

Housing Choices

Use these cards to think about the type of home you would like and how you might get it. Do you want to rent or buy? Where do you want your home to be and what do you need around it?

Cards in **Housing Choices**

- Living alone
- Living with a friend or as a couple
- Sharing with other disabled people
- Living with a pet
- Living with a volunteer
- Living alone but close to other people
- Living with a family
- Renting from a private landlord
- Renting from a housing association
- Buying a house
- A small residential care home
- A Community Network (KeyRing scheme)
- Cluster flats
- Adapted home or bungalow
- In a built up area
- With a garden
- House in a village
- Block of flats
- Near a high street
- Near a train station
- Near a supermarket
- Near people you care about



Living alone

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to live alone?

- You can have all the support you need to live alone
- You can have things the way you want them and you won't have to share
- You will need to go out and about to see other people and have company
- The people who support you will help you plan activities with you so you are not lonely
- You can get equipment and technology to help you feel safe at home.



Living with a friend or as a couple

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to live with a friend or as a couple?

- You will be able to share chores and the bills
- You will have company and someone to share things with
- It might be difficult to have time to yourself
- You will have to agree some rules about how you share your home
- You can each have the support that you need
- You can get equipment and technology to help you both feel safe at home.



Sharing with other disabled people

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to share with other people that have a disability?

- You will have company and other people to share things with
- Staff will be there to support you
- You may be able to do group activities together
- It might be difficult to have time to yourself or do things the way you want
- There will be rules about what happens in the home
- You won't get much choice about who supports you or who you live with
- Equipment and technology may help you to be more independent.



Living with a pet

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to live with a pet?

- Do you have a pet like a cat, dog, bird or fish already?
- Do you want to get a pet to keep you company?
- You will need to look after your pet and pay for the things it needs
- If you share with other people you will have to check that they are happy for you to have a pet
- You will need to ask your landlord if you can keep a pet
- It might be difficult to have a pet if you live in a care home.



Living with a volunteer

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to live with a volunteer?

- A volunteer can live with you in your home
- They can support you with some tasks in exchange for a rent-free bedroom in your home
- It could be like having a friend living with you
- They might have to move on after a while
- Other people might also need to support you so that they can have time off or go to work.



Living alone but close to other people

Who do you want to live with?

Living alone but close to other people?

- You can have your own home
- You can have all the support you need to live alone
- You can have things the way you want them in your own home
- You can get equipment and technology to help you feel safe at home
- You will be near to other people so that you can make friends and socialise
- You might need to share some of your support time with others
- It might be difficult to find properties close to other disabled people.



Living with a family

Who do you want to live with?

Do you want to live with a family?

- You could live with a family who want to support someone with a disability
- You will have your own room and share the rest of the family home
- You will have company and other people to share things with
- The family will be there to support you and you will be able to do activities together
- It might be difficult to have time to yourself or do things the way you want
- You will have to live by the family's rules.



Renting from a private landlord

What type housing do you want?

Do you want to rent from a private landlord?

- There is usually a lot of choice and you would be able to move quickly
- Most landlords want a deposit in case you damage the something
- You need to check how much rent you will need to pay and whether the landlord wants it before your benefit is paid
- The landlord will repair and maintain the property
- A member of your family or a friend could also be your landlord
- Some landlords might only rent to you for 6 months or a year
- You can have all the support you need to rent privately.



Renting from a housing association

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want to rent from a council or a housing association (social housing)?

- Renting social housing usually means you can live there for many years
- You will have a tenancy so will have rights and responsibilities
- The council or housing association will repair and maintain the property
- Some social housing is especially for disabled people
- You may have to join a waiting list and wait for a long time to be offered social housing
- You can have all the support you need to rent social housing.



Buying a house

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want to buy your own home?

- You can buy outright or through shared ownership
- Shared ownership is a part buy and part rent scheme with a housing association. You don't have to afford the whole cost of the property
- You might be able to get a mortgage to buy even if you are on benefits
- You will have to maintain the property yourself, or pay someone to do it. If you buy through shared ownership the housing association might do the repairs for you.
- Buying is the most secure type of housing, but it can be complicated to buy and sell.

