# EAST SUSSEX AND BRIGHTON & HOVE

# HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY SPECIALIST INTERVIEWS

# FINAL REPORT 2005

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# 1 EAST SUSSEX AND BRIGHTON & HOVE HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY – SPECIALIST HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW REPORT

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Local Housing Assessment Guidance is in Draft form at this current time. There is a strong emphasis on the requirement for local authorities to work alongside one another sub-regionally to analyse surrounding housing markets and assess impact. However, strong emphasis is still placed in obtaining the key local issues for an individual authority.

1.1.2 The need to evaluate the needs and requirements of key specialist groups within an area / sub-region is becoming ever more apparent. Thus within the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Housing Needs Study there was a strong emphasis on acquiring information on the needs of some specialist groups of the sub-region some of whose needs are met on a County-wide basis.

1.1.3 Mill Field Services, an independent research company, was commissioned to conduct fieldwork by David Couttie Associates (DCA) as part of the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Sub-Regional Study, one of the first of its kind in the Country.

1.1.4 Interviews were carried out across the six participating authorities of Brighton & Hove City Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Hastings Borough Council, Lewes District Council, Rother District Council, and Wealden District Council

1.1.5 The face-to-face interviewing amongst targeted sub-groups of the population was intended to complement the extensive postal surveys of the general population carried out by DCA, to achieve a more in-depth understanding of the needs of each specialist group.

## 1.2 Methodology

1.2.1 A unique questionnaire was agreed for each specialist group by all six authorities and East Sussex County Council.

1.2.2 Mill Field Services were provided with a questionnaire for each group by DCA. Mill Field Services produced show cards and other field materials as well as preparing a field ready version of the questionnaire for distribution to interviewers.

1.2.3 475 interviews with older households, young people, Black and Minority Ethnic households (BME) and people with a learning disability were commissioned.

1.2.4 20 interviews were carried out in each authority with young and older people. The quota system adopted and the results of the interviews are shown in Table 1-1 and Table 1-2 below.

***Table 1-1***

| Young Households | Quota | Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Males | 60 | 60 |
| Females | 60 | 60 |
| **Total** | **120** | **120** |
| Aged 16 – 17 | 40 | 39 |
| Aged 18 – 21 | 40 | 40 |
| Aged 22 – 34 | 40 | 41 |
| **Total** | **120** | **120** |

***Table 1-2***

| Older Households | Quota | Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Owner-occupiers | 70% | 71% |
| Renting | 30% | 29% |
| | | |
| Single Households | 66% | 65% |
| Couple Households | 33% | 35% |
| | | |
| Aged 60 – 74 | 66% | 65% |
| Aged 75+ | 33% | 35% |

## 1.3 BME Households

1.3.1 The BME interviews were conducted on a "free find" basis amongst a cross section of ethnic groups living in each authority area. Brighton & Hove City Council provided some contact details and a selection of these were used.

## 1.4 Learning Disabilities

1.4.1 In addition, Mill Field Services were provided with 146 addresses and contact details for people with learning disabilities after close liaison and support from East Sussex Social Services and Brighton & Hove City Council. A total of 115 Learning Disability interviews were achieved.

## 1.5 Fieldwork

1.5.1 The fieldwork for this project was conducted between Sunday 20th February and Saturday 19th March 2005.

## 1.6 Quality Control

1.6.1 Mill Field Services is ISO9001 accredited. As a stated part of their procedures Mill Field Services always conduct a minimum 10% 'back check'. In doing this, they can guarantee the validity of all interviews completed and ensure that high standards are met. Mill Field Services check that the interview took place, verify the answers to key questions and check that the respondent was happy with the way the interview was carried out.

1.6.2 In this report the results of the interviews in each group of households are analysed.

# 2 THE NEEDS OF BLACK AND MINORITY ETHNIC HOUSEHOLDS

## 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The aim was to interview 120 respondents from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups across the sub-region to find out their housing needs now and in the future. 793 BME Households also responded to the postal surveys conducted in each authority, the results of which are reported in the Housing Needs Survey Reports for each council.

2.1.2 The face-to-face interviewing amongst a targeted sub-group of the population was intended to complement the more extensive postal surveys carried out by DCA, allowing a more in-depth understanding of the needs of this specialist group.

2.1.3 In total 913 BME Households have participated in the survey process. The key issues from the postal surveys are also drawn into the analysis of this report.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 DCA liaised with each of the six authorities to find out who their BME population was and the proportions of BME residents in each area. Guidance was supplied to DCA regarding who the BME communities were and who to sample.

2.2.2 Interviews were conducted on a “free find” basis amongst a cross section of nationalities living in the area. Brighton & Hove City Council provided some contact details of BME residents who may be willing to be involved in the Survey and a selection of these were used.

