

**Your Place to Live**



**Making It Happen**

**A Housing and Support Plan for  
People with Learning Disabilities**

# Your place to live: making it happen

## A guide to housing options for people with learning disabilities



HOUSING  
OPTIONS



# Your place to live

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## **A guide to housing options for people with learning disabilities**

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**3rd<sup>d</sup> Edition**

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# 1. About your place to live

Everybody needs a home: somewhere to relax and enjoy doing the things that they want to do; somewhere that is safe and secure.

We are all different and like to live in different ways: some of us like the city, some of us like the country, some of us like lots of people around us, some of us like our own space, some of us like to live near our family, some of us like to live near our friends and some of like to just try out different things.

Many people with learning disabilities get very little choice in where they live. Housing choices are often based on the person's disability rather than who they are and what is important to them.

Your place to live is a booklet and DVD that show a range of housing options for people with learning disabilities. It is intended to be used as a starting point to help people with learning disabilities think about the range of housing options and which ones might work for them.




The booklet contains basic information about each of the options and ideas about where to go to get more help and information.

There is also a book with more technical detail. This is called "Finding a place to live; help with your plans" it says a lot more about the choices. It talks about money. It has things like checklists.








For more information go to [www.housingoptions.org.uk](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk)

## 2. Getting your own home




Having your own home means having independence;

-  Your own front door key
-  Doing what you want to do
-  Choosing who you see and how you live

If you get your own home, you may also need to get help with things like:

-  Cooking
-  Cleaning
-  Paying the bills
-  Learning to do things for yourself
-  Making friends
-  Getting a job
-  Finding new things to do





Independence does not always mean being on your own;

-  You can live in your own home on your own
-  You can live in your own home with a carer
-  You can live in your own home with family and friends

This section will tell you about the different ways you can get your own home.

# 3. Renting your own home

You can rent a home from

-  A council or housing association
-  A charity or voluntary organisation
-  A private landlord
-  Someone you know like a family member or friend

## Renting from a council or housing association



Council and housing associations are also called social landlords. You normally get this type of housing by going on the council housing register and using a Choice Based Lettings scheme. If you want to live with a friend, family member or partner long term then you can apply for this type of home together.

### PROS



This can be a secure way of renting your own home

The rent is more affordable if you are working

### CONS



You may have to wait a long time before you are housed

You may not have much choice

# Renting from a charity or voluntary organisation

Many charities that support people with learning disabilities have properties that they rent out. Some are shared with others and some are self contained.



## PROS



They will usually specialise in housing people with learning disabilities

This can be a secure way of renting your own home

## CONS



The rent is often higher than ordinary housing

You may have to wait a long time to get housed



# Renting from a private landlord

- You can rent from a private landlord in different ways
- Some people rent by going to an estate agent and choosing a home
- Most councils help people access private rented housing by helping with the deposit or by having arrangements where the council or housing association lease from the private landlord and give you a tenancy



## PROS



You will have a wide choice and get housing quickly

It can be good if you just want to try out independent living

## CONS



You may not have long term security

You may have to pay a deposit

# Renting a flat in an extra care or supported living scheme

- Some housing providers have small groups of houses or flats clustered around some communal facilities
- Each person has their own self contained home
- There is usually support attached but you can get extra support from other sources if you need it
- Most extra care schemes are for people 55 years or older



## PROS



You can have your independence and still have access to support

You will live close by to others who have a learning disability

## CONS



It is not ordinary housing if that is what you want

# Renting from someone you know

- A relative or friend could buy a home to rent to you
- Families or friends can build an extension on their home that they rent to you
- A group of families could form a shareholding company, each owning part of a house which could be rented to you
- Your family can have an agreement with a housing provider to manage the property



## PROS



You may have a wider choice about where you live

You are more likely to have long term security

## CONS



Your friend or relative may not like being a landlord

You may feel restricted if you want to move on

# More about renting

## **Renting a home through the council or a housing association**

To get this type of housing you need to go through your local council and get on their housing register. Your council will also be responsible for allocating housing association properties. Your housing department and your care manager will be able to help you with your application. You can ask for an extra bedroom if you require some overnight support. Even if you do not want to move for some time, it is a good idea to go on the housing register as soon as possible.

