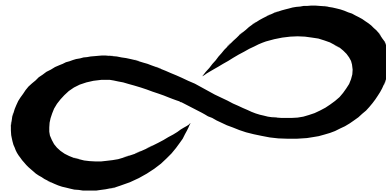


Northamptonshire Community Housing Network



**Working with people with Learning Disabilities
to find housing**



The Network

**A new way to find a home for people with a
learning disability in Northamptonshire**

**11th May 2011
EASY READ**

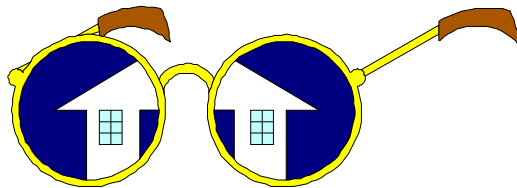


Introduction

The Northamptonshire Community Housing Network is being set up to help people with a learning disability find some where to live. It follows on from the things we found out when we helped make the Learning Disability housing plan earlier this year.



The Community Housing Network is a group of people who want to find a place to live joining together with their families and other people to help each other to find out what is possible and try things out.



Who can join

Network members may be:-

- ❖ You
- ❖ Family members
- ❖ From the local community



- ❖ others with a learning disability
- ❖ people from organisations
- ❖ people who work in a housing organisation or people from local businesses

Anyone can be a member. Some members will want to find a home for themselves and others may just want to help some one they care about find a home.



Some members of The Network will know how to help people and they will be able to support you and others to help yourselves.



Making The Housing Network Happen

The Community Housing Network will need to make its own money to keep going. It will do this by

- Charging a small Fee to help people find a home
- Members sharing their time to help each other
- Finding people to put money into The Network because they like it

Finding More Help

We have been given a small amount of money to start the Network but we need a lot more. We need to raise funds from others and ask people to share their time through a Timebank to make up the rest.

Community Timebank

Timebanking is where people share time and their skills to help each other. For every hour of help given a person receives 1 time credit. They can then use their time



credit to 'pay' for any help they need from some one else

We hope people will use their time credits they earn to pay for help on their housing journey.

People can earn time credits by offering to help someone else with something they need to do, like:-

- ❖ Cleaning their home
- ❖ Cutting their lawn
- ❖ Supporting a friend
- ❖ Making a meal
- ❖ Using the computer
- ❖ Painting a room, or
- ❖ Doing their shopping





How will the Network work

Members of the Network will work together to find suitable housing.

They will be able to give support and advice such as how much money you will need to live in the place you want and where to get help with this.

When people find the place they want to live other members will help them settle in and make friends in their new area. These people will be called Community Connectors.

When people have found their home and settled in they might then choose to start helping other people sharing their new skills with other members.





How long will it take?

That depends on **you**. Sometimes it is difficult to make a choice when you don't know what the choices are.

The members of **The Community Housing Network** will be able to tell you about all the different sorts of housing that are available.



You can also hear where other people with the same needs as you have found a home.

You may also be able to visit some places to have a look & even try out living there

People we have already started to help



Ashley lives in her own home and has a job in a local shop which she enjoys very much. When her boyfriend moved out she found it difficult to pay all her bills and needed help. The group put Ashley in touch with an organisation that could help. They helped her to sort out all her money & get more money to pay her bills so that she could carry on living in the home she loves



Michelle had moved from her parent's house to live in a flat by herself. At first she was happy there until someone else moved in next door who was not very nice to her.

Eventually she moved back home. She came to a meeting of the Group with her Dad & we were able to provide some advice & guidance. She will hopefully soon have a new home again



John has been living in his own house for over 6 years and manages to look after himself and his home with a small amount of support. We have been helping John to explore his options as he would now like to live somewhere else. John is an active member of the Network.



Come and Join us and help to change your or someone else's life

To join the Northamptonshire Community Housing Network please contact Marion Turner on **01933 677889** or mturner@myhomemysay.co.uk or go to our website www.myhomemysay.co.uk