

Our database of sheltered and retirement housing has specialist schemes which usually cater for people over 60 or sometimes 55. If you are under 60 and not eligible for sheltered housing the following information may be of use to you.

Specialist providers of housing for younger disabled people

- Ability Housing Association, (London, South East and South West England) The Coach House, Gresham Road, Staines, Middx, TW18 2AE Tel: 01784 490 910, www.ability-housing.co.uk
- Habinteg Housing Association, (incorporating Livability Housing, formerly John Grooms Housing Association) Holyer House, 20-21 Red Lion Court, London EC4A 3EB Tel: 020 7822 8700 or customer services on 01274 853 160 www.habinteg.org.uk
- The Papworth Trust (East of England) The Bernard Sunley Centre, Papworth Everard, Cambridge, CB23 3RG Tel: 01480 357 200 www.papworth.org.uk
- Raglan Housing Association Ltd, 12-14 Castle Street, Poole, Dorset, BH215 2BQ Tel: 0845 070 7772 www.raglan.org

Accessible Property Register. This can be contacted on line at www.accessible-property.org.uk.

Housing Options is a housing advisory service for people with learning disabilities. Contact Tel: 0845 456 1497 www.housingoptions.org.uk

Assistance to stay in your existing home

Disabled people younger than 60 may be able to get advice from their local Home Improvement Agency (HIA). HIAs can advise on grants and loans in respect of repairs/adaptations for owner occupiers and sometimes private tenants. Some have other services in addition eg Handyperson Service, Crime Prevention Service. EAC can advise if there is an HIA in your area and the services it covers. In addition you can search for an HIA through our website www.housingcare.org or on www.foundations.uk.com.

If you are a homeowner or leaseholder, you may be able to raise finance for essential repairs, improvements and adaptations to your home through the **Houseproud equity release scheme**, which is run by the Home Improvement Trust. This applies to older homeowners over 60 but can also apply to people under 60 with disabilities.

Tel: 0800 783 7569 www.houseproud.org.uk.

Help in your home.

Disabled people can request an **assessment of their needs** from their local Social Services Department in order to access services to assist them with everyday living in their home.

If Social Services assess you as requiring support to maintain your independence, you may also want to consider choosing **Direct Payments** so that you can arrange your own support. You can obtain further information on Direct Payments from **the National Centre for Independent Living** Tel: 020 7587 1663 www.ncil.org.uk who can also advise you on local Direct Payments Support Schemes.

United Kingdom Home Care Association is the national representative association for independent providers of home care, which provide care, including nursing care, to people in their own homes. Tel: 020 8288 5291 www.ukhca.co.uk

Tourism for All is a national charity and is the UK's central source of holiday and travel information and support for people with disabilities. It also has a national database of respite facilities for disabled people both with and without a carer. Tel: 0845 124 9971 www.tourismforall.org.uk

Residential care for disabled people

If you are under 65 contact your local Social Services Disability Team for an assessment of your needs. If Social Services consider that you need residential care provision, you may be able to get assistance towards funding your care. There are designated financial criteria laid down by central government. For information about care homes that are registered for people under 65, contact the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Tel: 03000 61 61 61 www.cqc.org.uk.

Other useful contacts:

- **Direct Gov** The government website www.direct.gov.uk has sections entitled Disabled people and Home and housing options.
- **Disability Law Service** 39-45 Cavell Street London E1 2BP provides free legal advice. Tel: 020 7791 9800 www.dls.org.uk
- **Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation(Radar)** has a membership of a wide range of disability organisations who can advise disabled people. They can also provide keys for public disabled toilets. Tel: 020 7250 3222 www.radar.org.uk.