2.2.3 20 BME residents living in each of the six areas of Wealden, Hastings, Rother, Brighton & Hove, Eastbourne and Lewes were interviewed

2.2.4 Tenure, Household Type, Dwelling Type and Amenities

2.2.5 The first section of the questionnaire collected basic information about the tenure, household type, dwelling type and amenities in the dwellings. The first group of questions covered the basic profile of tenure both in relation to existing accommodation and that occupied immediately before the present accommodation.

***Table 2-1 Length of Residency in East Sussex & Brighton & Hove***
Question 1

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 1 year | 23.3 | 28 |
| Between 1 - 2 years | 13.3 | 16 |
| Between 2 - 10 years | 37.5 | 45 |
| Over 10 years | 25.9 | 31 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.2.6 Some 23.3% of BME households have lived in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove for less than one year. 25.9% of households in the sample had lived there for more than 10 years and 37.5% between 2 – 10 years.

***Table 2-2 Length of Residency in the Current Property***
Question 2

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 1 year | 31.7 | 38 |
| Between 1 - 2 years | 16.7 | 20 |
| Between 2 – 10 years | 40.0 | 48 |
| Over 10 years | 11.6 | 14 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.2.7 11.6% (14 implied) of BME households had been resident in the same property for ten years or more compared to 40.1% of all households across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. 40% of BME households had been at the same address for between 2 – 10 years and 31.7% of households had been in the same property for less than one year. This compares to just 10.7% of all households in the County.

## 2.3 Previous Accommodation

2.3.1 Respondents were asked where they had lived immediately prior to their current accommodation. Only five respondents said they had never lived at another address. The locations given are shown in Table 2-3. There were no responses provided for Wealden.

***Table 2-3 Location of Previous Accommodation***
Question 3

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Within the local area | 3.3 | 4 |
| Hastings | 4.2 | 5 |
| Rother | 4.2 | 5 |
| Brighton and Hove | 15.8 | 19 |
| Eastbourne | 4.2 | 5 |
| Lewes | 3.3 | 4 |
| London | 17.5 | 21 |
| Elsewhere in Sussex | 0.8 | 1 |
| Elsewhere in Kent | 3.3 | 4 |
| Elsewhere in South East | 0.8 | 1 |
| Within the UK but outside the South East | 10.8 | 13 |
| Outside the UK | 27.6 | 33 |
| Have never lived at another address | 4.2 | 5 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.3.2 27.6% of households had moved to East Sussex and Brighton & Hove from outside the UK, compared to just 4.4% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove moving within the last 2 years. 17.5% of households had previously lived in London and 10.8% had come from elsewhere in the UK but outside the South East.

***Table 2-4 Type of Dwelling in Previous Accommodation***
Question 4

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Flat | 43.5 | 50 |
| Terraced house | 10.4 | 12 |
| Semi-detached house | 20.0 | 23 |
| Detached house (not bungalow) | 16.5 | 19 |
| Bedsit | 0.9 | 1 |
| Bungalow | 2.6 | 3 |
| Maisonette | 0.9 | 1 |
| Other | 5.2 | 6 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

2.3.3 43.5% of respondents had moved from a flat. 20.0% had moved from semi-detached accommodation, 16.5% had moved from a detached house and 10.4% had moved from terraced accommodation. This can be compared with table 2-7 which shows the type of present accommodation of respondents.

## 2.4 Current accommodation

2.4.1 Respondents were asked a number of questions about their current accommodation, starting with a question asking why they had moved from their previous address.

***Table 2-5 Reason For Moving from Previous Address***
Question 5

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Needed Larger Property | 14.3 | 16 |
| Family | 17.9 | 20 |
| Work | 25.0 | 28 |
| School | 17.0 | 19 |
| Property in poor condition | 0.9 | 1 |
| Specialist Shops | 3.6 | 4 |
| Harassment | 1.8 | 2 |
| Other | 19.5 | 22 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **112** |

2.4.2 25.0% of respondents indicated that they had moved to their current address for work reasons, 17.9% gave family reasons, 17.0% school reasons, and 14.3% said they needed a larger property. The size of property does not appear to be the key issue for BME households interviewed in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove which we have found in urban areas in other parts of the country, however at 14.3% it was still a significant reason for moving from their previous address. Although 80.0% of respondents who said their home was inadequate said this was because it was too small, this amounted to only 12 respondents. 19.5% gave "other" reasons for moving.

