

Housing options – Sheltered housing in Wiltshire

Sheltered housing is a common type of specialist housing for older people.

Points to consider when looking at renting or purchasing sheltered housing

- Residents receive certain support services (e.g. emergency alarm system, onsite scheme manager for floating support).
- It is usually in the form of individual flats or bungalows that **share some facilities** like a laundry room and social room(s).
- **Most rented sheltered housing are allocated through the local authority** housing register, together with housing association and social housing.
- Each council has slightly different criteria for accessing sheltered housing which is often based on 'local connection', housing need, health and finances. In Wiltshire and Swindon you can generally apply for their sheltered housing regardless of your finances.
- Sheltered housing can be **purchased privately** through estate agents and housing developers (generally these are 'leasehold' so there may be additional service charges and ground rent to pay).
- **You could contact sheltered housing schemes direct** as some may offer properties ('direct lets') outside of the housing register, usually where they have been unable to allocate them via the register.
- If you're thinking about moving due to health reasons, you could request a **free occupational therapy assessment** at your current property. This could result in up to £1000 of aids and equipment provided to make it more suitable for your needs. If the assessment identifies that your current housing is not suitable this could add weight to an application for sheltered housing. Contact your local council's adult social care team for this.
- If you're thinking about moving due to health reasons then you might also be eligible for the benefit **Attendance Allowance**. This is extra money from the government to help with the costs of having a longer-term health condition or disability and it is not means-tested.
- If you feel you need more support you could consider extra care housing or supported housing which is usually provided through local authorities.

Further Information

-Age UK factsheets, including this topic: www.ageuk.org.uk/publications

-Wiltshire council housing register: 0300 4560104 <https://www.homes4wiltshire.co.uk/>

-Swindon council housing register : 01793 445500 <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/>

-Leasehold Advisory Service: www.lease-advice.org

-Elderly Accommodation Counsel: www.eac.org.uk/

-Comprehensive database of sheltered housing nationwide: www.housingcare.org