

1. A place to live

Living in our own home surrounded by our possessions is important to us. But as we get older it can become harder to look after our home and we can find it more difficult to feel safe and independent in it. Many of us want to carry on living in our own place even if it becomes more difficult to do so.

That's why it's important to seek help early on. It is better to think ahead about your housing needs rather than making a decision in a crisis. Choosing where you live should be your decision, but staying put doesn't mean that things have to be the same.

Think about whether your house still meets your needs, and will it in the future? Are there any changes you could make to make life easier? Consider security and safety, repairs and improvements, home adaptations, or whether you want to move on. Perhaps your home is too big, too expensive to run. Maybe you want to be closer to family or want to live all on one level. There are many different housing options should you decide to move house. You can find help and advice from the following organisations:

- First stop for care advice, housing advice, finance advice and rights visit www.firststopadvice.co.uk,
Tel: 0800 377 7070, email:
info@firststopcareadvice.org.uk
- Help the Aged, Tel: Seniorline 0808 8006565, or visit www.helptheaged.org.uk
- Housing Care, Tel: Elderly Accommodation Counsel Advice Line 0207 8201343
or visit www.housingcare.org
or email: enquiries@eac.org.uk
- Age Concern,
Tel: Free helpline 0800 009966
or visit www.ageconcern.org.uk

Helping you stay in your own home

There are organisations in Kirklees which can offer you help to live independently in your own home. The help they provide ranges from giving you support with daily living tasks to fitting a community alarm or helping to sort home improvements. There is more information about these in the Supporting People Directory. This is available in electronic or paper format from:

- Supporting People, Tel: 01484 221721, email supporting.people@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/supportingpeople

The Council's Accessible Homes Team can look at your needs to find out if you have any difficulties doing what most people take for granted. For example bathing, toileting and getting around your home. They can visit you to discuss where you would like to live and will let you know where you can find properties better suited to your needs. They can visit you in your own home, in a care home or in hospital.

If you do not want to move, they will work with occupational therapists to see whether your home can be adapted to meet your changing needs.

- Accessible Homes Team,
Tel: 01484 223500



Housing Options and Support Service

The Council's Housing Options and Support Service can give you information about applying for a council home, including retirement housing, renting from a private landlord and low-cost home ownership. They also deal with applications from people who are homeless.

- Housing Options and Support Service, Tel: 01484 221350 or 01924 324310 email housing.options@kirklees.gov.uk

Sheltered housing

Council-owned retirement housing offers you the independence of having your own home, but sometimes with staff on hand to give extra support if you need it. Many schemes provide 24-hour emergency support through the care phone safety service and many have community rooms for social activities. Although schemes vary, they all offer safety, security, companionship and peace of mind. Some schemes also provide more intensive support to residents who need it.

- Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Tel: 01484 416444

For information about other sheltered housing run by local housing associations you will need to contact them directly. Their details are in the:

- Supporting People Directory, Tel: 01484 221721, email supporting.people@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk/supportingpeople

Housing association homes

Housing associations are non-profit making organisations. They provide affordable homes for rent or to buy. As well as sheltered housing schemes, some also have retirement homes for rent or sale. You can get a list of housing associations which have properties in Kirklees from:

- Housing Options and Support Service, Tel: 01484 221350 or 01924 324310, email housing.options@kirklees.gov.uk

Choosing a care home

Looking for suitable care accommodation for you, a relative or friend can be a difficult time.

Many people feel anxious at the thought of moving to a care home but they can be pleasantly surprised when they look at what is on offer.

Gateway to care can give you advice and support on finding the right care home for you, a relative or friend.

Alternatively you can view Kirklees residential care homes and their current vacancies online at www.kirklees.gov.uk/carehomes

Call:

- Gateway to care, Tel: 01484 414933 or text 0778148231 email gatewaytocare@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk and click on the health and social care link



Tenants and residents associations

Most associations are set up by council or housing association tenants. However, any group of three or more people can set up an association. For example, associations can be run by people who rent or own their homes and who:

- live in the same street, close, housing estate or village
- live in a tenement building or high rise
- live in a sheltered housing complex

People come together to improve, work and plan for their area. Many associations have brought about big improvements to their areas by campaigning to get things done. By joining an association you can have a say on what happens on your estate or in your housing area.

