

Housing & Support Options

For Young People & Adults

November 2016

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Quick Overview

- ◆ All young people (and their families) have right to grow in independence into adulthood
- ◆ This is embedded in the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND reforms and the Care Act
- ◆And in local authority procedures
- ◆ Various options – no one size fits all
- ◆ Needs to be seen in the context of housing availability for all and eligibility for support
- ◆ Individual choice on when to start thinking and planning – but want to provide information as early as possible

Housing & Support Options

- ◆ Various options
- ◆ Following slides outline some of them
- ◆ No right or wrong – different things suit different young people, their finances and family/carer situations
- ◆ Money
 - ◆ Can be complex!
 - ◆ Law and benefits change
 - ◆ Depends on individual circumstances
 - ◆ Always get independent advice

What is Supported Living



- ◆ Housing and support are organised separately
- ◆ Housing and support suits person rather than fitting into an existing service
 - ◆ Choose who to live with
 - ◆ Choose where you live
 - ◆ Choose how you are supported
- ◆ But – may have same choice issues as others in terms of affordability, location etc
- ◆ Rights and responsibilities of being a tenant
- ◆ Supporting People Scheme
 - ◆ Housing association provide additional support to enable people to maintain tenancy
 - ◆ Easy read tenancy
 - ◆ Maintenance and repair services
 - ◆ Budgeting and flexible

Some Housing & Support Options

◆ Rent from Housing Association

- ◆ Usually housing benefit covers rent
- ◆ Support arranged separately
- ◆ Have tenancy rights
- ◆ Supported Living

◆ Renting from a private landlord

- ◆ Housing benefit may cover rent
- ◆ Support arranged separately
- ◆ Have tenancy rights
- ◆ Usually more expensive than housing association and shorter tenancy rights

Some Housing & Support Options

◆ Supported housing

- ◆ Renting a shared house or flat
- ◆ Support comes with it
- ◆ Eg Castle Project/YMCA

◆ Live with family

- ◆ Can make changes to home to meet needs
- ◆ Support can be arranged
- ◆ Can also have a residential break away from family home

Some Housing & Support Options

◆ **Adult Placement Scheme (Shared Lives)**

- ◆ Live with adult carers in their home
- ◆ All the time or for a short break
- ◆ Similar to Link Scheme for children

◆ **Registered Care homes**

- ◆ Already set up
- ◆ Care or Nursing homes
- ◆ Support in place
- ◆ Usually for people with health and medical needs
- ◆ No tenancy rights
- ◆ Usually have clear and set criteria on what needs they will and won't meet

Some Housing & Support Options

◆ Family investment

- ◆ Buying or renting a home using family money, an inheritance or a trust
- ◆ Support arranged separately

◆ Buy to let

- ◆ When someone, usually a relative, buys somewhere for someone to live and that person pays them rent
- ◆ Support arranged separately

◆ Home ownership

- ◆ Part renting and part buying your home through a housing association or buying home fully
- ◆ Support arranged separately
- ◆ My safe home – a scheme to support this

◆ **MUST GET INDEPENDENT ADVICE ON THESE**

My Safe Home

- ◆ Scheme to support people with disabilities own their own home
- ◆ Can be shared ownership with a housing association
- ◆ May require a deposit
- ◆ Use benefits to pay mortgage
- ◆ Need to look at each individuals situation
- ◆ Support to live, if needed, is separate from housing
- ◆ <http://www.mysafehome.info/index.php>
- ◆ This easy read guide gives really clear overview
- ◆ <http://www.mysafehome.info/easyreadguide/index.php>

Some Other Options.....

◆ Shared lives

- ◆ Accommodation services including respite, supported living and residential.
- ◆ Also provides day opportunities
- ◆ For adults with substantial and critical need as identified through adult social care assessment

◆ Castle project

- ◆ Supports young people aged 16 – 25 living in Cambridge experiencing mental health difficulties
- ◆ Accommodation and support

◆ Home link - choice based lettings (CBL)

- ◆ Scheme for all available council and housing association properties across Cambridgeshire
- ◆ A priority banding is given based on circumstances and need
- ◆ People can be supported to bid on available properties within their band
- ◆ It can be difficult to plan support for this option as often people are expected to move within a short time of being offered the tenancy.

District Councils and Housing Associations



- ◆ All young people requiring housing need to register the need with the District Council
- ◆ Complete an application form through Homelink.
- ◆ If this isn't appropriate social care team can support
 - ◆ Through their strategic planning process
 - ◆ Through CCC links with the district council and housing associations.
 - ◆ A small number of properties can be offered to social care in new housing developments
 - ◆ Some support providers have links with specific housing associations or access to their own properties – these can be commissioned through the tendering process.

If some one needs support

- ◆ Can request an adult social care assessment at any time
- ◆ For children under 18 who have a social worker already this will be done by existing social worker before age 18
- ◆ For children under 18 who don't have a social worker already anyone can flag possible need for adult support at any age and adult teams will make contact around age of 16 to advise, assess eligibility and plan
 - ◆ Request a preparing for adulthood assessment at any EHCP review
 - ◆ Phone the contact centre 0345 045 5203 and request a preparing for adulthood assessment
 - ◆ Ask teachers or others involved to request a preparing for adulthood assessment
- ◆ More info can be found on the local offer page -
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-care-and-family-support/disabled-children-s-social-care/moving-to-adult-social-care/>

Social Care Support

◆ Right to an assessment

- ◆ Under The Care Act
- ◆ Free by their local council
- ◆ If appear to need care and support to complete activities in their day-to-day life
- ◆ Regardless of financial situation or whether the council thinks they will then be eligible for support from them.