If your current housing is unsuitable you may be treated as being statutorily homeless and have higher priority for this type of housing. Seek legal advice if you are not sure whether you qualify. You can apply for council housing in areas other than where you live though you may need to have some connection with the area. You can ask your council when you make an application.

## **Renting from a private landlord**

There is a lot of private rented housing around. You can just pick up a local paper or go to a local estate agent. Renting privately can be good if you need a place to live in a hurry or you just want to try out living away from home or sharing with a friend without making a long term commitment. This type of housing is usually more expensive than council housing so you need to check that the local housing allowance will cover all of the rent. Some landlords will not accept tenants who are receiving benefits or may ask for a larger deposit than usual. Your council may operate a rental deposit scheme. There may also be a scheme run by a housing association that helps people get private rented housing.

Your landlord will be responsible for the repairs and maintenance of your home. There are different types of tenancy. Some more secure than others and it is important to check.

## Paying your rent

If you are receiving benefits or have a low income you would usually be entitled to housing benefit (or local housing allowance if you are in a private rental) which will cover some or all of your rent, depending on your circumstances.

Housing Benefit & Local Housing Allowance will pay for the following types of housing:



Rent on a council or housing association home



Rent on a home through a charity or voluntary organisation



Rent on a home through a private landlord (including from a relative if the property is self contained)



The rental element of a shared ownership home



Your share of the rent in a shared home



Some services that your landlord provides you with such as repairs, maintenance.

There are some restrictions on the amount of rent paid by housing benefit, though they must take any special housing needs into consideration when determining the maximum rent they will pay. Some landlords charge higher rents than others – this is usually because they provide extra services for tenants with disabilities or the house has adaptations because of your disability.

If you are renting from a private landlord, a charity or a family member, there will be a Local Housing Allowance that is set for your area and that is the maximum the council will pay.

If you are working or considering going to work in the future, some rents may be too high to pay from your income so you need to think about this when planning your housing.

## 4. Owning your own home

**You can own your own home:**



Through a Home Ownership for People with Long Term Disabilities (HOLD) scheme



Through Newbuild Homebuy or resale Shared Ownership schemes



Through an extra care or supported living scheme



By buying outright



By inheriting a house

**This section will tell you about the different ways you can buy your own home**

# Owning your own home through HOLD

- HOLD (Home Ownership for people with Long term Disabilities) is a scheme to help people with long term disabilities buy their own homes through shared ownership
- Buyers can choose any home for sale from estate agents that is within the budget
- There is a housing association HomeBuy Agent in each area that can help people access the scheme



## PROS



You will have a wide choice of property

You will have long term security

## CONS



There may be costs involved if you want to move on

If you are in, or want to earn your own money by having a paid job in the future, you will need to get clear advice about how earning your own money could affect your mortgage payments

# Owning your own home through Newbuild Homebuy or Shared Ownership

- Shared ownership means that you buy part and rent part of your home with a housing association
- Some homes are built as part of a new development
- Some shared ownership homes are sold by previous owners



## PROS



You may have a wide choice depending on which part of the country you live in

You will have long term security

## CONS



There may be costs involved if you want to move on

If you are in, or want to earn your own money by having a paid job in the future, you will need to get clear advice about how earning your own money could affect your mortgage payments



# Owning your own home by buying outright

- You may have enough money to buy a home outright
- If you are buying a home for £200,000 or less and receive Income Support you may be able to get your mortgage interest paid by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)



## PROS



You will have a wide choice of houses

You will have a long term security

## CONS



You will have to organise to have the house maintained and repaired yourself

You have made a big commitment so it is not straightforward if you want to move on

If your are in, or want to earn your own money by having a paid job in the future, you will need to get clear advice about how earning your own money could affect your mortgage payments

# Owning your own home by inheriting or using family property

- You would have the same responsibilities as owning your own home outright
- You may be given a house by a family member
- You may inherit the home you have lived in with your family
- You may have part of your family home adapted or extended for you to live in independently
- Depending on how you do this there are many different ways this can be financed



