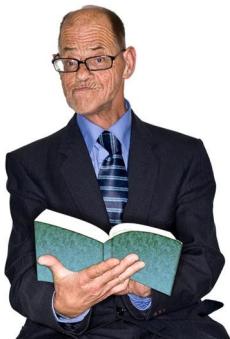




# Housing for people with learning disabilities

# What is in this booklet?

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## About this booklet

### Who is this booklet for?

This booklet is for people with learning disabilities.



### What is this booklet about?

This booklet is about the different types of housing you can live in.



### What if I don't understand something?

If you don't understand something you can contact Sutton council.

You can find out how to contact Sutton council on page 19.

You can also ask your family and friends for help.

Difficult words are in **blue text**.

You can find out what the words in **blue text** mean on page 21.

# Renting



## What is renting?

Renting is when you pay money to live in a house or flat owned by someone else.

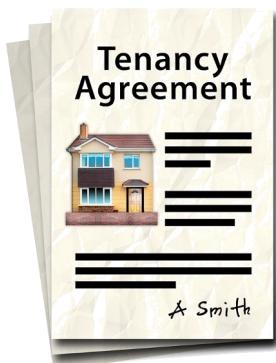
You are called the **tenant**.

The person who owns the house or flat is called the **landlord**.

The landlord can be a **social landlord** or a **private landlord**.

Page 5 explains what renting from a social landlord is like.

Page 7 explains what renting from a private landlord is like.



You sign a **contract** with the landlord.

This contract is called a **tenancy agreement**.

It explains what rights you have.

This includes how long you can stay.

# Renting from a social landlord



## What is a social landlord?

A social landlord is an organisation that gives housing to people who need it most.

The rent is low so lots of people want to rent from social landlords.



You have to go on a waiting list.

This waiting list is called the **housing register**.



You need to fill in a form to go on the housing register.

When you are first on the waiting list you will be offered whatever housing the social landlord has that is good for you.



**Sutton council** is a social landlord.

You might have heard of **housing associations**. Housing associations are another type of social landlord.

# More about renting from a social landlord



## How do I pay for it?

You may be able to get money from Sutton council to help pay the rent.

This money is called **housing benefit**.

Housing benefit may pay all of your rent or just some of it.

If housing benefit does not pay all of your rent then you will have to pay the difference.

## What is good about renting from a social landlord

- It is **cheaper** than renting from a private landlord
- You can **stay** in the same house for as long as you want to



## What is bad about renting from a social landlord

- You may have to **wait** a long time for housing
- You can not **choose** where you live



# Renting from a private landlord



## What is a private landlord?

A private landlord is a person who makes money by renting housing to people.

The rent is higher than social landlords charge but it is easier to find a private landlord.

You also have more choice about where you live.



## How do I pay for it?

The same way you pay rent to a social landlord.

You can get housing benefit.

If housing benefit doesn't pay all of your rent then you will have to pay the difference.



## What is good about renting from a private landlord?

- You do not have to **wait** long for housing
- You can **choose** where you want to live

## More about renting from a private landlord

### What is bad about renting from a private landlord?



- It is more **expensive** than renting from a social landlord
- You can be asked to leave once your contract has finished

# Buying your own home



## What is buying your own home?

Buying is when you pay for a house or flat and own it.

## How do I pay for it?

Buying a house or flat can be expensive.

You would have to borrow the money from a bank.



You then pay a bit of this money back each month for many years.

This payment is called a **mortgage**.

You may be able to get benefits to help you pay the mortgage.

Your family may also be able to help you with money.

## What is good about buying?

- You **own** the house or flat
- You can **choose** where you live



## What is bad about buying?

- You have to **pay** to keep the property in good repair



## Shared ownership



### What is shared ownership?

Shared ownership is a mix of renting and buying.

You buy part of a house or flat from a housing association.

You pay the housing association rent for the other part.



### How do I pay for it?

You would have to get a mortgage to buy part of the house or flat.

You may be able to get housing benefit to pay some or all of the rent for the other part.

Your family may also be able to help you with money.

### What is good about shared ownership?

- You do not need a big **mortgage**
- You can **choose** where you live



### What is bad about shared ownership?

- You may not want a **mortgage**



# **Supported housing**



## **What is supported housing?**

Supported housing is when you live near other people with learning disabilities.

Sometimes this will be in groups of flats.