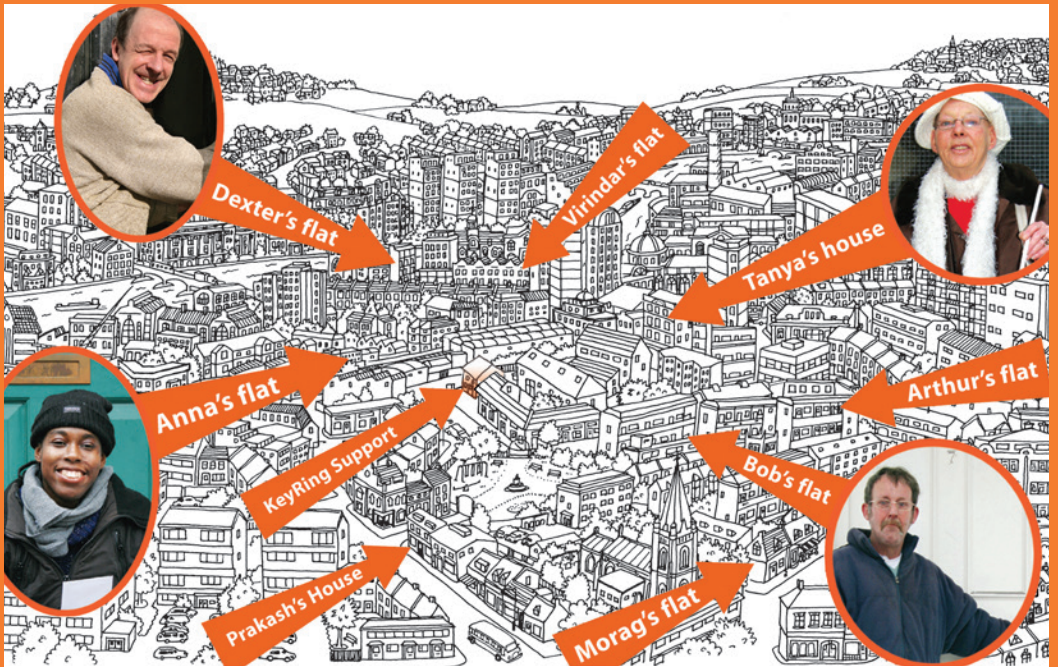


A small residential care home

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want to live in a small residential care home?

- Is there a particular residential care home you like?
- Small residential care homes are usually ordinary houses which are shared by 3 or 4 people
- They provide care, housing and take care of your finances
- There will be rules about what happens in the home
- You won't have a tenancy so it is not secure housing.



A Community Network (KeyRing scheme)

What type of housing do you want?

A Community Network is a network of properties close to each other

- People in the network live in rented properties or ones they have bought themselves
- You will live by yourself in your own home but have network members as neighbours close by
- A support worker lives in one of the properties and supports people in the network
- Network members all have disabilities and share their friendship, skills and talents with other members.



Cluster flats

What type of housing do you want?

Cluster flats are especially built for people with disabilities

- You will live in your own flat so you can have things the way you want them
- There is usually a shared area (like a lounge or dining room) so that people can socialise and get support together
- You can socialise with others or not, it's up to you
- You will have a tenancy so will have rights and responsibilities
- You may have to share some support with others – such as night time support.



Adapted home or bungalow

What type of housing do you want?

Do you have a physical disability? Do you need an accessible property?

- A property can be adapted so that a person with a physical disability can live in it
- An Occupational Therapist can help advise you and your landlord about the adaptations you will need
- You may be able to get a grant to adapt your home
- Many registered care homes and supported living services are also in bungalows
- You can get equipment and technology to help you be independent and feel safe at home.



In a built up area

What type of housing do you want?

Do you prefer to live in a built up area near a lot of people?

- Is there a particular area you would like to live in, maybe near family and friends?
- It is usually easy to walk around or get on public transport if you live in a built up area
- There are usually lots of facilities in a built up area
- It might be noisy in a built up area.



With a garden

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want a house or flat with a garden?

- Some flats have a shared or communal garden so you can enjoy it without having to look after it
- Do you want a big or small garden?
- You might want a garden if you have a pet or activity equipment
- You might want a garden to relax in or to grow flowers or vegetables
- Do you need help to look after the garden?
- If you can't find somewhere with a garden, would you like to live near a park, open space or allotment?
- What about a flat with a balcony instead?



House in a village

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want to live in the country or in a village?

- Do you want to live somewhere quiet?
- Do you know which village you want to live in?
- In some villages you won't have many neighbours
- Some villages have shops and community facilities but others don't
- In a village it might be difficult to get public transport to get to shops and community resources
- If you can't find somewhere in a village, would you like to live near a park, open space or allotment?



Block of flats

What type of housing do you want?

Do you want to live in a flat?

- It may be easier to get a flat than a house
- Flats are usually cheaper than houses and bungalows
- Flats can be rented or purchased
- Do you need to live in a block with a lift? Can you manage the stairs?
- Some flats have gardens which you share with others
- You might not be allowed to have a pet in a flat
- Everyone in your block will have a responsibility to keep quiet, tidy and be a good neighbour to others.



Near a high street

What is important to you?

What do you want nearby?

- Do you want to live near to community facilities such as the shops, post office, bank or library?
- Do you want to be near a park, open space or allotment?
- Do you want to live near a place of worship? If so which one?
- Do you want to live near a pub?
- Is there a particular area you would like to live in, near family, friends and facilities?



Near a train station

What is important to you?

What else do you want nearby?

- Do you need to be near a train station or other public transport?
- Are there particular community facilities you would like to be near?
- Do you need to be near college or work?
- If some of the things you want aren't close by would travel training help?



Near a supermarket

What is important to you?

Do you need to be in walking distance from a supermarket?

- Do you need to be able to get a bus, train or taxi to the supermarket?
- Could you use a small local shop?
- Could you get your groceries delivered to you?



Near people you care about

What is important to you?

Do you want to live near your family or friends?

- Which family and friends do you want to be near?
- Is there a particular area you would like to live in, near family and friends?
- Do you want a place where your family and friends can visit or stay over easily?
- Do you want to be able to visit your family and friends easily?
- Do you want to live near public transport to visit people?