## PROS



You can stay in your family home (if that's what you want)

You will have long term security




## CONS



If you are inheriting your family home, it is difficult to plan ahead

# More about buying a home

## **You can fund the purchase of your home in different ways:**

-  You may have savings or an inheritance
-  You may have a trust fund
-  You can take out a mortgage




In some cases you can get help to pay a mortgage of up to £200,000 if you are receiving Income Support. To qualify you must have been in receipt of Income Support and the disability or severe disability premium of Income Support for at least 39 weeks.

You must be taking out a mortgage to purchase a property that is more suited to your needs as a disabled person than your previous home (this can include needing to live independently) and your mortgage must be for £200,000 or less.

You may be in a situation where you have a large sum of money or have inherited money, depending on the amount of money you have, you could use it to purchase a home outright or through shared ownership. Your benefits will not be affected if you use your money to buy a home.

You may have a family trust fund that can purchase a home on your behalf. A family home can also be left in trust for you. A trust will also manage all of the details of owning a home on your behalf.

## **Depending on which way you own your own home you may be responsible for repairs and maintenance:**

-  You can take out insurance to cover repairs and maintenance
-  You can use a trust fund to pay for repairs and maintenance
-  In shared ownership, Housing Benefit can help

## Getting a Shared Ownership home

Shared ownership is usually provided by a housing association. It is a way that people on a low income can afford to buy a home. The housing association buys the home with you and on the part they own, they will charge you a subsidised rent. You need to make an application for shared ownership directly to the housing association – it will help give you priority if you are on the council housing register.

There are different ways that people with a learning disability can buy a home through shared ownership:



There are properties that their current owners are selling called **resales**. When a property comes up for sale that is the right size and in the right area for you, they will write to you and ask you to go and look at it. If you are interested they decide between you and others who may be interested depending on your individual circumstances. You would buy the share the previous owners are selling.



There are **Newbuild Homebuy** properties which are either brand new or a building that has been converted. They would be advertised and allocated the same way as resales.



Some housing associations operate **Home Ownership for people with Long term Disabilities (HOLD)** where people with learning disabilities can buy a property that they choose on the open market. You will be able to find out who runs the scheme by contacting the Homebuy Agent in your area.



There is also a scheme where families can loan the housing association up to a third of the property price so you can purchase a home. This is called **Family Funded Shared Ownership**

You may need to appoint another person to purchase your home on your behalf if you do not have legal capacity to enter in to a house purchase.

## **Buying your home outright**

You can find a home on the open market by looking in your local paper and going to local Estate Agents. If you need a mortgage, you will have to get it agreed in principle before you start looking for a home.

Your lender may want written confirmation from the Department for Work and Pensions that they will pay the interest on your mortgage. If you are eligible to have your housing costs paid you can ask them to provide you with a letter to confirm this.

Some people have enough money to buy a home outright, some are able to pay a deposit and some may have to get a 100% mortgage. You will need to have money for legal fees and stamp duty.

## **Inheriting your family home and using family property.**



Some people with a learning disability will inherit their family home and continue to live there when their carers are no longer around. This can be a good option for some people, especially those who want to stay in the family home for as long as possible but there needs to be careful planning so that things don't go wrong



A trust can be set up to help you manage and maintain the property but you will need to go to a solicitor that understands your needs



You need to think about the support you will need in the future and talk to your Care Manager about this and get their help to plan. It will help in the event of a crisis if you already have had your support needs agreed



There are ways of preparing for independence whilst remaining with your family. Your family may get the house adapted or extended so that you have your own space in which to learn skills and get used to living without your family always being with you. Your carers may move to a smaller property and allow you to stay in the family home – perhaps

with another carer providing you with support or with a friend or both



Your family could gift the property to a charity or housing provider with the agreement that you remain in your home for as long as you can and they maintain it and look out for your welfare



Your family can buy a house and rent it out to you.

