

# HOUSING OPTIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY IN WORCESTERSHIRE



**A guide for people with additional needs and their carers, who live in Worcestershire, and who are looking at supported living options.**

All the housing types listed in this guide require funding from social care or health.



**worcestershire**  
county council

# WHAT WILL THIS GUIDE HELP ME WITH?



## This guide will tell you about:

- \* Different housing options for people with additional needs.
- \* How to access each option.
- \* When to start planning your move.
- \* How to arrange support to move to a new home and live there.
- \* Who to contact if you want to move.

## The different housing options for people with additional needs are:

1. **Supported Living** – Shared Housing/Shared Supported Living (living with others)
2. **Supported Living** – Cluster Flats (living alone)
3. **Shared Lives**
4. **Residential Care**

### THIS IS IMPORTANT:

It is not a good idea to look for supported living until you have received a completed assessment.

You may not be eligible for support to live in the home you want. An assessment will tell you what support you can get. It will avoid you being disappointed.

You will also need to complete a financial assessment to see how much money you will have to contribute towards your support.

# DO YOU WANT TO MOVE HOUSE?

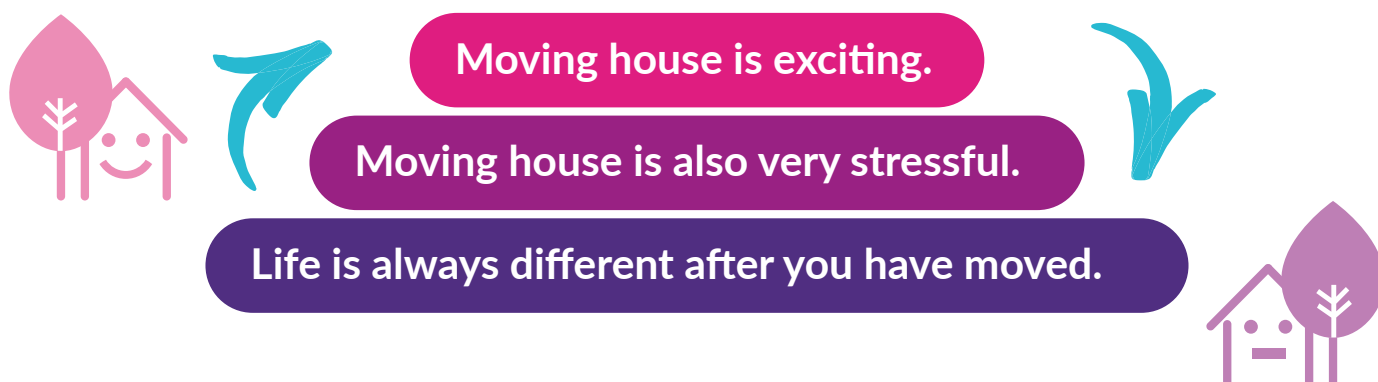


As people get older, they may start thinking about moving to a new home. This guide will help you find out if you want to move home and what help may be available.

A family member, carer or social worker can go through this guide with you to help you decide if moving home is right for you.

## Moving to a new home can help you:

- \* To live more independently.
- \* Get the support and care you really need.
- \* Make choices about your life.



## Things to think about before you move:

- \* Why do you want to move?
- \* Where do you want to live?
- \* Do you want to live alone or with other people?
- \* What do you want to do with your time?
- \* What support and care will you need?

The information in this guide will help you answer these questions so you can make the best decision for your future.



# DO YOU WANT TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN OR WITH OTHER PEOPLE?



## **Living on your own (for example, in a cluster flat):**

Living on your own means that you control what happens in your home.

- \* You have more independence, more privacy, and your own front door.
- \* You have greater responsibilities too.
- \* Living on your own can be lonely. It is not for everybody.

If you choose to live on your own and need support, your social worker will help you look at the costs and availability of this option.

## **Living with other people (for example, shared housing/shared supported living):**

Living with other people can be more appropriate than living on your own. Especially if you are moving for the first time.

Living with others means that you have your own bedroom and share the rest of the home with others. This means you share a kitchen, bathroom, and lounge/living room.

