



What Do We Do?

We offer personalised housing advice and guidance to young and/or disabled people looking to live independently for the first time.

How Is That Different?

The planning involved in living independently for the first time can be overwhelming, especially if care requirements are involved. Our service specialises in helping plan and guide people through the options available to them and their future housing.

Why Is This Important?

Independent living is crucial for disabled people as it empowers them to have greater choice and control over their lives. It allows them to live with dignity and participate equally as full citizens in society. This means having the same range of choices as non-disabled people to make informed decisions about any practical support they require to go about their everyday lives. (1, 2)

What Challenges Can They Face?

Disabled people face several challenges in achieving independent living. Accessibility is a significant issue, as many buildings and public spaces are not designed to accommodate their needs. Additionally, there is often a lack of adequate support services, such as personal assistance and healthcare, which are crucial for independence. Financial barriers also play a role, with higher living costs and limited employment opportunities making it difficult to afford necessary adaptations. Social attitudes and discrimination further hinder their ability to live independently, while inconsistent policies and legislation can limit access to essential resources and support. Addressing these challenges is vital to ensure that disabled people can enjoy the same quality of life as everyone else. (2, 3)

Client Story - Edinburgh Care Cooperative

Family Meeting

The Care Collective emerged from a shared concern among six families in Edinburgh. Their children, who met through school and weekend activities, were fast approaching a critical turning point: the transition out of school. What would the next steps be? How could they help their children transition into adulthood while addressing their unique needs? These questions led to regular family meetings, where they voiced their concerns, shared ideas, and started envisioning a way forward.

The Value of Community: How They Came Together

The connection among the families was rooted in mutual understanding and trust. Their children, who shared common interests and experiences, had developed strong bonds over the years. For the parents, this network of support felt invaluable. "It was clear that we weren't alone in this," one parent said.

The concept of collective living grew naturally from the children's close connections. It wasn't just about housing—it was about creating a supportive and familiar environment where their children could grow and flourish. "Knowing they'll have familiar faces around them makes all the difference," one parent shared. "It's not just about where they live but who they live with."

The First Meeting: The Role of Housing Options Scotland and Making Moves

The families were introduced to Making Moves (MaMo) at a school program before the pandemic, but it wasn't until 18 months ago that they decided to take the next step. By then, their concerns about housing assessments and council submissions had become more pressing. Ryan, their initial contact, walked them through the process, providing critical advice and reassurance.

MaMo's expertise proved invaluable as the group worked to understand the intricacies of Edinburgh's housing framework. Although budget limitations and systemic delays slowed progress, MaMo's guidance helped the families feel empowered to advocate for their children's needs.

Personalisation

One of the most valuable aspects of working with MaMo was the focus on personalisation. MaMo didn't just provide generic advice; they tailored their guidance to the unique needs of each individual and their family within the collective. The families appreciated this approach, as it aligned with their belief that independence should be about creating a life that suited each young person's abilities, preferences, and goals.

Each family brought unique circumstances to the table. While some children were eager for independence, others faced significant anxiety about the transition. The varying needs of the children made it clear that a one-size-fits-all solution wouldn't work.

"We want our children to have the same opportunities as anyone else," one parent explained. "But we also want those opportunities to reflect who they are and what they need to thrive." This commitment to personalisation has remained at the heart of the group's journey.

Group Circumstances and Vision

As a group, the families shared similar challenges. Their collective approach provided them with a sense of solidarity.

"This isn't just about housing," a parent emphasised. "It's about building a life where they can thrive—with or without us there."

The group's work with MaMo has brought them closer to this vision. They know that with the right support and collaboration, they can help their children transition into a future full of possibility.

Collaborative Working

The journey has been a collaborative effort from the start. The families worked closely not only with each other but also with MaMo, social workers, and council representatives. However, this collaboration hasn't been without its challenges.

Despite these hurdles, the families have persisted. The families' collective determination has been a driving force, ensuring that no obstacle feels unbeatable. They found strength in each other, sharing stories, frustrations, and triumphs helped them navigate challenges that might have felt overwhelming alone. One parent reflected, "It's not just about housing—it's about creating a community where our children can feel safe and supported."

MaMo has played a key role in helping them navigate council processes, advocate for creative solutions, and maintain momentum.

Challenges Along the Way

The journey hasn't been easy. Progression was slowed by systemic issues, including changes to Edinburgh's housing framework, which threatened to limit opportunities for the group. Persuading the city council to explore creative, cost-efficient solutions has come with many hurdles, however, the group remains committed to advocating for their children's needs. They want the council to see the potential in collective living arrangements—not just as a cost-saving measure, but as a meaningful way to help young people transition to independence. Securing consistent social work support has also been a persistent challenge, with no replacement workers allocated after staff changes. Additionally, changes in council policy have created uncertainty around funding and housing opportunities, leaving families feeling frustrated and unheard.

Despite these obstacles, the group remains united in their mission. One parent described it as "turning individual worries into collective action."

Moving Forward Together

As the Care Collective continues their journey, they are focused on moving forward with council assessments and engaging with MaMo to explore housing options. For the families, this is more than a practical challenge—it's a labour of love. Independence isn't just a milestone; it's a foundation for their children's futures.

"It's not about finding a quick solution," one parent explained. "It's about giving them the tools and support to live full, independent lives—whatever that looks like for each of them."



Is It Useful?

In 2023/24 we helped 100 people with Making Moves!

That's a 51% increase from 2022/23.

That's over 9% of our clients!

So, YES!



References

- (1) <https://www.drilluk.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/DRILL-Easy-Read-Exec-Summary-Impact-Report.pdf>
- (2) <https://www.sclld.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/A-Stronger-Voice-SCLD-Advocacy-Report-July-2018.pdf>
- (3) <https://www.gov.scot/publications/keys-life-improving-quality-life-people-learning-disabilities/pages/8/>