## 5. Sharing with other people

### Some people like to have other people around



To share the responsibilities of cooking, cleaning and paying the bills



To always have somebody around to talk to

### BUT



It can also mean having to always think about other people



Or not getting on with who you live with

These are the different ways you can share with other people:



A registered care home



Supported housing



An intentional community



Sharing with someone you know in an ordinary house



A Shared Lives scheme

### Sharing with other people

Some people like to live with other people – especially people who you get along well with. Many people with learning disabilities are expected to live with people that they do not know and sometimes do not like.

You may have a friend or a partner that you would like to live with. If you have a friend or partner that you have chosen to live with you should get help to choose the best way to get a home and the support you both need to live there.

You may want to advertise for a flatmate who is the type of person you think you would like to live with. You may want to think about not making too much of a commitment so that you can try it out and see if it is what you want – remember - you never really know somebody until you live with them!

This section will tell you about options for sharing.

## A registered care home

- A registered care home is a home that is set up especially for people who share a similar disability
- It usually has 24 hour staffing attached
- Most of your benefits go directly towards paying for your housing, food, bills, and care
- You will receive a small personal allowance
- They are all registered with the Care Quality Commission (CQC)



### PROS



You will always have others around

### CONS



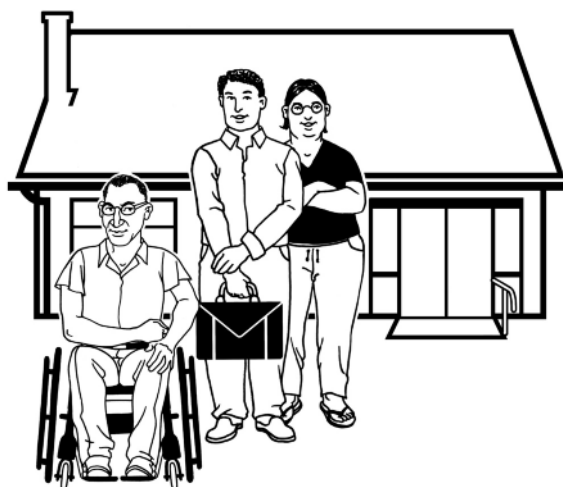
You will have little control over who you live with and who supports you

Your personal income will be low



# Supported housing

- Shared supported housing is tenancy based and usually is attached to support
- You receive full benefits and your rent and care is paid for separately
- If you receive personal care in supported housing, the care provider must be registered with the Care Quality Commission



## PROS



You will always have other people around

You can share the responsibilities like cooking, cleaning and paying the bills

## CONS



You may not have full control over who you live with and who supports you

You may not have the independence you need

# An intentional community

- Intentional communities are usually set up by or for people who share the same beliefs, lifestyle or disability
- They are usually in a rural area but can also be in a built up area
- They are sometimes self contained and include staffing, day time activities/employment and sometimes shops and restaurants
- They can be in one large house or a group of smaller houses in one area
- They can be registered as care homes or tenancy based



## PROS



You will always have things to do

You may be with others who share your beliefs and way of life

## CONS

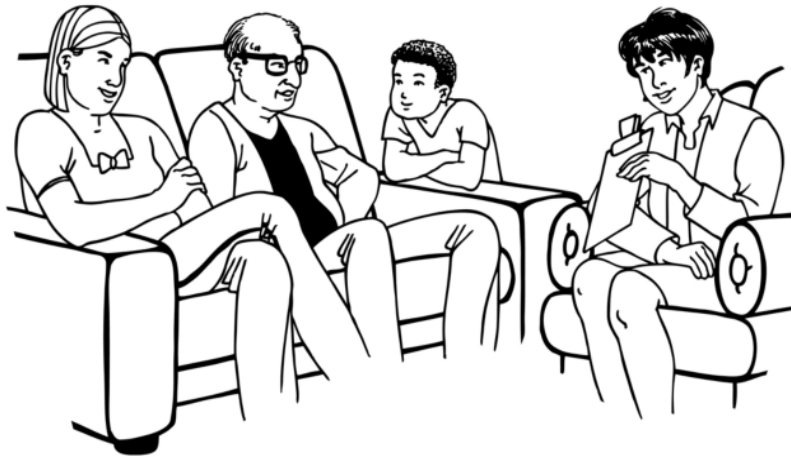


You may feel isolated from your community, family and friends

You may not have the independence you need

# Shared lives scheme

A Shared Lives scheme (it used to be called adult family placement) helps you to live with another family in their home. Sometimes you can be a lodger and sometimes they are registered as a care home.



