2023, re-check analytics for increasing readership).</p>
<p>Knowledge Exchange Outcomes: If relevant, in brief, please describe any knowledge exchange outcomes such as new approaches to working with a community.</p>	<p>Joan's research has been incorporated into the first standard on how to create a sensory inclusive environment 'Design for the mind - neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide' published by BSI (The British Standards Institution). https://knowledge.bsigroup.com/products/design-for-the-mind-neurodiversity-and-the-built-environment-guide/standard</p> <p>'Design for the mind - Guide' is referenced in The UK Parliament's Adult Social Care Committee's report: A "gloriously ordinary life": Spotlight on adult social care, Published 08 Dec 2022. See Chapter 6, The importance of accessible and inclusive housing: https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/31917/documents/179266/default/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through site visits and specialist lectures, knowledge exchange effectively occurred throughout the student projects culminating in a final student presentation to a group of professionals (listed above). The presentation enabled the exploration of innovative autism-friendly concepts and ideas which might not otherwise have been explored in a business environment with tight deadlines and budgets. The multi-disciplinary nature of the team created a wealth of knowledge sharing. - A 2hr 20min recording of the presentation was privately shared with the project team via YouTube (see quotes below). 		
<p>Quotes In the field below please include any relevant quotes that you would like to share which evidence the knowledge exchange and engagement your project received.</p>			

Overview of The PAS 6463: 2022 Design for the mind - Neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide:

'It comprehensively tackles challenges relating to built environment design and neurodiversity and is the only guidance of its type supplying authoritative guidance, with input from world leading experts and those who experience neurodiverse conditions.'

Feedback from professionals to students:

Tom Hilton, Senior Behaviour Analyst, Home Group

'...and I think a lot of the art of really good quality teaching here is aiding other people's discovery as opposed to telling them what to discover...I really like that you use the terminology, inclusion over seclusion, seclusion is a hot topic for everyone. You talked about lifelong development, so the skills that the people would acquire or use or want to engage in while you're planning for potential job opportunities, which is almost never spoken about on PBS but is another huge part of what PBS is about. I was thinking about Ofsted, Ofsted are constantly at the moment talking about innovative ways for people to learn. They're talking more now about mental health and wellbeing than I've ever heard before, it's probably not enough yet, but there's still that narrative. People will only do things if there's a meaning to it or there's a long-term meaning for it and that's what I liked with regards to the theme that's going through. There's an opportunity for me to be thinking about people's long term physical health wellbeing, skills work, all sorts of stuff. So, I thought it was top draw.

I really liked that you talked about the customization of the person's home and environment because that's something that we at Home Group have a huge focus on and I'm working with customers now, selecting what they want in their homes and their house commensurate to their needs and so that's really good and it's putting the power again back in the person.

It's nice to see and it's good as well that Jenny said this marrying of two things together, we can then take and have these innovative and dynamic approaches and think differently about how we create environments...and we've talked about eye contact where we're moving into an area where we're pushing conventional design, I suppose for the interior of buildings into a little bit more of a progressive domain, which is really useful and really interesting to think about.'

Victoria Darcy, Clinical Practice Expert - Occupational Therapist, Home Group

'I would echo a lot of what's already been said, those little techniques in terms of support and transitions were lovely. And particularly what Louise said, it was an OT's dream to listen to you, particularly around the use of the Clay and the different benefits to people from sensory to productive. It was all just really, really great. I loved the real focus that you kept bringing to personalization. I thought that was really, really excellent, I suppose as an OT, that's really at the heart of everything that I do. And I really liked all of the tactile feedback through the mechanical elements I thought that was really quite innovative and really quite different, it really made it stand apart, that was great. And I'm listening and selfishly thinking what we could actually take away and use for some of the designs for our buildings. So, I'm busily making notes or thoughts, there was some really good things around that. And I really like how you talk about softening the indoor and the outdoor boundary, because we find that it's quite an issue for a lot of our customers and we're always trying to think about how we can kind of achieve that. Just really, really enjoyed it. Thank you to everybody. Obviously so much hard work and so much food for thought as well for us really, really useful.'

Jenny Mace: Strategic Lead - Service Design and Practice, Home Group

'It was space to pace that I can see, people having to go into their pocket spaces and even time to cool off and that being useful. So that's something that will definitely be incorporating into some of our communal areas in our developments.'

Adrian Wellington, Senior Architectural Technician, Home Group

'Thanks for having us, I found the students presentations really interesting and loved seeing innovative designs being logically portrayed by emerging architects and interior designers...'

'Thanks for taking the time to talk through your ideas for our Autism-friendly units. I'll be sure to have a read of the Design for the Mind Document that you sent over as I'm sure it's got some great guidance to unpack.'

Sample feedback from The Conversation Article:

Jean Hewitt <https://www.burohappold.com/people/jean-hewitt/#> Associate, Buro Happold, Inclusive Design (16 Feb 2023)

'Hi Joan

It's brilliant – can I push it out on linked in?
X Jean'

Helen Kane, Neuro by Design (17 Feb 2023) <https://www.nrac.org.uk/members/helen-kane>

'Brilliant article on creating better homes. I've been working on neurodiversity design as an NRAC consultant for 20 years and delighted to see PAS 6463 out at last. I happen to be in Leeds Thursday and Friday next week (partly helping to make a large building more 'autism friendly'). I suppose you wouldn't be around to have a chat about your research and share information, would you? would be great to meet up. Helen.' LinkedIn. (Meeting arranged for 23 Feb 2023).

Professor Ashraf M. Salama (18 Feb 2023) <https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/our-staff/s/ashraf-salama/>

Professor of Architecture and Urbanism at Northumbria University
Head of Architecture and the Built Environment

'The article is nice, straightforward and to the point. Many congratulations, I have just promoted it on LinkedIn, for a good visibility.
All best wishes, Ashraf'

Tom Lindsay. Helping sustainability leads communicate the full value of their action (18 Feb 2023)

'Thanks for sharing. We've just recently received planning for a sensory park for neurodivergent children so it's interesting to see how you may similarly design better homes.'

Alice Fincham-Dukes, Care Lead, Henshaw's Specialist College, Harrogate (20 Feb 2023)

'Fab!! I have shared it with the team too as it features cam and they love to read it!- always enjoy reading about what you are doing.'

Victoria Darcy, Clinical Practice Expert - Occupational Therapist, Home Group (16 Feb 2023)

'Hi Joan

Thank you so much for sending this article across to us. It's incredibly interesting and makes some really good suggestions which I know we can incorporate into our thinking around our environmental design. I am going to forward to the OT's in my team as I'm sure they will find this useful. Thank you again and we'd love to see any other articles or information which you think would support us.

Kind regards

Viki'

Tom Hilton, Senior Behaviour Analyst, Home Group (16 Feb 2023)

'Hi Joan, It's great! Always send on anything you do, I love a read. Tom'

Images

In the field below please include any relevant images you would like to share.

Online Blogs (student presentations):

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-school-of-arts/2022/07/autism-friendly-design-creates-impact/> (presentation to Home Group)

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/blogs/leeds-school-of-arts/2021/07/autism-friendly-adult-accommodation/> (a previous design project which partially went onto inform the project brief with Home Group)