***Table 2-6 Tenure of Present Accommodation***
Question 6

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Owner occupied (no mortgage) | 10.0 | 12 |
| Owner occupier (still paying a mortgage) | 18.3 | 22 |
| Private rented | 46.7 | 56 |
| Council rented (Rother and Hastings have transferred their stock to a HA) | 15.8 | 19 |
| Housing Association rented | 6.7 | 8 |
| Other | 2.5 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.4.3 Only 28.3% of respondents were owner-occupiers. 10.0% of owners had no mortgage. This compared to 70.7% of all households who were owner occupiers in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole, of whom 48% had no mortgage.

2.4.4 69.2% of all respondents rent their accommodation. Of those, 46.7% rent in the private sector. This compared to 28.9% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove who are in the rented sector, of whom 52.2% rent in the private sector.

***Table 2-7 Type of Present Accommodation***
Question 7

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Flat | 40.8 | 49 |
| Terraced House | 15.8 | 19 |
| Semi-detached house | 20.0 | 24 |
| Detached House (not bungalow) | 11.7 | 14 |
| Bedsit | 6.7 | 8 |
| Bungalow | 0.8 | 1 |
| Maisonette | 1.7 | 2 |
| Other | 2.5 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.4.5 40.8% of the sample live in flats compared to 27.3% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove; 47.5% live in traditional family accommodation (terraced, semi detached or detached houses), this compares to 57.7% of households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

***Table 2-8 Number of Rooms in Present Accommodation***

Question 8

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| One | 6.9 | 8 |
| Two | 6.9 | 8 |
| Three | 20.7 | 24 |
| Four | 16.4 | 19 |
| Five | 20.7 | 24 |
| Six | 17.1 | 20 |
| Seven | 5.2 | 6 |
| Eight | 4.3 | 5 |
| Nine | 0.9 | 1 |
| Ten | 0.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **116** |

2.4.6 The average number of rooms (excluding kitchen, bathroom and separate WC) was 4.4 for BME households.

2.4.7 The number of homes with four or more rooms, suggesting three living rooms or three bedrooms was 65.5% of respondents. This is high considering the high proportion of households living in flats. This would suggest some properties have been converted or altered to create more space. Our data showed 10 cases where the living room was used as a bedroom. The average number of people living in the respondents' household was 2.8.

***Table 2-9 Number of Bedrooms in Present Accommodation***

Question 9

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| One | 16.4 | 19 |
| Two | 26.7 | 31 |
| Three | 33.6 | 39 |
| Four | 16.4 | 19 |
| Five | 6.0 | 7 |
| Six or more | 0.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **116** |

2.4.8 The average number of bedrooms was 2.7, suggesting a good match between house size and family size within the sample. 23.3% of homes had four or more bedrooms compared to 2.6% for all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

## 2.5 Adequacy of Dwellings

2.5.1 One of the single most interesting results emerging from the face to face interviews, (given the underlying concerns implicit in conducting the survey) related to responses to the clear, simple question - "is your current accommodation suitable for the needs of yourself and family for the foreseeable future?"

***Table 2-10 Adequacy of Present Accommodation***
Question 11

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 88.3 | 106 |
| No | 11.7 | 14 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.5.2 Overall 88.3% of respondents stated that the property was adequate for their needs, compared to 86.7% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We have to draw a caveat that households may be reluctant to respond negatively to such a direct question. Similar levels of satisfaction have been found in other recent DCA surveys of BME communities.

2.5.3 Of the 14 respondents indicating in Table 2-10 above that their property was not adequate, the respondents were asked the reasons for the inadequacy. Based on a multiple choice question the following reasons were given.

***Table 2-11 Inadequacy of Present Accommodation***
Question 12

| | % households | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Too small | 80.0 | 12 |
| Unsuitable for older person | 6.7 | 1 |
| Needs major repairs | 20.0 | 3 |
| Unsuitable for disabled person | 13.3 | 2 |
| Condition of property affecting health | 6.7 | 1 |
| Unsuitable for children | 13.3 | 2 |
| Too far from cultural amenities / places of worship | 6.7 | 1 |
| Other | 13.3 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **24** |

2.5.4 The largest single issue was that the dwelling was too small, referred to by 80% of households with a problem. Across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole 68.7% of households saying their home was inadequate said it was too small. Some of this may represent natural demand in market terms (i.e. people wishing to move to larger accommodation or wanting just more space), although this would seem to be limited given the low incomes and savings of respondents.

***Table 2-12 Property State of Repair***
Question 13

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Very Good | 23.3 | 28 |
| Good | 47.5 | 57 |
| Satisfactory | 22.6 | 27 |
| Poor | 5.8 | 7 |
| Very Poor | 0.8 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.5.5 23.3% of respondents felt their property was in a very good condition, 93.4% of respondent's (112 implied) described the condition of their property as satisfactory or better.

