

# Renting

## your own place.



**February 2023**

**An easy read booklet about the research project.**

Created by Eppie Leishman, Deborah Quilgars University of York, David Abbott, University of Bristol, Samantha Clark Learning Disability England, Paul Scarrott My Life My Choice, Becca Cooper, Andy Pollin and Stephen Lee Hodgkins York People First (pictured above).





This booklet is a summary of what people with learning disabilities created to show us about the homes they rent and the support they get with renting.



The booklet is part of the research project 'renting your own place'.

The research was funded by the National Institute for Health Research School for Social Care Research.



The project team included an advisory group of people with learning disabilities who rent their own homes and who also belong to self-advocacy groups (York People First; My Life, My Choice).



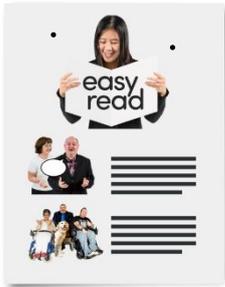
On the following pages you will see 8 questions about renting, support and living in a community.



We gave people instant cameras, stickers and pens but it was up to them to decide which questions they answered and how they answered them.



This means each page is different, some have photographs, some include writing and some have drawings.



For each question we have included an easy read summary including quotes from renters and also a photocopy of one of the pages so you can see what was created.

## What people told us about their front door...



Renters told us lots of different people knock on their front doors including

- Friends and family
- Support workers and nurses
- Delivery drivers and post worker
- Cold callers



One renter said...

“Friends, family and the post and I definitely don’t answer to cold callers“



Things people told us about their neighbours...

- Friendly
- Quiet
- Noisy
- Anti-social



One renter said...

“I don’t get on with them. I have experienced anti-social behaviour. But I do say hello to some”

What people showed us about their front door....

1. Your  
Front  
Door.



Use this space to  
tell us more about  
your front door.



What is your front door like?  
Take a photo and stick it here.



What are your  
neighbours  
like?



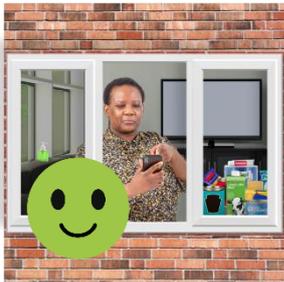
Who  
knocks  
on it?

## What people told us about looking out of their window...



Renters showed us lots of different things from their windows including...

- Parks and playgrounds
- Carparks
- Churches
- Roads
- Friends
- Washing



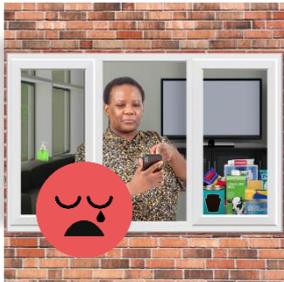
The things people liked to see from their windows were...

- Children playing
- Boats and aeroplanes
- Their gardens
- People out and about



One renter told us

“I like looking out of the window during the day, watching the boats, aeroplanes and traffic”.



People also told us things that they didn't like seeing through their windows including...

- Antisocial behaviour
- Noisy roads
- Drunk people

What people showed us about looking out of their window...

## 2. Looking out the Window



Use this space to tell us more about what you see when you look out of your windows.



*the sign from the church saying about being reborn*

What do you see when you look out of your windows? Take a photo and stick it here.



What happens during the day?



What is it like at night?

## What people told us about things they like...



People liked lots of different things about renting their own home. Renters told us having their own space and independence is important.



The things people liked about their homes included...

- Privacy
- Gardens and balconies
- Having pets
- Kitchens and bathrooms
- Watching tv



One renter said

“I like my own space in my own home”



Another renter said

“I like my flat because I get to decorate it how I like it.”

What people showed us about things they like...

3. Things  
you like.



Use this space  
to tell us more  
about the  
things you like  
about your  
home.



What do you like about  
your home? Take a  
photo and stick it here.



My Tv! It is where I watch  
football -  
My lounge is cosy  
and bright.

What is your  
favourite  
thing about  
your home?



## What people told us about what they don't like...



Lots of people told us noise was a big problem and that was their least favourite thing about where they live.



One renter said

“I don't like noisy neighbours. They can keep me awake at night.”



Other things people didn't like about their housing included

- Small rooms
- Small cupboards
- Bad tv signal
- Neighbours
- Vandalising
- Home working



Another renter said

“Some of my rooms are too small like the office and the hallway plus I don't have any storage cupboards.”

What people showed us about things they don't like...

## 4. Things you don't like?



Use this space to tell us more about the things you don't like about your home.



What do you not like about your home? Take a photo and stick it here.

I don't like the noisy neighbours. They can keep me awake at night. People also slam the fire doors.



I don't like the cupboard, it is too small.

What is your least favourite thing?



## What people told us about help and support...



People got help and support from lots of different places. These included...

- Support workers
- Support managers
- Family
- Church
- Community learning disability teams
- Mental health teams

The things people helped with included...



- Phone calls
- Reading letters
- House skills
- DIY and decorating
- Going to appointments
- Community projects



Some of the things that would help were changes to people's houses. One renter told us...

"I need help in the shower. I will soon be getting a shower seat and handrails to help me"



Not all support was working well. One renter told us...

"My mum supports me and my finances but she doesn't go through the bills with me. I am looking for another person to support me".

What people showed us about help and support...

## 5. Help and Support.



Use this space to tell us more about the help and support you get.



