

Your easy read guide to finding a new home



Top tips from KeyRing self advocates



This booklet will help you think about what you want and need if you are thinking about moving home. You should fill this in with someone who knows you well.

This is my personal plan _____
_____ **will help me with this.**

Why do I want to move?	Can I change anything about where I live now?
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.

If I can change things where I live now, do I still want to move? YES NO

These are the important things I do during the week

Think about the activities which you do during the week.

What I do	Where is it?	How do you get there now?

If you move house, will you still be able to do them?

If they are too far away if you move, will you be able to find another way to get to them?



You could use a bus, taxi or volunteer driver

Think carefully about the things which are most important to you.

Use a ✓ or ✗ in each box



An area that feels safe during the day and night



Is it close to the shops?



Is there a bus stop or train station nearby?



Is there anything else that it needs to be close to?



Is it close to the places you like to visit?



Is it close to family and friends or other important people?



Is there a garden?
Is this important to you?
Can you look after it yourself?



Is it close to work or college?



Can you get to the doctors, dentist and hospital easily?



Can you still get the support that you need, if you move house?



How many bedrooms do you need?



Do you want to live in a town or village?



Does the house need any changes making so that you can live there?



Does it have the privacy you need?
Will it be possible to make these changes?



Do you want to live alone or with someone?
Think carefully about this.



Do you need a disabled car parking space or a space for support staff to park?

Is there a town, village or street you really want to live in? _____

Once you have found somewhere to live, think about



Is it a safe neighbourhood?

Speak to the local police or look on the North Yorkshire Police website.

Does the house have the safety certificates?

This could be for gas or electric.



Does the house have any signs of damp or mould?

If so, this could be bad for your health.

Does the house have working smoke alarms?



Think carefully about where you want to live and don't rush into a decision

Self advocates said you should remember:



It is a big responsibility.

It can be stressful moving house, remember to think about how you feel.

Make sure your voice is being heard.



Be prepared for things to go wrong but remember to ask for help if it does go wrong.

Look at all of your options before you move.

Make sure the place is right for you and you definitely want to move. If not, speak up!



Think carefully and speak to people you know and trust.

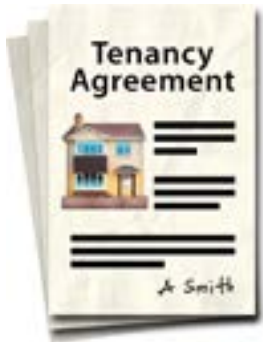
It is your choice where you live and who you live with.

Can you use a washing machine, do the cleaning and look after a house independently?



Are you making your own choices?

Will you need any help with filling any forms in?



Who can help you to fill any forms in? _____

Do you need to sign a tenancy agreement and do you understand it?



A tenancy agreement is an important legal document, so if you don't understand it, ask for some help.



Have you thought about private renting? It is often quicker to find this type of property than social housing.



You may need to pay a deposit. If the house is not looked after properly, you could lose this money.

When you are ready to move, think about



Who can help you move? _____

You may want to ask a removal company

If you are buying new furniture, you could get it delivered to your new home

Do you need help with moving all of your things?

Do you need extra support when you move?

This could include telecare, speak to the council about this

Do you have a list of emergency numbers?

Do you need to buy any furniture?



**There are often cheap furniture stores
around for people on a low income**

Money



Can you look after your money yourself?

Do you need some help with budgeting?

Will the housing benefit you get cover the rent?

You can find this out by asking at your local council.



It is important that you can pay for everything you need to. Ask someone to help you fill the boxes below in.



Remember, you could get into debt if you do not make these payments.



What type of money do I get paid?	How much money do I get paid?	How often do I get this?
	£	
	£	
	£	
	£	
TOTAL	£	



You will need to check if there will be any changes to your benefits, especially if you are sharing the house with someone.



What do I need to pay?	How much will it cost?	Can I get any help with this?	Can I afford this?
Rent	£		
Council tax	£		
Water	£		
Gas	£		
Electric	£		
Phone	£		
TV licence	£		
Food	£		
Insurance	£		
Total	£		



Sometimes you can get discounts on your gas, electric or water if you have a disability or you are on a low income. Phone them to ask.

My tenancy



My landlord is _____

I have the same rights as my neighbours. No one can make me leave my place or bully me.

I have the same responsibilities like paying my rent, looking after my place and respecting my neighbours.



If you are having problems with neighbours, speak to someone you trust

What I must do



Pay my rent and I must not get behind.

Keep the house and garden clean and tidy

If I damage anything, I must pay for it

Ask the landlord if I want to make any changes to the place

Respect my neighbours

I must not



Annoy my neighbours by making a lot of noise like playing loud music, having loud parties or banging at night

Act in a violent or aggressive way

Bully anyone in the neighbourhood, especially not because they are different to me

Do anything against the law

My neighbours must treat me in the same way.

I must



Ask my landlord before I get a pet.

Let my landlord know about any problems I have and let them in to do repairs and checks

Tell my landlord if I am going to leave or if I am not living there any more

Leave the place clean and tidy, otherwise I may have to pay for this.

My landlord must



Repair things inside but I must pay if I have damaged it

Repair the outside of the building, like drain pipes and painting

Make sure things work and are safe, like gas, electric and water

Fix things as quickly as they can



If you are having problems, you can speak to your landlord or the Citizen's Advice Bureau.



There are things I have to do but it's not all about rules.

It's my place and it's about having fun, too!

On the day of your move, you need to



Have all of your things packed

Be ready when the removals come

Read your gas and electric meters. Write these numbers down and keep them safe.

Have handed your keys back to your old landlord

Be able to get to important things like your kettle, cups and food.

It might be a good idea to pack them all in one box



After you have moved

Make sure that everyone who needs your new address has it. You can use this table and put a tick next to them when you have given them your new address.



Care manager		TV licence	
Bank		Water	
Building society		Gas	
Post office		Electric	
Doctors		Family	
Dentist		Friends	
Hospital		Driving licence	
Benefit agency		Safe places	



You can have your post redirected to your new address. Ask at the post office for information, you will have to pay for this service.



Budgeting - is about managing your money and making sure that all of your bills can be paid.

Citizen's Advice Bureau - is a free service which can give you advice on any problems you may have with your tenancy, neighbours and money.

Council Tax - this is money you must pay each month for local services. For example, rubbish collections, police and fire service. You may be able to get help to pay for this.

Debt - is when you haven't paid for something that you have used, this could be your electricity or rent.

Deposit - is the money that a landlord will ask for before you move in. You should get this money back when you move out but if you are behind with your rent or you cause damage to the property you may not get this money back.

Housing benefit - money you may be able to receive to pay towards your rent.

Landlord - this is the person or organisation that owns a property and rents it out for money.

Meter reading - This shows the amount of gas, electric and water you have used. You may be asked to write the number down from each meter and let the company know.

Private renting - This is where someone rents a property directly from the person who owns it and pays rent to this person.

Rent - is the money you pay to your landlord. You may be entitled to housing benefit to help pay for your rent.

Telecare - is special equipment to help people stay safe and be more independent.

Tenant - a person who lives in a house which somebody else owns and pays rent.

Tenancy agreement - is a written agreement which sets out the rules that you and the landlord must stick to.

Safety certificate - is a document to show that your electrical equipment or boiler is safe.

Social housing - any organisation that provides cheaper housing for people to rent.

Thank you to all the self advocates in North Yorkshire who gave us their top tips for this booklet.



