



## Providing real opportunities for people with disabilities

### Charity's work enables two of its residential home users to find the ultimate happiness

TWO residents of a charity's residential home in Hertfordshire have tied the knot in a ceremony attended by family, friends and staff.



Lloyd McCain, 67 and Joanne Miles, 42, met at the Life Opportunities Trust Welwyn Garden City home when Jo arrived five years ago and they hit it off straight away.

Lloyd said: "As soon as we met I knew we'd get on. Jo has a lot of common sense, which I like and she obviously thinks I'm nice. We just fell in love."

Lloyd proposed to Jo last Christmas.

They were married last month in Hatfield Registry office, and had a reception at the home afterwards. For the couple's honeymoon, they spent the day in Southend on Sea.

Home Manager, Ellie Barnes, said: "Often, people question whether those with a learning disability should get married, but these two amazing individuals are more than capable of making their own choices in their lives."

"I am personally very proud of both of them having achieved this amazing milestone in their lives."

"Lloyd was very emotional on his wedding day. Joanne was nervous, but excited the night before."

"They have both told me that today has been the best day of their lives and they are looking forward to their new life together."

"My staff and I, along with the other service users living here at Sewells, are delighted for the happy couple."

And Lloyd, who has been living at the home for the last 12 years, said: "I've been very happy here, but we would now very much like to now find a place of our own."



The Chief Executive of LOT, Ralph Verlander, said enabling its service users to live as individually, independently and positively as possible was one of the main aims of the charity.

"Life Opportunities Trust is committed to providing a quality service based on the values of privacy, dignity, independence and choice and person-centred planning is at the heart of our approach, so we develop and tailor support programmes around each person's wishes and aspirations, which can sometimes include the odd wedding," he said.

Life Opportunities Trust provides residential and home care for people with learning disabilities, dementia and Alzheimer's and adults with Down's Syndrome. They operate 12 homes in Hertfordshire and Middlesex.

As well as its range of services, which include outreach, home care, supported living and residential care, there are personalised programmes suiting the needs of the individual.

It has a reputation for a very personal environment and trains up staff, keeping them for long periods of time and often has staff return to them.

LOT is now aiming to broaden its area of operation outside of Hertfordshire and Middlesex, but not lose the balance of care at the same time, as well as further developing 'transitions' for adults over 18 leaving special school and helping them get back into society and become more independent.

It is also hoping any growth will enable the charity to employ more people and attract more private clients.

"We believe LOT has a lot more to offer communities and people out there and we are committed to making our services even more invaluable for the future," concluded Ralph.

For more information, please visit our website or give us a call

[www.lifeopportunitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.lifeopportunitiestrust.co.uk)

[info@lot-uk.org.uk](mailto:info@lot-uk.org.uk)

01923 299700



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### Life Opportunities Trust offers high quality housing and support to people with disabilities – enabling them to achieve greater independence and control over their own lives.

We are hugely proud of the professional, caring support we give to people with disabilities and hope you will want to find out more about our work.

Whether supporting people in their own homes, or providing long-term care and accommodation, our whole ethos is about responding to the individual needs of our service users.

Our aim is to create opportunities that allow people to live their own lives in their own way.

- **Home care** – our skilled staff support people with a wide range of disabilities, enabling them to remain independent in their own homes.
- **Residential services** – our small residential centres provide home-like accommodation to people with learning disabilities, with support from committed, skilled staff.
- **Alzheimer's services** – we also offer specialist support to people with learning disabilities and Alzheimer's, both in their own homes and through our residential services.

We support more than 110 people with disabilities across **London and the northern Home Counties** – from young people in their 20s to older people in their 80s and 90s.

By creating personalised accommodation and support, we enable people to take control of their own lives in ways that are exactly right for them.

**Call us: 01923 299770 • Email us: [info@lot-uk.org.uk](mailto:info@lot-uk.org.uk)**

Write to us: Hempstead House, 1 Hempstead Road, Kings Langley, Hertfordshire WD4 8BJ

[www.lifeopportunitiestrust.co.uk](http://www.lifeopportunitiestrust.co.uk)