

# Membership

## Housing Options Membership

### **Housing Options - helping you with an important job**

Housing Options is a charity providing a national independent advisory service on housing and support options for people with learning disabilities, their carers and families, advocates and other professionals working with disabled people.

Support for living sooner or later means finding your own home. *Valuing People Now* says housing is one of the big priorities. There is a lack of housing opportunity and limited rights. Tenancy and ownership solutions are needed and finding housing is difficult.

Who can provide help? Housing Options provides good quality information and advice which it is hard to find elsewhere. Housing Options was established in 1996 to give personalised solutions, a wider range of choice of where and how you live - private renting, home ownership and using family investment or property.

The service wants to influence policy and make it easier to find your own place to live. The service has contacts with the Department of Health, the Valuing People Support Team, In Control, the Housing Corporation, the National Housing Federation, housing associations and support providers.

The service is largely free to people with learning disabilities, their families and advocates and is provided through:

- Advice by email letter or telephone: housing, support, money legal issues, benefits.
- Quick Briefs and Fact Sheets downloadable from [www.housingoptions.org.uk](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk).

### **Members**

Housing Options members both support and benefit from the work of the service. They want people to have their own homes and we help with that work. Housing Options is funded in three ways: members' subscriptions and donations, grants for project work, fee income from workshops and publications.

### **Membership Benefits**

The benefits of membership of Housing Options are:

- Supporting the free advisory work for people and their families
- Direct access to Housing Options advisors, problem solving on finding housing, money, benefits, tenancy and housing rights, using trusts, home ownership.
- Breakdown rescue – on call help with housing related accidents and emergencies.
- Help or representation for benefit appeals and tribunals.
- Free Housing Options resource pack including *Your Place to Live* manual, DVD, and photocards, *My Home and Money* guide, Housing Option Plan format editable to suit your organisation. These are practical guides for use with or by families.
- Free copies of Housing Options publications, paper copies of Factsheets and Briefings on request.
- Access to the member's website with downloadable materials and resources.
- New briefings and updates by email
- 25% Discount on cost of Housing Briefing and Workshop events
- 25% discount on cost of individual Housing Option Plans
- Being part of a national forum of leading housing and support specialist organisations, networking and marketing opportunities.

- Two annual workshops each year including briefings on the housing and support policy and case studies on practice.
- Free tailor made half-day, special workshop/training event for your organisation (or a full day at ½ price) for large and medium fee paying members e.g.
  - Events for families or self advocates
  - Service change or reprovion
  - Money, benefits and legal
  - Training for housing brokerage
  - Housing management for supported housing
  - Ownership and family investment options
- Or a Housing Options Contribution to your own conference or workshop event
- A 10% discount on Housing & Support Partnership consultancy.

Housing Options is a valuable resource for local authorities that are mainstreaming or piloting 'In Control'. It provides practical assistance and support to make individualised services a reality for people particularly where getting the right housing is essential.

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| Annual membership for local authorities and service providers | £2,500 |
| Organisations with a turnover of less than £ 3 million        | £1,000 |
| Small organisations turnover less than £1 million             | £ 500  |

To join Housing Options please download and fill in the application form in the format of your choice - DOC or PDF.

-  [www.housingoptions.org.uk/general\\_information/gi\\_forms/membership.doc](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk/general_information/gi_forms/membership.doc) | DOC | Size 38 KB
-  [www.housingoptions.org.uk/general\\_information/gi\\_forms/membership.pdf](http://www.housingoptions.org.uk/general_information/gi_forms/membership.pdf) | PDF | Size 36 KB

For further information on Housing Options membership please contact Diane Berry or Andrew Young (contact details below).

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