

# Our plan about making houses easier for disabled people to live in



**Please tell us what you think**

## Who we are

We are part of the Government in Northern Ireland.



We make houses easier for disabled people to live in.

For example we do things like:



- put wheelchair ramps in houses



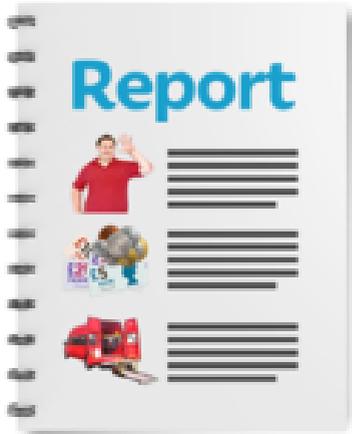
- put bedrooms downstairs so people don't have to use the stairs

This helps disabled people live in their own homes and be more independent.

## About this plan



In 2010 we started looking at how we could do our work better.



We wrote a report with lots of ideas.



In 2013 we asked people what they thought of our ideas.



Then we made this plan about the things we want to work on from 2015 to 2017.



The plan has ideas from before and lots of new ideas from people we talked to.



The plan also tells you about some work we have already done.



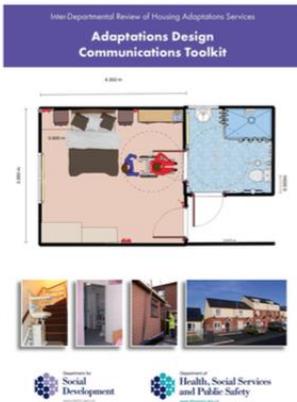
The plan is not final yet.

We would like to know what you think of it.

We want to make sure we are doing the right things.



You can find out how to tell us what you think on page 15.



## Work we have already done

In 2014 we made new information about making houses easier for disabled people to live in.

The information will help people working in health, care and housing know what to do.



It will also help disabled people have more say in what happens to their homes.



The information looks at things like:



- small changes to people's homes that can be made quickly and easily
- rules about how to make sure people's homes are easy to live in
- making it easier for disabled people to see what the changes will look like





## Our plan

Here are the main things we plan to work on.  
We have already done some of this work.

### 1. People working together in a better way



We are working on a new document.

It says how parts of the Government  
can work together in a better way.



The document will talk about things like:

- how to work together
- how to spend our money in the best way
- sharing information and training
- laws and rules we have to follow



We are also looking at the best way  
to make plans and rules about housing  
in the future.



This means looking at how we work across Northern Ireland and seeing what we need to change.

We are also looking at:



- changing rules to help disabled people more
- making information to tell landlords and people who rent homes about any changes to the rules



**Are we doing the right things?**

**Please tick one box**

Yes       No       Don't know

## 2. Working with disabled people



We have set up a group called the Disability Forum to make sure disabled people have more of a say in decisions about housing.



**Is this the right thing to do?**

**Please tick one box**

Yes  No  Don't know



## 3. Better support and services

We want to make houses better for disabled people who need a lot of support.



We are looking at better ways for people working in health, care and housing to work together on this to give people more choices.



We want to make some information to help people build new homes in the right way and in the right places for people who need extra support.



We want someone who knows a lot about housing for disabled people to work in every HSC Trust.

HSC Trusts give people health and care services.



We want a new service that helps people find the right house.

Apex Housing Association

The service would be for:



- older people
- young disabled people leaving home
- adults with learning disabilities who have older parents



We want to make some rules about housing services.

The rules will be about what is important to people who get housing services.



We are looking at how computers and technology can help disabled people live at home.



For example, there are things that can help people:

- open doors
- answer the phone
- turn the lights on and off.



**Are we doing the right things?**

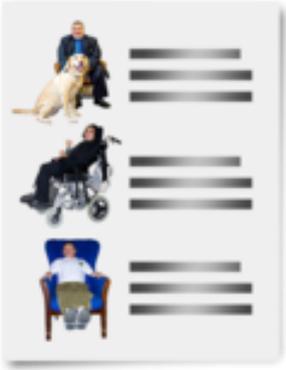
**Please tick one box**

Yes

No

Don't know

## 4. Information and using things again



We are making a list of houses that are easier for disabled people to live in.



We want better information about houses to rent or buy that are good for disabled people.



We are looking at how to use things more than once in different houses.

For example, we are testing out ramps that can be used again and moved quickly to different houses.



**Are we doing the right things?**

**Please tick one box**

Yes

No

Don't know



## 5. Making new houses better for disabled people

We want to make more information about how to make houses better for disabled people.



The information will look at making new houses better for:

- people who find it hard to see
- people who find it hard to remember things
- some disabled people who use a wheelchair and need a lot of support from carers



Apex Housing Association

We are working to get more new houses that are easy for disabled people to live in.



**Are we doing the right things?**

**Please tick one box**

Yes  No  Don't know

## 6. Other work we plan to do

We want to look at the needs of disabled people who do not have a home.



We want to look into ways that your home can make you feel happier and more relaxed.



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We want to help make sure disabled people who live in the countryside get the support they need.



**Are we doing the right things?**

**Please tick one box**

Yes

No

Don't know



## **Tell us what you think**

Is there anything else you want to tell us about our plan?

Or how we can make our work better for people with learning disabilities or other disabled people?



## How to tell us what you think

We may write about what you tell us in a report. Please tell us if you don't want this.

**Please tell us what you think by 19<sup>th</sup> April 2016**



You can tell us what you think:

By email at:

[Housing.adaptationsunit@nihe.gov.uk](mailto:Housing.adaptationsunit@nihe.gov.uk)



By phone on 02890 318561

Ask to speak to John Montgomery.



By text relay on 18001 02890 318561  
from a text-phone.

By post to:

John Montgomery  
NIHE Housing Adaptations Policy Unit  
Fifth Floor  
2 Adelaide St  
Belfast  
BT2 8BP



## Thank you for helping us