



Match Me

What works for making sure disabled people get the right housing



About this report



This report is about housing for disabled people in Scotland.

Housing can be houses or flats.



We did some research to find out how disabled people get the housing they need.

Research is when people look into something to find out more.

About our research



We looked at housing that disabled people and anyone they live with can rent from councils and housing organisations.

This is called **social housing**.



We looked at:

- How disabled people get social housing now

This includes laws and rules about housing



- What needs to change to make it easier for disabled people to get the housing they need and live in the way they want.



We talked to people in 3 areas of Scotland. Each area is run by a different council.

We talked to:

- Disabled people who are trying to get social housing or have just moved to social housing
- Councils and organisations that give people social housing.



What we found out from our research



Disabled people helped do this research and make decisions about it.



When disabled people ask for social housing

Some things can make it hard for disabled people to get the housing they need.

For example:

- There are lots of disabled people who want social housing. But there are not enough houses for everyone
- Councils may have to give housing to homeless people first





- Not all housing can be changed to make it right for disabled people.



- It can be hard to understand how to get social housing.

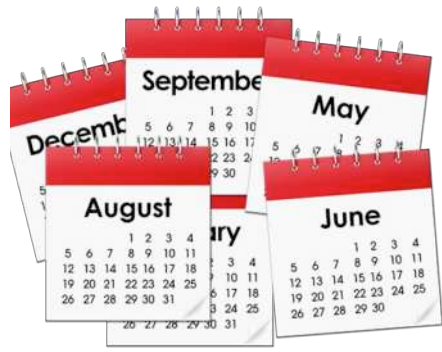
Finding the right housing for disabled people

Councils need good information about:

- What housing has been changed to make it easier to live in
- What housing could be changed in the future.



Some new housing is better for people with wheelchairs than others.



It can take longer to find the right housing for disabled people.



But councils may worry about losing money for rent because of this.

Choosing which housing to live in

Many disabled people we spoke to were given some housing to look at.



But the housing was not right for them.

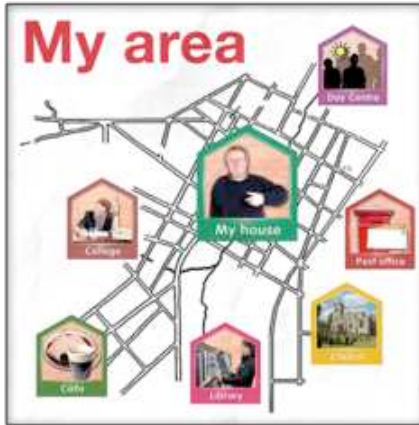
Some disabled people did not get any housing to look at.

Some disabled people want social housing.



But they have to wait a long time in a house that does not suit them.

This can make them upset and worried and cause health problems.



Good housing for disabled people is not just about the inside of the house.

It is also about outside the house and the local area.

Moving to social housing

Disabled people can have a better life if they find the right housing to live in.

But disabled people may have some problems staying in their housing.

For example:

- The housing might need more changes to make it right to live in
- Disabled people may need support to get social housing and stay in social housing

Organisations that give disabled people housing and support could work together on this.





It is good to build new housing that is right for disabled people.

It is harder to change old housing.



Some people are happy to stay in old housing.

But they want it to be changed to make it right for them.

What needs to happen next



Disabled people have the right to live in the community in housing that is right for them.



Disabled people need:

- A plan by the government in Scotland to make sure disabled people get the right housing
- Rules about making sure there is enough good housing for people with different disabilities
- Better rules about building new housing that is right for everyone so that disabled people can live there as well.



What we want to happen next

New groups should be set up to give councils advice about getting the right housing for disabled people.

Disabled people should be part of the groups and help make decisions about housing.





Some housing organisations may have an empty house but they can't find the right person to live there.

They should ask around if they can't find the right person.



A disabled person somewhere else might be right for the house.

Or disabled people could swap housing with other disabled people.

The internet, phones and other technology could be used to:



- Keep information about good housing for disabled people and what disabled people need
- Let disabled people see what housing is like if they cannot get there themselves.

This can help disabled people get the right housing more quickly.



Disabled people who are renting social housing could support disabled people looking for social housing.



When councils and housing organisations try to find the right housing for someone they should think about:

- Why it is good for some disabled people to have a garden



- How close the housing is to transport and other things the person and their family needs.



When disabled people move house sometimes the house gets changed back to the way it was.

But this can stop other disabled people living there if the changes work for them.



Better rules are needed to make sure the house can stay the same so that other disabled people can live there.



Some disabled people can make small changes to their housing now while they wait for housing that is right for them.

This should not stop them getting the right housing as soon as possible.



The Government in Scotland should work to:

- Get more housing that is good for disabled people
- Build new social housing that is easy for disabled people to live in.

People also said it would help if:



- Councils and housing organisations think about what everyone in the house needs

Not just the disabled person in the house



- There is one person from the council or housing organisation who can help the disabled person get social housing



- There are different ways to find the right housing for people.

To find out more



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