

Renting your own place interview findings



This easy-read report is a summary of what we learned from 35 interviews.



We spoke with people with learning disabilities who rent their own homes.



The interviews were part of the research project 'renting your own place'.



The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research.



The project team included an advisory group of people with learning disabilities who rent their own homes.

They also belong to self-advocacy groups (York People First; My Life, My Choice).



30 of the people we spoke to live in housing they rented from a housing association or the council.

5 of the people we spoke to rented their home from a private landlord.

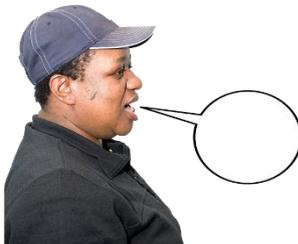


Some people we spoke to got no paid support and some people got between 1 and 20 hours of paid support.



We spoke to lots of different people as part of the research including:

- men and women
- people living on their own, with a partner and with children
- people from ethnic minorities
- people in their 20's, 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's



We heard lots of different experiences and opinions and have put the main findings from these conversations here:



Most of the people we spoke to were settled in their home, could afford their rent and were good tenants.



Although they were settled, most people did not get much choice when they moved to the place they rent.

Lots of people had only been offered or looked at one flat, bungalow or house.



Most of the people we spoke to lived in decent quality homes.



There were lots of problems with repairs taking a long time or sometimes not being done very well.



Some people needed housing to be adapted to meet their needs or needed to move to a more suitable property.



This could also take a long time to sort out.



People felt it was important to have some outdoor space and preferred this when it wasn't shared with other tenants.



Lots of people told us where they lived was sometimes noisy and this was something they didn't like about their housing.



It was very important to people that their home was close to friends or family, transport and shops.



People also said it was really important to live in a safe neighbourhood.



Most people did not get easy-read information about renting or tenancy agreements.



Some renters felt their landlords did not listen when they told them there were problems with their housing.



Most people wanted to stay living in their home. It was important to people that they could do this.



When people had paid support from social care it was often working well but people did not get much choice about how much support they got.



Although paid support was often working well there were some problems like:

- Support not being very flexible
- Some people told us their support was not person-centred enough



As well as some people getting paid support, renters also told us that lots of other places help with renting like self-advocacy groups and employers.



Helping with renting often meant help with setting up direct debits to pay bills, looking at letters together and help with calling landlords about repairs.



Even having just an hour of paid support a week really helped some people as it meant someone to talk to about renting.



So what did renters tell us needs to change to make things better?



Renters want more choice about where they live.



Information on renting including tenancy agreements should be offered in easy-read.



There should also be a named person to ask questions.



Housing providers need to better understand the needs of people with learning disabilities.



This should include more training for staff and more staff with learning disabilities.



The renters we spoke to also had advice for other people with learning disabilities thinking about renting their own place.



Renters said that anyone thinking about renting their own place should give it a try.



When deciding where to live it's important to think about the location and being either near or with good transport links to the things that are important to you.



They also said you need to make sure you get the right information and support before you move in to a new place.



If you have paid support it's important to get this in place before you start renting.



It's important to understand the tenancy and your finances when you rent your own home.



Finally, renters said it can take a long time, so you need to be patient and not feel pressured in to a decision.



The renting your own place research team would like to thank the 35 people who took part in our research for sharing their experiences and advice.



If you would like to know more about the research, you can contact Deborah Quilgars or Eppie Leishman who were researchers on the project.



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This interview findings report was made using photosymbols

This study was funded by the National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research (SSCR). The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.