◆ Will have eligible needs if meet all of the following criteria:

- ◆ Have care and support needs as a result of a physical or mental condition
- ◆ As a result of those needs cannot achieve two or more of a set of outcomes set out in the Care Act
- ◆ These include things which you might expect to achieve in your day-to-day life such as dressing, maintaining personal relationships and working or going to school.
- ◆ As a result of not achieving those things there is a significant impact on wellbeing

Assessment will consider

- ◆ Care and support needs
- ◆ Strengths
- ◆ Risks
- ◆ Outcomes person wants to achieve to maintain or improve well being
- ◆ What can be done in support planning to meet those outcomes
- ◆ Alternative accommodation arrangements that may be needed
- ◆ If person can consent and understand their assessment
 - ◆ Mental Capacity Act may apply
 - ◆ Best Interest Meeting may be needed

THE PROCESS

- ◆ Through the social care assessment
 - ◆ Identify with the individual and family **when** alternative accommodation is required
 - ◆ Is it an urgent or crisis situation or a need that can be planned for in advance.
 - ◆ Create an accommodation specification
 - ◆ individual to the persons needs
 - ◆ include things like – where they want to live, who they may want to live with, mobility and access needs, community access, level of support needs, any risks identified, and specific outcomes.
 - ◆ The persons wishes and preferences are taken into consideration
 - ◆ It can be difficult to locate accommodation exactly as the person would like due to the same restrictions faced by us all when considering where to live, such as finances, housing availability, transport / access etc.
 - ◆ For instance it is rarely financially viable for a young person to live alone, however it can be difficult to find someone compatible to live with.

The Process (cont)

- ◆ For urgent/immediate need

 - ◆ We look at the current vacancies to see if there is anything suitable
 - ◆ This list contains information regarding all the residential / nursing and supported living vacancies around the county.

- ◆ For future need that we can plan for

 - ◆ We plan for this through our service development meetings.
 - ◆ We aim to identify a group of people who may be able to live together
 - ◆ We develop an anonymised 'specification' which details what is needed
 - ◆ We send the specification to all the providers on our contract framework
 - ◆ These are providers who meet all the local authorities requirements
 - ◆ The providers with the best responses would then be invited for interview
 - ◆ The provider who demonstrates they are best able to meet needs will be chosen to provide the support
 - ◆ This is the tendering process and the county council have a legal duty to do this
 - ◆ Young people and parents can be part of the process for example preparing the specification and interviewing providers

Key aspects of CCC Policy



Cambridgeshire
County Council

- ◆ To identify / develop support options within Cambridgeshire where possible (in accordance with Winterbourne View serious case review recommendations)
- ◆ To provide care and support within a “shared” living arrangement unless it has been assessed that the person needs to live alone.
- ◆ To always explore meeting needs by
 - ◆ Providing information and advice,
 - ◆ Taking into account and using natural support available
 - ◆ Use of universal services and community activities available
 - ◆ This is our transforming lives model (tier 1 or 2 approach) – see link below
 - ◆ http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20166/working_together/579/delivering_the_care_act/3
- ◆ To always explore the use of assistive technology to maximise independence
- ◆ Ensure support is provided in the “least restrictive” way in accordance with Human Rights Act. (DOLS)
- ◆ http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/site/custom_scripts/fid_details.aspx?ID=153006

Benefits & Finances



◆ In supported living

- ◆ Young people have their own tenancy, and claim housing benefit to cover their rent
- ◆ They retain their eligible benefits such as DLA or PIP, and ESA to cover their daily living costs - food, bills, personal items, activities etc
- ◆ This offers greater financial independence, and young people can be supported with budgeting according to their needs.

◆ In residential care

- ◆ Usually young people contribute most of their benefits towards paying for their care.
- ◆ They retain a personal allowance each week (depending on savings), as well as any mobility allowance they get.
- ◆ The cost of all care, food, bills and housing are all covered in the fee

Advice on Benefits

- ◆ Always worth getting financial advice from experts
- ◆ Everyone's situation is different and it can be difficult and misleading to give general advice
- ◆ Our Welfare Benefits Advice Team
 - ◆ will be able to answer any questions you have about benefits
 - ◆ Can assist with filling in benefit application forms.
 - ◆ They offer this advice and support to adults, those supporting adults and to parents and carers of children.
 - ◆ They can be contacted on 01353 612926.
- ◆ Some useful benefits factsheets are at this link

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/adults-&-older-people/care-and-support/care-and-support-fact-sheets/#Benefits>

Preparing for adult life

- ◆ Can start thinking and planning at any age
- ◆ We are doing a lot of work with whole work force to look at all aspects of preparing for adulthood from an early age
 - ◆ Learning independence skills
 - ◆ Travel skills
 - ◆ Money skills
 - ◆ Decision making
- ◆ Part of EHCP process

Preparing for adult life

- ◆ SEND strategy includes
 - ◆ Developing work opportunities
 - ◆ Planning to meet future needs – education and support
 - ◆ Meeting ‘real life’ outcomes
- ◆ Children's and Adult services available to support and plan from as early as needed

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