

Housing Options for People with Learning Disabilities



What is Supported Living?

Housing with support is often called Supported Living or Independent Living. What both of these terms mean is that you have your own home and support is put in place to help you live independently. This could mean that you are supported for a few hours a week, everyday, overnight or 24 hours a day. The support is carefully planned to meet your needs to live independently.

When will I be ready for Supported Living?

Anyone, regardless of their ability, can be supported to live in their own home with the right support. The support you receive will be carefully planned to support your needs to live independently. This could mean that you are supported for a few hours a week, every day, overnight or even 24 hours a day.



Can I live with friends?

Yes, some people like to live with other people especially people who they get along with like friends or a partner.

How long will it take to find somewhere to live?

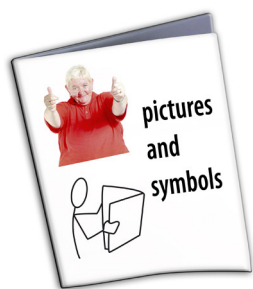
Moving home is a very big step in anyone's life. It is very important that you plan ahead. You might not be ready to move at the moment but you might be thinking about moving in the future. Finding housing can take a long time. You should start by thinking about what is important to you, where you would like to live, who you would like to live with and the time it might take to get what you want.



Who can help me?

- Your Care Manager can tell you more about supported living.
- You can contact the Homesearch Team to find out more about putting your name on the Housing Register.
- You could be referred to an advocate who could help speak up for you.
- You could talk to people who are already living in supported living who can tell you about their experiences.





My Own Home Guide

We have produced **My Own Home: a guide to housing for people with learning disabilities** to help you think about the different housing and support options available. The guide provides information about paying for supported living and who you need to contact to find out more. A copy of the guide is available on the webpage.



People with learning difficulties in Bath & North East Somerset have made a DVD about living independently. A clip of the film can be viewed on the webpage.



Housing Services

The Council has a specialist Housing Advisor for people with learning disabilities. If you would like to discuss your housing options or if you need help to join the Council's Housing Register, please telephone 01225 396373.

If you would like to join the Council's Housing Register, you will need to fill in an application form. There is an easy read version of this form available on the webpage.



Who will make sure the appropriate support is in place?

The local Authority has a duty to provide some people with support. You need to have an assessment of your care and support needs to assess whether you need support services. If needs are identified a support plan will be put together with a Care Manager to meet your needs.

If you think you need an assessment contact Sirona Care & Health on 01225 396000.



Who will review and monitor the support?

Once your support package is in place it is important that it meets your needs and you are happy with it.

You will have regular review meetings to make sure you are getting what you need. You can attend this meeting along with the people that support you, your family and advocate.

Who is responsible for regulating supported living?

Social Services will monitor the support to make sure the agreed standards are maintained. A support plan will be followed to make sure that the appropriate support is provided.

Support providers are required to register with the Care Quality Commission this is a formal body that inspect and report on adult social care services in England. Providers receive regular inspections and have to comply with many outcomes. More information can be found on their website at: www.cqc.org.uk



What happens if I don't like where I live or I don't get on with my support staff?

If there is a problem with your accommodation you should contact your Landlord or your support worker who can help with things like arranging for repairs to be carried out.

If you are unhappy with your support we will start by working with you and the support provider to resolve the problem. If there is a problem that can't be resolved you can change your support provider without having to leave your accommodation.

Other useful Contacts

The Housing & Support Alliance

Free, independent advice service for people with learning disabilities and families. We can advise on everything to do with housing, support and rights for people with learning disabilities
www.housingandsupport.org.uk
08454561497