



FRIENDSHIPS

Wonderful friendships have grown between Margaret (pictured middle) and her seven housemates in Middlesbrough. Changing from a registered care home to supported living has enabled them to have more choice.

Jonathan Thompson, Support Worker at 1st Enable explains: "Activities and fun are high on the list; they regularly have games nights and celebrate seasonal events or go away together.

In the summer everyone uses the garden and the sun house for drawing, painting, or relaxing in; it's like having an extra room. We have barbecues outside. This year they have been growing herbs and using them for cooking.

People have more choice since it changed to supported living, and more time to spend with care staff to do what they want to do. Some people still enjoy going to Day Centres, others prefer to do different activities. It's great to see. Family members come over too or they go out.

All the tenants have high needs, and the rooms are spacious so people who use wheelchairs can move around with ease. There is a call button in each bedroom which gives people more privacy should they want some time out, and peace of mind as they can easily let staff know if they need help or support. Each person has decorated their bedroom to their taste and designed their own number for their bedroom door. They're all so different! Christine has a chandelier in her room and used gentle colours, Michael has chosen a police theme, Margaret, Middlesbrough football club to name a few.

The kitchen is the hub of the house. We also have another shared room where people can relax or get the games or activities out. There are plenty of craft boxes in there and hours of fun had.

I'm part of a great team, we all work together and have a passion. We have got to know people from Encircle Housing and built a good relationship with them. The Housing Team keeps in touch and if we have any repairs any repair work is carried out quickly."

"People are choosing what they do and when they do it,"

says Jonathan Thompson,
Support Worker at
1st Enable