SORTING  
CUPBOARDS

Take a photo of something you need help with and stick it here.

menches

HOUSE  
SKILLS



Who supports you?

## What people told us about things they do out and about...



People told us about lots of things they do outside of their homes including

- Volunteering
- Going out to eat
- Shopping
- Going to the gym
- Watching football
- Drama
- History group
- Book club
- Choir
- Clubbing

One renter said



“I go and volunteer”

Another said



“I love to watch football”.

A third renter said



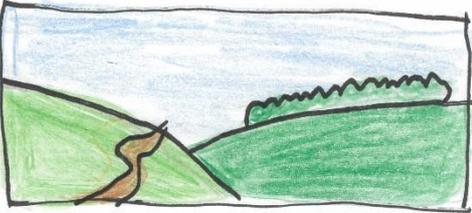
“I get money out from the post office. I pay the bills and do shopping at the corner shop”.

What people showed us about things they do out and about...

6. Things I do out and about.



Use this space to tell us more about the things you do when you go out.



What do you do when you go out? Take a photo and stick it here.

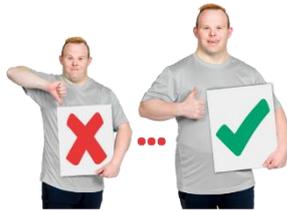
I love walking, eating out and meeting up with friends.

My favourite place is walking in castleton.



Where do you go?

## What people told us about the changes they would make to their home...



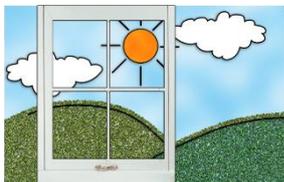
Renters told us some things that they would change to make their home better. These included

- Making homes more eco
- Having outdoor space for plants and drying washing
- Bigger windows
- More storage



During the research we heard lots of things about repairs. One renter told us in their booklet

“I would like the contractors who come to repair stuff to take pride in what they are doing. Sometimes I have to get someone to come and rectify what they have repaired”.



One renter said

“I would like bigger windows in the summer when it's hot”.



A different renter told us they wouldn't change anything about their home.

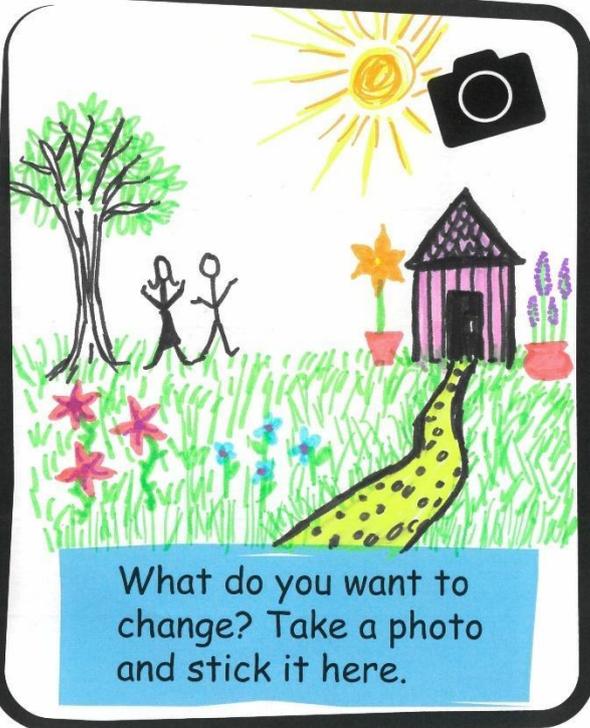
“nothing”

What people showed us about changes they would make to their home...

# 7. About your home.



Use this space to tell us more about what you want to change about your home.



What do you want to change? Take a photo and stick it here.

I would like an outdoor space or balcony. I could hang out my washing, put out some plants and even a table and chairs.

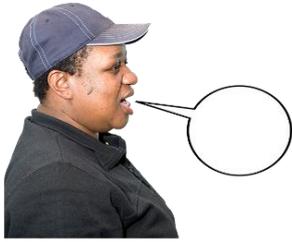


What is the thing you want to change most of all?

An outdoor space



## What people told us about their advice for others thinking about renting...



Renters had lots of advice for people with learning disabilities thinking about renting their own home.



Renters told us it's important that it's your choice and the time scale works for you. One renter said

“Be prepared! Don't rush into it”.



Another renter said

“Make sure you have a budget to pay your rent. Work out how much you will need for your phone, electric, water and a car if you have one”.

What people showed us about their advice for others thinking about renting...

## 8. My advice to others.



Use this space to tell us what advice you would give to others about renting your own home.



What advice would you give to others about renting your own home. Take a photo and stick it here.

For certain repairs I have to call up several times and argue my case as they want to save money and don't care about the tenant. My advice is to be consistent and fight for it.



What would you say?



The photographs, writing and drawing we have shown you examples of, helped the research team to better understand renting and support for people with learning disabilities.



When we looked at them we had lots of conversations about what was important in the images and words.



We talked about choice and how being able to make decisions about the things and people around you is important.



We talked about who is listened to, about who's voice is heard and who is left out of choices and conversations.



We also talked about support and how sometimes it's hidden and provided by places like self-advocacy groups and employers who don't get enough recognition.



We hope that looking at this booklet will help you talk to the people in your life about where you live and the support you get.



If you have any questions about the booklet or would like to know more about our research, you can contact Eppie Leishman or Deborah who were researchers on the project.



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