Sometimes this will be in a house where you share a bathroom and kitchen with other people.

There is someone who lives nearby if you need help.



## **How do I pay for it?**

You have to pay rent to live in supported housing.

You may be able to get housing benefit to pay all of your rent or just some of it.

If housing benefit does not pay all of your rent then you will have to pay the difference.

## More about supported housing



### What is good about supported housing?

- You have someone nearby if you need help.
- You live near **other people** with learning disabilities



### What is bad about supported housing?

- You may not want to live with **other people**
- There is not a lot of supported housing in Sutton so you may not be able to live where you want

# Staying in your family home



## What is staying in your family home?

If you live with your family then you may want to stay in your family home.

If your family own their home they may be able to pass it on to you.

This means you would own the house or flat.



## How do I pay for it?

If you buy the house or flat from your family you would pay a [mortgage](#).

You may be able to get benefits to help you pay the [mortgage](#).

Your family may also be able to help you with money.



## What is good about staying in your family home?

- You can **stay** where you are



## What is bad about staying in your family home?

- You may want a **change**

# **Supported living**



## **What is supported living?**

Supported living is when you get help from the council to help you live in your own home.

This could be help to clean your home.

Help to do your shopping.

Help to find a job.



## **How do I pay for it?**

Sutton council may pay for the help.



## **What is good about supported living?**

- You can live in your own home

## The help you can get



### Help from Sutton Council

You can get help from Sutton council's **learning disabilities team**.

This team can help you to decide what type of housing and support you need to live as independently as possible.



You can also get help from Sutton council's **housing centre**.

This team can help you to decide what housing option is best for you.

You can find out how to contact both teams on page 19.



### Help from your family and friends

You can also get help from your family and friends.

# Your housing plan

This is your housing plan.

It will help you decide what type of housing is best for you.

Your family, friends or support worker can help you with this plan.

## Your current housing

**Where do you live?**

**Who do you live with?**

**What is good about  
where you live?**

**What is bad about  
where you live?**

## Your future housing

Tick your answer

**Do you want to live  
with other people?**

Yes

No

**Your money**

Yes

No

**Do you work?**

**Do you get any  
benefits?**

Yes

No

**What benefits do  
you get?**

## Your housing options

**Tick the housing options you want to know more about**

Renting

Renting from a social landlord

Renting from a private landlord

Buying

Shared Ownership

Supported Housing

## **Who to contact next**

Now you know what housing options you are interested in, you can contact Sutton council to find out more.

You can contact the learning disabilities team.

### **Sutton council learning disabilities team**



#### **Write to them**

Civic Offices  
St Nicholas Way  
Sutton  
SM1 1EA



#### **Phone them**

020 8770 6080



#### **Email them**

[learningdisabilities@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:learningdisabilities@sutton.gov.uk)

You can also contact the housing centre.

### **Sutton council housing centre**



#### **Write to them**

Civic Offices  
St Nicholas Way  
Sutton  
SM1 1EA

## More about who to contact next

### Sutton council housing centre

**Phone them**

020 8770 6080



**Email them**

[housing.centre@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:housing.centre@sutton.gov.uk)



You can also contact Mencap.

Mencap is a charity that helps people with learning disabilities.

### Mencap learning disability helpline

**Write to them**

4 Swan Court Yard  
Coventry Road  
Birmingham  
B26 1BU



**Phone them**

080 8808 1111



**Email them**

[help@mencap.org.uk](mailto:help@mencap.org.uk)



## List of difficult words

Word	Meaning
<b>Contract</b>	A legal agreement between two or more people.
<b>Housing association</b>	A type of social landlord.
<b>Housing benefit</b>	Money from Sutton council to pay for rent.
<b>Housing register</b>	A waiting list to rent from social landlords.
<b>Landlord</b>	A person that owns a house for someone else to live in.
<b>Mortgage</b>	Money from a bank to buy a house.
<b>Private landlord</b>	A person who makes money from renting houses to people.
<b>Social landlord</b>	An organisation that gives housing to people who need it most.
<b>Tenancy agreement</b>	A contract between a tenant and landlord.
<b>Tenant</b>	A person that pays to live in a house owned by someone else.

# **Housing for people with learning disabilities**



**This booklet was written by Sutton council.**

**This booklet is for people with learning disabilities.**

**It explains the different types of housing you can live in.**

