



Factsheet

Housing Options

A factsheet for parents/carers of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Housing Options for families living with a child with a disability



Social housing - Most councils use a points or a banding system to award you higher or lower priority. Check the rules in your area as they can vary. Use the Official government website to find your council's website or ring to request a leaflet: www.gov.uk

You may get priority for a medical condition e.g. if you have someone in your household with physical, mobility or mental health problems which are made worse by where you live.

- Explain the difficulties this causes, providing as much detail as possible
- Provide details of any doctor, health worker or social worker who can support your application and ask them for supporting letters if possible
- Also include any support networks which mean you need to be in a certain area e.g. near a certain school, or near relatives or friends who help you with your caring responsibilities

Equipment Loan - Some local authorities provide equipment such as a stair lift on loan if they consider it would be necessary and appropriate to meet your needs.

Housing Options for disabled young people over 18

Independent living

If the disabled person can live totally independently without support from external agencies then consider the following options:-

- **Home ownership** - You can become a home owner by getting a mortgage, inheriting a property or joint ownership (parents combining resources to purchase a property for their children)
- **Shared home ownership** - The ownership of a property is shared between the person with a disability and the housing provider. Shared ownership allows you to buy a share of the property and pay rent on the rest to your housing provider
- **Renting private property** - You would pay rent on a property to a private landlord or letting agent
- **Local housing authorities or associations** - Contact your local housing department for further information

Semi-independent living

If the disabled person needs support from agencies at certain times of day e.g. getting bathed, or cooking meals, then consider:-

- Home ownership, shared ownership, private or council rental all with support
- Cluster housing - small blocks of self-contained flats with a manager, warden or support worker on-site or providing 24 hour support
- Supported living - a flexible type of support that helps a person with a disability to live in their own home, rented or shared property rather than in residential services. A carer may visit or live in to provide support as needed
- Community Support Networks - a property close to similar houses and flats occupied by people with disabilities. A worker provides support such as information, advice and a sympathetic ear

If you have high support needs

Some people require specialist 24-hour support for a variety of reasons and this would be assessed by social care.

Living with others

- Adult placements - If a person with a disability prefers to live with a family (in a similar way to a foster home), social services may be able to arrange a placement within a family
- Supported lodgings - Living in someone else's home as a lodger but with extra support at home with things like personal care
- Homeshare - The house or flat would be shared with a second person who has different needs where both people have something to offer
- Group homes and shared housing - homes are shared by three or four people. Residents can do their own shopping and cooking, supported by staff through the day or when needed



To ensure the right support is in place:

- Start planning early and think about future housing arrangements at the transition review at age 14 for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Contact your local social services department to find out about your local authority's policies on housing and support for people with disabilities
- Request a community care assessment for adults with disabilities
- Carers are entitled to an assessment of their needs from social services
- If you want to rent local authority housing or housing association properties, put yourself or your adult child on their waiting list as soon as possible

Adapting your home to meet your needs - Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)

Disabled Facilities Grants are local council grants to help disabled people to live independently in their own homes. It will not affect any benefits you receive and helps towards the cost of adapting your home, so you can continue to live there. Disabled children under 18 can also get a grant without their parents income being taken into account.

An assessment will be carried out and the work must be considered necessary and appropriate, and that the work is reasonable and practical e.g. widen doors and install ramps, improve access to rooms and facilities – e.g. stair lift or a downstairs bathroom. Each local authority has guidance on their policy which should be available on their website, or ring and ask for a leaflet. Contact your local council for more information.

Useful Contacts:

Learning Disability England - www.housingandsupport.org.uk

Advice service: 0300 201 0455

Shelter (England) - www.shelter.org.uk

Free helpline: 0808 800 4444

Scope - www.scope.org.uk

Free helpline: 0808 800 3333

Newcastle's Learning Disabilities supported housing co-ordinator: 0191 2788100

Skills for People
Key House
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