

## Housing Option Plan

### What is a 'HOP'?

A Housing Options Plan (HOP) is a system to inform people with learning disabilities, their families and commissioner of the full range of housing and support possibilities that may be available to them.

The HOP is focussed on housing and support and may be used as part of a 'person centred' planning approach. It does not replace the normal Care Management Assessment or care plan, but rather draws on this information, and others, to focus on the full range of housing solutions available.

### How does it work?

Initial queries or requests for information are answered by the Housing Options business manager. If a more in-depth report is requested for a particular individual, then a Housing Options Plan may be requested.

Housing Options have a number of expert Housing Advisors across the country who are available to carry out a Housing Options Plan.

Either a family or Local Authority can commission a HOP. They set out a start 'brief' (i.e the key questions to answer.)

Background material and information is requested, before the first meeting with the Housing Advisor. Although not essential it is useful to have the most recent Care Management Assessment, Care Plans, any professional reports, relevant correspondence with Social Services and the Housing Dept and any documentation relating to contact made with housing and/or care providers. Details of income and benefits currently received and a brief timetable of a typical week for the individual are also helpful.

A Housing Advisor is then assigned to carry out the work. Housing Options ensures wherever possible that the Housing Advisor assigned does not work in the same local authority where the individual's care is provided.

The Housing Advisor then arranges to meet (where appropriate):

- the individual,
- family/carers,
- any advocate,
- care manager

The Housing Advisor is expected to spend about 1 or 2 days meeting people and carrying out local research on the best options. During this time the Housing Advisor will collate details on a specifically developed Housing Option Plan form. While completing this he/she also discusses with those involved the possibilities that may be relevant and advises on the pros and cons, and answers any questions the client may have.

The Housing Advisor then prepares a report with recommendations on housing and support options for the individual. The HOP is made available to whoever commissions the report, to be used as they wish. The report is confidential to the client and is not shown to any other person or organisation by the Housing Advisor.

## **Additional Material and Back Up**

In addition to the HOP that is completed by Housing Advisors there is a simple, accessible manual, which can be used by people with learning disabilities and their families to begin to think through future housing and support themselves, or in preparation for a Housing Advisor visit. The manual is linked to a video, which provides real illustrations of a number of the alternatives including ownership possibilities.

## **How Much Does it Cost?**

A Housing Options Plan compiled by one of our Housing Advisors costs £1150. This covers up to 3 days work with the key people involved and preparation of the report.

Reasonable travel expenses of the Housing Advisor are additionally charged at 40p per mile by car or public transport actual cost.

If you require further information or have other queries contact Housing Options.

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