## PROS



This can be good if you have never experienced living with a family or want to stay in a family environment.

You will be living in a normal house in a normal street.

## CONS



Depending on the family, you may not have as much independence and freedom as you need.

You may have to live according to their rules and way of life.

# Sharing with people you know

- You may want to share with a person or people you know
- If you choose the people you live with you will have to arrange your housing and support separately
- You can rent or buy together
- One of you can rent or buy and one of you can be a lodger



## PROS



You can choose who you live with and who supports you

You are in control of your money and your life

## CONS






You may decide you no longer want to live together




If you are the lodger you have no long term security

# 6. Getting support




## EVERYBODY NEEDS SUPPORT

-  Some people need more support than others
-  Some people need support in some areas of their lives and not in others
-  Some people need support in all areas of their lives

## EVERYBODY IS DIFFERENT

-  People with learning disabilities do not all need the same things
-  Each person has their own strengths and weaknesses
-  Your support package should be just the right kind of support for you

## WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT DO YOU NEED?

-  Think about it!
-  Find out about other people's experiences
-  Be creative – Pick and Mix different types of support!

**This section tells you about different types of support**

# Support tenant or home sharer

- A support tenant or home sharer lives with you in your home



- They give you an agreed amount of support in exchange for rent-free accommodation
- They would be like any flatmate and share the cooking, cleaning and shopping
- A support tenant can be more like a friend than a carer

# Community support volunteer (csv)

- A CSV is a volunteer who lives with a person with a disability as part of a voluntary work experience programme
- A CSV provides about 35 hours a week of support and can be part of a 24 hour support package
- A CSV can support you in all areas of your life such as cooking, cleaning, socialising and personal care

# Outreach or floating support

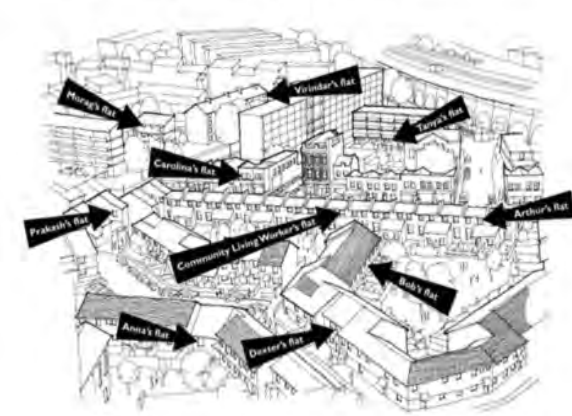


- Outreach support is support provided in your home but support workers are usually based at a central office
- Outreach services usually provide 24 hour emergency or on-call support
- There is no limit to how much support you get and outreach services can help with everything from cleaning and shopping to personal care
- Your support is flexible and you can keep the same support if you move on

# Supported living network

- A supported living network is a network of people who live within their own homes within a particular area or block of flats

## How **KeyRing** works



- Each person in the network will get either a set amount of support or an individual support package
- The network will usually provide 24 hour emergency support cover
- The network members usually support each other too

# Learning independent living skills



- You can have support that teaches you independent living skills in your home
- You can learn skills like shopping, cleaning, cooking and budgeting
- As you become more able to do these things for yourself you will have less support from a worker

# Culturally appropriate support



- You can have support that meets your cultural or spiritual needs
- It can mean having support from somebody who shares or understands your culture or religion
- It may also mean having support from someone of your own sex

# Social support



- This can be support to help you make friends who you choose
- This can be support to join clubs or groups that you choose
- It can be support to go out and do things like swimming, sports, seeing films and other things you enjoy
- Having social support means that you do not only have to rely on people that you live with to be your friends

