

LIVING IN SHARED HOUSING

- What is shared housing?
- Diversity
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- The need to consider others
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What is shared housing?

Up to six people have their own room in a house, but are required to share bathrooms, shower rooms, toilets, kitchens and dining areas.

Diversity

Most of our shared houses are occupied by both male and female residents. All of them are occupied by people from many different backgrounds.

A positive experience

Many of our residents are living independently for the first time, and will learn how to be self-sufficient, will develop social skills, and will make good friends.

The need to consider others

It is important that residents are considerate towards each other and treat each other with respect. You are required by the Tenancy Agreement:

- Not to behave in an anti-social manner by either creating a nuisance or through harassment of any kind. *Residents are also responsible for the behaviour of their guests.*
- To keep shared areas, and shared fittings such as cookers and WCs, clean and hygienic. *Everyone should clean up after themselves.*
- Not to keep pets without the Association's permission. *Permission to keep a dog or cat will not be granted.*
- Not to smoke in the communal areas, which is now illegal.

Breaking the Tenancy Agreement

If there is a serious breach of the Tenancy Agreement, the Association will ask the County Court to grant a possession order against the resident responsible.

How to make sharing a success

- **Talk to each other.** We make sure that everyone in a house knows the identity of a new resident, and that the new resident knows the identity of his or her housemates. We encourage new residents to knock on doors and introduce themselves, and we ask existing residents to ensure that they are made welcome and made aware of cleaning arrangements.
- **Take pride in the house.** It is your home.
- **Take responsibility.** There is a danger when individual residents do not take their responsibilities seriously that others in the house will start to neglect theirs. This is when houses deteriorate. We need residents to set an example by continuing to take responsibility if others do not, by talking politely to residents who do not, and if necessary by speaking to their Housing Officer, who will treat any complaint in confidence and will, if necessary, arrange a house meeting.