

Finding a place to live

A guide to getting accommodation for adults with learning disabilities



About this guide

This guide was written by Aberdeenshire Learning Disability Partnership.



We include people from Social Work, Housing, the Health Service and care providers. We work together with people with learning disabilities and their families.



Everyone should have a place to call home and get the right help when they need it.



We want to make it easier for adults with learning disabilities to get a good place to live. We wrote this guide to say how to get help to find housing in Aberdeenshire.

Housing and support choices



Making the right housing choice depends on what is important to you. Some choices are good if you want to live alone. Some choices are good if you want to live with friends or other people.

These are some housing choices you might have:



- Renting from the council or a registered social landlord
- Extra care housing
- Shared Lives or adult placement
- Supported accommodation
- Renting from a private landlord
- Residential care
- Buying or shared ownership
- Community network

There may be other choices. It all depends on your situation and what housing and support is available.



You should get the right support where you live. Support can be at home all the time or come in just when you need it.

Renting from the Council or a social landlord (RSL)



The Council and RSLs provide low cost housing. You are a tenant and pay rent. You may be able to get help at home.



You need to fill in a Housing form to get this kind of housing. Your name will go on the housing list and you will have to wait for a house to come up.



You can apply for housing online at the Apply4Homes website:

<https://www.apply4homes.org.uk/Default.aspx>



If you have particular needs you should tell Housing. For example you might need a house with wheelchair access.



There is a form called a 'medical assessment form'. You need to put your particular needs in this form. Someone can help you to fill it in.

Shared Ownership



Shared ownership is where you buy a share of your home and pay rent for the rest. You can find out more from the Housing service.

Renting from a private landlord



A private landlord should be registered with the Council. You are a tenant but might not have the right to stay long term. Rents can be very high.

Residential Care



A registered care home provides housing and care 24 hours a day. There could be 4 – 20 people living there. You should have your own bedroom but share the other rooms.

Community Network



People in a community network live in ordinary places in the same area. They meet up and help each other out.

Extra care housing



Extra care housing is a flat in a block of flats for people with support needs. There are usually shared areas and a support worker there all the time. You are a tenant and pay rent.

Shared lives



Aberdeenshire Council runs shared lives. This is an adult placement scheme. You get support from a shared lives carer in their home.

Shared Lives offer long-term housing and support or short breaks in the shared lives carer's home.

Supported housing



Supported housing is a flat or house you share with other people. You should have your own bedroom. You are a tenant and pay rent. You get help from a support worker. How much support you get depends on what help you need.

Choosing a good place to live

A good home is one that's right for **you**. It may take time to find the right place to live. It is a good idea to think ahead and plan for the future.



Think about what is important to you. What is important about the place you live?



Talk to friends and family about what you want.



Talk to a Social Worker or Housing Officer. They can help you apply for housing. They can tell you more about your choices and about options for paying for housing and support.

Getting help to find housing



You can ask social work for help. They first have to check you meet 'eligibility criteria' to see if you can get care services.

If you can't get care services you can still apply for housing.



If you can get care services a social worker will do an assessment. They will ask about your housing and support needs and agree what is most important to you. Your social worker can help you apply for housing.



The social worker will tell the learning disability Supported Accommodation Group. They have a list of housing available in Aberdeenshire.



The Supported Accommodation Group match people to available housing. They give everyone a fair chance to get a good place to live.



Your social worker will tell you when housing is available.



Your social worker will tell you about benefits and paying for your housing and support.



Your social worker will tell you about options for getting help at home. They can arrange support for you or they can help you to arrange your own support.



Your social worker will agree a care plan with you. A care plan says what help you should get in your new home.

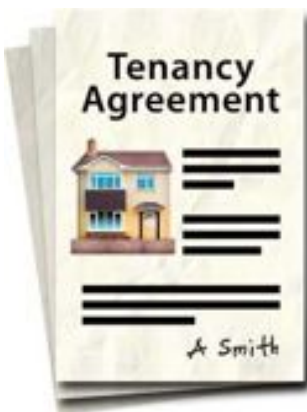
Your rights



You have a right to be treated fairly wherever you live. People should respect your choices and your private life.



If you are homeless or about to be made homeless the Council must help you. If you are worried you might have to leave where you are staying go to your local housing office or social work office and ask for help.



If you rent a house or flat you are a tenant. You should have a **tenancy agreement**. A tenancy agreement gives you the right to live somewhere if you pay the rent and keep to the other rules. The agreement should be written in a way you understand.

You may have an **occupancy agreement** if you rent a room in a group home you share with other people.

You do not have a tenancy agreement in a residential care home or with Shared Lives.

The **care inspectorate** was set up by the government to check your services are okay.



They check:

- care homes
- Shared Lives
- housing support
- care at home
- secure care



They write a report about every service they check.



You can find these reports on their website
<http://www.scswis.com/>



You can phone the care inspectorate up
0845 600 9527

You can tell the Care Inspectorate what you think about your services.

What next?

You can go to any of these places to find out more about your accommodation and support choices.

Housing Offices

Banff Housing Office

32 Low Street
Banff
AB45 1AY
Tel: 01261 813200



Peterhead Housing Office

Baltic House, Broad Street
Peterhead
AB42 1JL
Tel: 01779 477363



Fraserburgh Housing Office

Mid Street
Fraserburgh
AB43 9EP
01346 514866



Inverurie Housing Office

Gordon House, Blackhall Road
Inverurie
AB51 3WA
Tel: 01467 620981



Stonehaven Housing Office

16 - 22 Allardice Street
Stonehaven
AB39 2BR
Tel: 01569 762001



Social Work Offices

Community Care Office

13 Dalrymple Street
Fraserburgh
AB43 9BH
Tel: 01346 585085



Seafield House

37 Castle Street

Banff

AB45 1FQ

Tel: 01261 812001



Peterhead Social Work Office

53 Windmill Street

Peterhead

AB42 1UE

Tel: 01779 477333



Social Work Office

67 Market Place

Inverurie

AB51 3PY

Tel: 01467 625567



Viewmount

Arduthie Road

Stonehaven

AB39 2DQ

Tel: 01569 763800



Get in touch



You can send an email to social work:

social.work@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

You can find out more about the Council on our website:

www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk



You can phone for advice and information:

Aberdeenshire Council: 08456 08 12 07

Benefits Advice: 08456 08 01 49

Housing Advice: 08456 08 12 07

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