# Support for your health



- You may need support, guidance or specialist support for your health needs
- This may mean having a health professional visit you regularly This may mean attending a clinic regularly
- It may mean you and your

support workers having special training and guidance to help you improve your health or it may mean that you have a special support package to meet your health needs



# Advocacy



- An advocate gives you support to help you say what you want to say
- An advocate can help you complain when there is something wrong
- An advocate can be a friend, a relative, a neighbour, a worker or anyone you trust
- Self-advocacy means speaking up for yourself

# Circle of support



- A circle of support is a group of people who are formed to jointly help you make decisions about your life
- Your circle of support meets regularly with you to make sure you are getting what you need
- A circle of support can be made up of relatives, friends, neighbours, workers and professionals – anyone who you trust and who cares about you
- Circles of support will make sure that all the different parts of your life are the best they can be

# Support from family, friends and neighbours



- Your family and friends are usually the people who know and love you the most
- Anyone who moves away from home needs help from those closest to them – especially at first
- Your neighbours are the closest people in an emergency – it may be worth getting to know and trust them
- In some cases, your neighbour can be paid to help you out when you need it most

# Domiciliary support



- Domiciliary care agencies provide personal care services in a home setting
- Support workers will be providing support and assistance to people with a range of disabilities, helping them to do as much as possible for themselves in order to maintain their independence
- Domiciliary care agencies must be registered with the Care Quality Commission
- People with complex health and personal care needs living in their own home often have domiciliary care

# Intensive support

- You may want to have your own home but need 24 hour support
- This may mean having one support provider giving you 24 hour support
- It may also mean that you can mix different types of support to get what you need

# Alarm systems and technology






- There are many alarm systems and devices that can help you live more independently
- Alarm systems are usually connected to a 24 hour call out service
- There are devices that can do things like turn off the gas or electricity if a cooker is left on too long or set off an alarm if the bath is too hot or about to overflow
- Communication devices can help you communicate
- Mobile phones can help you to feel safer when learning to travel alone
- Being online and using email and internet helps you to connect to others, shop and get information






# 7. Thinking about housing and support options

There are many housing and support options to think about and it can be a bit confusing when you start. Just because some housing options work well for some people, it does not mean that they work for everyone. Probably the first thing you need to know is whether you want to live with other people or not and whether your home needs to have special adaptations. Here are some questions to help you think about the types of housing and support options that might be right for you;













## IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT WHERE YOU WANT TO LIVE

-  Do you want somewhere permanent and secure?
-  Do you just want to try out living away from home?
-  Do you need a home with special adaptations?
-  Do you need to live on the ground floor?
-  Do you like somewhere quiet?
-  Do you like somewhere lively?
-  Within easy reach of shops or town centre?
-  Near a bus route or train station?
-  Near work, college or day service?
-  Do you want to live near family or friends?
-  Do you need an extra bedroom for a carer or visitors to stay overnight?
-  Do you need a garden?
-  Do you need lots of space?
-  Do you like your own space?
-  Do you like lots of people around you?

## WHO DO YOU WANT TO LIVE WITH?

-  Do you want to live alone?
-  Do you want to live with a carer?
-  Do you want live with a friend/s or partner?
-  Do you want to live with other people who have a learning disability?
-  Do you want to live with a family?

## IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT YOUR SUPPORT

-  Do you want to learn new skills?
-  Do you want people to support you who are skilled in a particular type of support?
-  What type of skills?
-  Do you want informal support – more like a friend?
-  Do you want to be supported by somebody of your own culture or religion?
-  Do you want to be supported by somebody of your own sex?
-  Do you want to be supported by somebody of your own age group?
-  Do you need somebody to help you speak up?
-  Do you want a carer to live-in with you?
-  Do you want a carer to visit you in your home?
-  Do you need support to find new interests and make new friends?
-  Do you need support to get a job?

## EXPLORING OPTIONS



When looking for somewhere to live you need to start with what is most important to you and stick to that and the rest usually comes down to a bit of luck, who you know and what is available at the time.