To find out where your nearest tenants and residents association is contact:

- Kirklees Neighbourhood Housing, Tel: 01484 223213, visit www.knh.gov.uk or:
- Kirklees Federation of Tenants and Residents Associations, Tel 01484 223466, visit www.kftra.net

Adaptations

An adaptation can help you remain independent in your own home. It can include ramps, grab rails, level access showers and stair lifts. Adaptations costing up to £1,000 are free, and funding is available for larger adaptations, although you might have to put some of your own money towards it. The first step to getting an adaptation is to contact your local Gateway to care for an assessment.

- Gateway to care, Tel: 01484 223000 or text 0778148231
email gatewaytocare@kirklees.gov.uk or visit www.kirklees.gov.uk and click on the health and social care link

Repairs and loans

We know that many homeowners cannot afford to keep their home in good repair. If this is you then we might be able to help with one of our home appreciation loans. This is an equity based loan where you do not have to make monthly payments, but rather pay the money back when you no longer own your home, for example when you sell it.

The loan is for work such as essential repairs and improvements, like fixing faulty electrical wiring or repairing a leaking roof. It could also be used to bring your home up to a decent standard by replacing the kitchen or bathroom.

Not everyone will be eligible to apply for a loan, but for those who are vulnerable, for example on a low income, on certain types of benefits, such as people who are elderly, in poor health, or unable to access commercial loans, we might be able to help.

For more information call:

- The Private Sector Housing Unit, Tel: 01484 221392 or 01484 221394
01924 324311 or 01924 324331, email: private.sector@kirklees.gov.uk

Kirklees Warm Zone

Kirklees Warm Zone is the only council backed scheme offering FREE loft and cavity wall insulation to all suitable properties across Kirklees.

All insulation work carried out by Kirklees Warm Zone is free of charge, regardless of household income or property size, as long as your house is suitable.

Your home could benefit from free central heating or a new boiler as Warm Zone will check whether you are eligible for any local, regional or national grants for these. We also have interest free heating loans for homes not eligible for a grant.

Warm Zone can also offer you a free carbon monoxide detector, a home energy report, free benefits and debt advice, a home fire safety check and support for long term carers.

Warm Zone ends on 30th June 2010. Don't miss out – call 0800 052 0071 or 01484 351779.

Pass it on furniture recycling schemes

Pass it on welcomes furniture in good condition for people in need. The centre also arranges collection free of charge.

There are two shops where used furniture can be bought at greatly reduced prices to raise funds for the scheme. This is open to everyone.

- Pass it on, Vision House, The High Street, Heckmondwike, WF16 0AD. Tel: 08456 341360

- Pass it on, 394 Bradford Road, Fartown, Huddersfield, HD2 2QZ. Tel: 01484 537519

Kirkwood Hospice also welcomes donations of good quality items of furniture and these can be made at any of its shops, or at the hospice itself. Donations of large items of quality furniture are sold in their shop at Lindley. All the money goes towards raising funds to help the hospice provide care. The hospice can organise a collection service for large items.

- Kirkwood Hospice, Tel: 01484 557900 (hospice) or 01484 452874 (shop)



Staying Put Scheme in Kirklees

Anchor Staying Put-Kirklees is a not for profit organisation which assists vulnerable people. They offer:

- a handyman service which helps support people to continue to live in their own homes. It could be a small job such as replacing a light bulb or washers on leaking taps, to putting in a key safe, moving furniture or reorganising rooms ready for someone coming out of hospital. There is a small charge for labour and materials, however this is FREE for people who are over 60 and receive Council Tax Benefit or Pension Credit.
- a home repairs service which helps home owners over the age of 60 to apply for health and safety emergency grants.
- a FREE gas service, which is carried out by a gas safe registered contractor, for home owners over 60 and on either Council Tax Benefit or Pension Credit.

For more information contact Staying Put Kirklees on 01484 845492 or email StayingPut.Kirklees@anchor.org.uk

Small repair service

Age Concern Calderdale and Kirklees provide a small repair service. This service is for people who have difficulty carrying out basic upkeep to their homes. The small repair service can carry out various tasks such as decorating and gardening.

- For advice and information,
Tel: 01484 535994



There are many organisations in Kirklees that offer support around the home.