

Making decisions about where people will live

The manager of the learning disability social work team holds an accommodation meeting every month.



At the meeting they talk about people who need to find somewhere to live. They also talk about the houses that have space for someone to move into. If there are any new houses or services, they talk about this too.



The team manager will think about any rules or guidelines about finding homes for people.



There is a list of things to consider when making decisions. This list is in the Policy. They will use information from a person's assessment. This says what the person's needs are, what is important to the person about where they want to live and who they want to live with.





All vacancies in a house have to be paid for so if someone can move in soon then money can be saved.



It takes time to talk about what house is best for a person and how they might fit in with the people that live there. This means everyone has to talk to each other and tell each other what is going on and what they are thinking. This will include the person looking for a home, the people already living there, the social worker, the care support provider and the landlord who owns the house. Some people also have an advocate.



In the accommodation meeting, if a suggestion has been made to introduce a person to a vacancy, then a plan needs to be made about the best way to do this. The plan should be based on the best way for the person looking for a home to find out about it. This might include pictures, photos, a video, a number of visits and maybe an overnight stay.



Time will be needed to meet the other people living in the house. Everyone should get enough support from the social worker and the care provider staff to do this.



For some people it might be a good idea to get the landlord to agree to a 'trial period' so that you can test out what it will be like living there. People need to be supported to understand that not everyone gets on with everyone all of the time. Sometimes people choose to live

with people they like even though it might be in an area they don't know.



The most important thing to think about is how to find a house that you can live in comfortably and where you will be happy. Finding out what are the most important things to you will help make the best decision.

People who need extra help to understand their situation and make decisions about their accommodation needs



Some people are unable to fully understand the decisions that need to be made in finding the right place to live, so staff sometimes have to make these decisions and agree together what they think is best for the person.



Things to think about when considering, is it the best decision for a person to move?

How old is the person? How easily can they move about? Can they walk, climb stairs or do they use a wheelchair, or do they need a ground floor? Could they need support with

moving around in the future?

Does the person need an assessment by an Occupational Therapist?

Would it help if the house was altered, maybe have an extension for a downstairs bathroom, or a chairlift to get upstairs?



Are they over 50, would Extra Care Housing be suitable as they might need more support and want to be with other people over 50?

Could the person live in Shared Lives?
This is like a family setting.

Where are the vacancies now and what type of houses or flats are they?



People who live in a house when a vacancy comes up

People living in a house where one of the bedrooms is vacant should be supported to say what type of person they would like to move in with them.

Staff and social workers should explain how the vacancy needs to be filled with the right person as soon as possible, so that tenants don't have to pay extra money for household bills and the Council or Providers do not have to pay for the vacancy.



Vacancies should be filled within 6 months. If not, a meeting will be called by the Council to see if the property can continue to be used as Supported Living.



The Council will have to think about the cost of the empty vacancy, especially if the care provider or landlord is still being paid for the vacancy. If the Council, care provider or landlord cannot pay the cost of the rent for the vacant room, the existing tenants might want to consider paying this. They might need support with this decision, to make sure it is in their Best Interests.

Decisions involving more than one person can be hard to make. Everyone needs to keep talking to each other and be honest. If sometimes people have to compromise they should be supported to understand why this is.