When starting out on the search for a new home it is best to explore all options that might suit you rather than one or two because housing can take a long time to get and you need to be open to a range of opportunities. You can use this list to draw up a 'shortlist' of the options you might consider:

## HOUSING

-  Home Ownership for People with Long Term Disabilities (HOLD)
-  Newbuild Homebuy & Shared Ownership
-  Buying outright
-  Inheriting or using a family property
-  Renting from a council or housing association
-  Renting from a charity or voluntary organisation
-  Renting from a private landlord
-  Renting from someone you know
-  Registered Care Home
-  Supported housing (shared housing)
-  Intentional Community
-  Extra Care housing
-  Supported housing with individual flats
-  Shared Lives scheme








## SUPPORT

-  Support tenant or Home sharer
-  Community Support Volunteer (CSV)
-  Outreach or Floating support
-  Supported living network
-  Learning independent living skills
-  Culturally appropriate support
-  Social Support
-  Support for your health needs
-  Advocacy
-  Circle of Support
-  Informal support from family friends and neighbours
-  Domiciliary support
-  Alarms and Technology
-  Intensive support
-  Getting financial support

## 8. Your place to live – the DVD








### Katharine and Polly's story



-  Katharine and Polly are friends who were living with their parents
-  They wanted to live together like other people their age
-  They rent their home from a private landlord and get housing benefit to cover the rent
-  They chose their home themselves, with help from their parents
-  They are supported by a live-in support tenant and outreach support workers
-  Their home is near family and friends
-  They like their new home because they can do what they want and enjoy being independent

## Rajinder's story



-  Rajinder lived with his parents and brothers but the house was very crowded
-  Rajinder wanted his own place
-  He applied to a housing association for shared ownership with help from Mencap
-  He liked the flat he was offered and bought 50%
-  He gets Income Support Mortgage Interest towards his mortgage and housing benefit to pay his rent
-  Rajinder's flat is near his tae-kwan-do class and college. He gets a bus to visit his family and his dog
-  Rajinder has friends and family over to visit and help him in his home.



## Cinnamon's story



- 🏠 Cinnny lived with her mum, but wanted her own home
- 🏠 Her mum helped her apply to a housing association for a rented flat
- 🏠 Cinnny's flat had some adaptations done to it to make it easier for her to live in
- 🏠 Cinnny gets help to manage in her home from a care and support agency
- 🏠 Cinnny was able to choose who worked with her because she was on the interview panel
- 🏠 Cinnny still keeps in touch with her mum and friends by phone and they visit each other often
- 🏠 Cinnny also goes to an art class, the local day centre and a club to meet her friends

## Sophie and Susan's story



- 🏠 Sophie and Susan have been friends for a long time and used to live together in a large hostel
- 🏠 Sophie wanted to move with Susan to somewhere smaller and quieter.
- 🏠 Susan wasn't sure about moving at first, but she likes it now
- 🏠 Social Services helped them to find somewhere to live together
- 🏠 They now live in a small group home and are able to have their things around them
- 🏠 Susan keeps in touch with her mum and their new home is near the hairdressers where she works
- 🏠 Susan and Sophie both enjoy being more independent

## 9. Useful contacts

### *Housing Advice and Information*

#### **Housing Options**

[www.housingoptions.org.uk](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk)

0845 4561497

Housing Options is an independent advice and information service to assist people with learning disabilities with housing and support choices – more options for individuals, parents, social services and providers. It does this by providing practical help, advice and information. The website provides Factsheets and Briefings and there is a telephone advice line.

#### **National Housing Federation**

[www.housing.org.uk](http://www.housing.org.uk)

020 7278 6571

The National Housing Federation is the body that represents the independent social housing sector with 1400 non-profit housing members managing around 1.8 million homes. They produce useful guides and factsheets on social housing.

#### **Shelter**

[www.shelter.org.uk](http://www.shelter.org.uk)

0808 800 4444

Shelter is a national organisation working to improve the lives of homeless and badly housed people. They provide free, professional and independent advice on homelessness, legal rights and benefits.