# LIVING WITH OTHER PEOPLE



## People who share their home:

- \* May share responsibilities such as cooking and cleaning – dependent on their level of independence.
- \* Need to respect other people in the home.
- \* May have less privacy because they share parts of their home.
- \* Must understand that others may have visitors as well.
- \* Find sharing easier if they get on with the other tenants.

Sharing with others can be lots of fun. Make sure you are happy to live with the other people who live in the house before you move in.



## There are different ways to find people to share a home with:

- \* If you have friends in a similar situation and eligible for a social care package you may be able to live with them.
- \* Speak to your social worker to look into what vacancies are available for Shared Supported Living.
- \* There are other organisations that can help e.g. Ourway.

Your social worker will do their best to make sure you are well matched with the people you want to live with. This will be reviewed as needed.



[www.ourway.org.uk](http://www.ourway.org.uk)  
[office@ourway.org.uk](mailto:office@ourway.org.uk)  
**01562 820262**

Most support for Supported Living is funded by Worcestershire County Council's Adult Services.

Your social worker will tell you if you are eligible for these services.



# SUPPORTED LIVING



Supported living means housing with additional support for people with additional needs. These are properties that are usually rented from a Housing Association.

Supported living can be a shared home (such as shared housing or shared supported living), or a group of individual flats for people living alone (sometimes called cluster flats).

Supported houses and flats will usually have 24-hour support which offers each tenant basic support with managing their care needs and some one-to-one hours for individual tasks and activities.



# SUPPORTED LIVING - LIVING ALONE



## Supported Living - Cluster Flats (living alone)

Cluster flats are blocks of apartments built specifically for people with additional needs.

There are cluster flats in most towns across Worcestershire.

They usually have one bedroom with an open-plan kitchen and living room.

This means you can live with other people in the block of flats but still have the privacy of your own home. Most buildings have a communal space or garden where you can get together with the other tenants.

Cluster flats have support workers onsite to support you. This is called a 'core service'.

You will need to have funding that covers the cost of the core service and the one-to-one hours your social worker says you need to be able to live there.

You will need to speak to your social worker about cluster flats in your area and if you have enough money in your personal budget to afford the support.





# SUPPORTED LIVING - LIVING WITH OTHERS



## Supported Living - Shared Housing/Shared Supported Living (living with others)

Shared supported living is when a few people with additional needs live together in a property. This is also called a shared house.

Everyone has their own bedroom, and they share the other facilities like the kitchen, bathroom, and lounge/living room.

Support workers are there through the day to help people with things like social activities, cooking and shopping. Support workers may also be there overnight if that support is needed.

You will need funding to pay for the support in the house – this will be a condition of living there.

You will need to speak to your social worker about shared supported living schemes in your area and if you have enough money in your personal budget to afford the support.





# SHARED LIVES SCHEME



The Shared Lives Scheme is living with a Shared Lives carer, and possibly their family, in their home.

All schemes are different, depending on the Shared Lives carer involved. Often, Shared Lives can be tried out as respite (also known as short breaks), or support can be accessed in a crisis if you already know the Shared Lives carer.

If you live in a Shared Lives Scheme you will have a license agreement.

The license agreement tells you what your rights and responsibilities are. It can help you develop independent living skills which could be a stepping stone into shared supported living or a cluster flat in the future.



# RESIDENTIAL CARE



In the past, residential care was the first choice of housing for people with learning disabilities. Residential care is still used, but usually only for those people with the highest needs.

Residential care properties can vary from small houses to large houses within the community.

You have your own room and share other communal facilities such as the bathroom, lounge/living room, and garden.

You won't have a tenancy in residential care and won't have the same rights as you would in supporting housing, such as choosing your care provider.



You can only move into residential care if your needs cannot be met by living in supporting housing. Your social worker or health professional will discuss with you if you need to explore residential care options.

There are many different options for housing in Worcestershire. It can feel overwhelming as these are big decisions, but these can be discussed with your social worker to help you decide the best option for you.





Visit our website for more information:  
**[worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer)**

If you would like any further information  
about housing options, speak to your  
social worker or contact:

Family Front Door  
(if you are under the age of 18)  
**01905 822666**

Adult Front Door  
(if you are aged 18 or over)  
**01905 768053**