



CHARLIE AND ABBIE-ROSE'S STORY

Having the perfect home and surrounds has transformed Charlie and Abbie-Rose's lives. Many different housing options were explored before the gorgeous house was donated through a Trust, and Encircle Housing became the chosen landlord. 4Eden, who's employees are named Coach4Independence enable Abbie Rose and Charlie to develop skills and increase independence in their home and community.

"We're really proud of Charlie and his home; he has a life that he enjoys and shares with others," said Marianne, Charlie's Mother



Photographs provided by Charlie and Abbie-Rose

"My husband and I wanted a forever home that Charlie could share with a couple of friends," said Marianne, Charlie's Mother. "It took many years; and if you follow your dream, it can happen. If you think it is impossible still do it, and always look for the opportunities.

Charlie has autism, and additional mental health support needs. For many years he had lived in a care home in London close to where we live. London is a busy noisy place, and it could over stimulate him.

We would spend most of our holidays with Charlie in Cumbria. It is a peaceful area surrounded by nature, and Charlie loves being there. We knew this would be the perfect area for him to move to and we wanted to retire here as well.

Over the years, we looked at many options and worked with different organisations and nothing quite worked out. We met Peter Aviston, Managing Director at Encircle Housing many years ago and kept in touch, he's been a great support – he also made us think outside of the outside of the normal routes of housing. We had also met Jacqui Taylor from 4Eden who has also held our hands throughout this whole journey.

We thought we had exhausted all our options when we were approached by a donor. We were overwhelmed with joy as they wanted to donate a house in the area we were looking at. The Lakeland Autistic Charity Trust was set up, and my husband and I became Trustees along with three others. The house was donated through the Trust for Charlie to share with friends housemates leading to companions and friendship.

We chose Encircle Housing as the landlord, and they have been on hand to provide help and support around any tenancy matters. They also carried out all the compliance checks on the property.

It was important to us to create a proper home and give back to the local community. We wanted local people to have access to supported living. This is one of the most modern-day housing models that works and gives people the life they want.

The house is perfect; it's spacious, modern, and peaceful – Charlie loves it. There are eight properties by the side of a farmhouse, and it has its own little community. There are fields all around. The local village is down the road with all the shops and activities. We are also planning to retire to the next village along so can see Charlie regularly.

Charlie began getting ready for the move. He would visit at the weekend and stay over. More and more time was spent at the house until he moved in. Charlie was settling in well and getting to know the care the new staff team staff who do a great job. Abbie-Rose who lived locally was interested in moving in. She was introduced to Charlie, and they got to know each other. They get on well and after a while she moved in.

Both figured out how they want to live together in the house. They grow plants in the garden like tomatoes and sunflowers and enjoy being together and do their own things. They have developed a real friendship.



Photograph provided by Charlie and Abbie-Rose

We're really proud of Charlie and his home; he has a life that he enjoys and shares with others. Jacqui from 4Eden knows another compatible person who is interested in moving in, introductions will be arranged so the housemates can decide if this is the right person to live with, it is important to be happy with those you live alongside – it is good to know we can also help other local people and their families."

Abbie-Rose explains:

"I really like living here. Me and Charlie are friends, and we help each other out. Now I've got lots of space. We can be in the same room or go into another room to have our own time.

I've got a garden and like being outdoors, the air is clean here. I've grown tomatoes, strawberries, and sweet peas in our back garden. Charlie helped to plant and water them too.

Sometimes I just stand here and look around it's so peaceful. One of my favourite things to do is to get up early and watch the sunrise from the front door, it's beautiful. I can see the cows from my bedroom window too.

I am very busy; 4Eden have lots of employment opportunities and organise activities. I'm doing voluntary work in Bake4Eden for two days and garden centre (Fixit4Eden) for two days. I go to the cinema, pub, and see my friends. I am really happy."