#### **Local Housing Allowance**

[www.lha-direct.voa.gov.uk](http://www.lha-direct.voa.gov.uk)

To find out about the Local Housing Allowance rates in your area

### *Organisations that can help with Home Ownership*

#### **Homes and Communities Agency (HCA)**

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

020 7393 2000

The HCA's job is to fund and regulate housing associations in England through its regional offices. They have a list of housing associations that do various shared ownership schemes

#### **Homebuy Agents**

The housing association responsible for the Homebuy schemes in your area

[http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/new\\_homeBuy\\_agents\\_2009\\_1](http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/new_homeBuy_agents_2009_1)  
[1](#)

**Advance Housing**[www.advanceuk.org](http://www.advanceuk.org)

01993 772885

Advance Housing operates HOLD schemes in some parts of the country.

They also operate a national Family Funded Shared Ownership scheme

01993 709221

**My Safe Home**[www.mysafehome.info](http://www.mysafehome.info)

08000 121 333

MySafeHome is an organisation that brokers mortgages for people with learning disabilities

**Shared Ownership Homes** is a social enterprise that helps people with learning disabilities buy their own homes, usually within extra care type schemes

[www.sharedownershiphomes.org/](http://www.sharedownershiphomes.org/)**Golden Lane Housing**[www.mencap.org.uk/glh](http://www.mencap.org.uk/glh)

0207 6965521

**EAC**

This website enables a search for all older peoples housing including extra care and assisted living schemes. It searches available flats to rent or buy.

[www.housingcare.org](http://www.housingcare.org)**National Support Organisations****NAAPS Shared Lives and other small community services (including Homeshare)**[www.naaps.co.uk](http://www.naaps.co.uk)

Tel/Fax 0151 709 1200

NAAPS was formed in 1992 to promote and develop Shared Lives. It works to promote best practice, awareness of shared lives, Homeshare and other small community based services as an option. They hold a database of schemes currently operating in the UK

**Keyring**[www.keyring.org](http://www.keyring.org)

0207 324 0750

Keyring is a national organisation that runs supported living networks throughout the UK

**Circles Network**[www.circlesnetwork.org.uk](http://www.circlesnetwork.org.uk)

01788 816671

Circles Network is a national voluntary organisation facilitating the setting up of circles of support for disabled people in the UK. It is based on person centred planning, to ensure that the person is in control of the planning of their lives.

**Disabilities Care Register**[www.carechoices.co.uk](http://www.carechoices.co.uk)

0800 3892077

A database of residential and supported accommodation in the UK. A free service providing profiles of providers by area, types of service and needs. There is also a freephone telephone enquiry line. They also produce an annual Guide on transition planning, rights and benefits as well as some current provider listings.

**Mencap**[www.mencap.gov.uk](http://www.mencap.gov.uk)

020 76964545

Mencap campaigns and provides advice and support directly through the national charity and its local network of more than 1,000 affiliated groups. The support provided includes housing, education, employment and leisure activities. Support service for people with a learning disability is provided in either a Mencap home or a person's own home. Golden Lane Housing provides ordinary housing that enabling people with a learning disability to live within the community.

National Mencap - national helpline 0808 808 1111, Solicitors freephone for wills and trusts 0500 243444, Golden Lane Housing 020 7696 5521

**National Autistic Society**[www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)

0870 600 8585

Services, information and advice for children and adults with autistic disorders throughout the UK including post-school education and training, residential provision, and supported employment. The NAS have good directories of information on local societies, service providers and factsheets and publication on a range of topics.

**AbilityNet**[www.abilitynet.co.uk/](http://www.abilitynet.co.uk/)

0800 269 545

AbilityNet is a charity that brings the benefits of computer technology to adults and children with communication needs and disabilities. They have a good range of helpful factsheets and skillsheets. See factsheet for alternative and augmentative communication (AAC).

**Care Quality Commission (CQC)**[www.cqc.org.uk](http://www.cqc.org.uk)

03000 616161

This site enables a search of all registered care homes and domiciliary care agencies.