2.5.6 Respondents were asked if repairs or improvements had been carried out in the last five years.

***Table 2-13 Have Repairs / Improvements Been Done in the Last 5 Years?***
Question 14

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Have had repairs / improvements done | 11.8 | 14 |
| There are repairs / improvements needed | 6.7 | 8 |
| No | 58.0 | 69 |
| Don't know | 23.5 | 28 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

2.5.7 11.8% of respondents stated that repairs/improvements have been carried out in the last five years. 58% of respondents said there was no need for repair or improvement.

2.5.8 In general there seems to be a perception amongst most of the respondents that the dwellings are reasonably well maintained. However, there is a distinction drawn between the feeling that the property was basically adequate for the needs of the household (Table 2-13) and the perceived need for some improvement. Only three respondents felt their home was inadequate because of a repair need.

***Table 2-14 Repairs / Improvements Done in the Last 5 Years***
Question 15a

| | % cases (14) | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Window replacements | 50.0 | 7 |
| Roof repairs | 28.6 | 4 |
| Structural repairs | 42.9 | 6 |
| Central heating installed | 28.6 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **21** |

2.5.9 In response to a multiple choice question, the repairs / improvements carried out are shown in table 2-14 above. The most common type of work carried out was window replacement mentioned by 50% of respondents, closely followed by structural repairs, mentioned by 42.9% of respondents.

***Table 2-15 Repairs Needed But Have Not Been Done***
Question 15b

| | % cases (7) | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Window replacements | 42.9 | 3 |
| Roof repairs | 14.3 | 1 |
| Structural repairs | 57.1 | 4 |
| Central heating | 28.6 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **10** |

2.5.10 In response to a multiple choice question, seven respondents indicated in Table 2-15 above those repairs / improvements that were needed but had not been carried out resulting in 10 responses in total. Four respondents had outstanding structural repairs and three needed window replacement.

2.5.11 Respondents were asked why the work that was necessary had not been carried out. 12 people responded. Up to two choices were allowed per respondent. The reasons given are set out in Table 2-16 below.

***Table 2-16 Reason For Not Carrying Out Repairs / Improvements***
Question 16

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Too expensive | 33.3 | 4 |
| Repairs awaited | 16.7 | 2 |
| Repairs not yet reported to landlord | 16.7 | 2 |
| Grant for major repair not available | 8.3 | 1 |
| Repairs refused by landlord | 8.3 | 1 |
| Adaptations awaited | 16.7 | 2 |
| Other | 8.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **13** |

2.5.12 Cost was the main reason for not carrying out the work, 33.3% of cases mentioned this (4 implied). 16.7% (2 implied) were waiting for repairs, 16.7% (2 implied) for adaptations, and 16.7% (2 implied) had not yet reported the repair to their landlord.

2.5.13 80% of all respondents said they were unaware of financial or other assistance that may be available from the Council to help with essential adaptations to the home.

## 2.6 Problems in the Home

2.6.1 Respondents were asked to identify what problems, if any, they encountered in their home. Of the 63 households responding to a multiple choice question, 88.9% indicated that they had no problems. The responses given by all those responding are set out at Table 2-17.

***Table 2-17 Problems Encountered in Home***
Question 17

| | % | N^os^ |
|---|---|---|
| None | 88.9 | 56 |
| Damp / condensation | 6.3 | 4 |
| Home not warm enough / difficult to heat | 3.2 | 2 |
| Other | 4.8 | 3 |
| **Total** | | **65** |

2.6.2 Few problems emerge from the interviews. Of those with problems, four people mentioned damp / condensation, three stated 'other' and two mentioned that their home was not warm enough/difficult to heat.

## 2.7 Special Needs

2.7.1 Households in the sample were asked a range of questions about their special housing needs. Firstly respondents were asked if they or any members of their household had any of the special needs outlined in table 2-18. 15.8% of the sample included a member with a special need, compared to 24.1% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The data suggested 16 households with one disabled member and 3 with two members, giving a total of 22 members with a special need.

2.7.2 21 respondents answered the multiple choice question on the nature of the disability experienced by individual household members. 29 responses were received in total.

***Table 2-18 Households with Special Needs***
Question 19d

| | % | N^os^ |
|---|---|---|
| Mobility difficulties (non wheelchair user) | 38.1 | 8 |
| Learning difficulty | 9.5 | 2 |
| Wheelchair users | 14.3 | 3 |
| Mental health problem | 28.6 | 6 |
| Visual / hearing impairment | 4.8 | 1 |
| Asthmatic / Respiratory problems | 9.5 | 2 |
| Other physical difficulties | 14.3 | 3 |
| Limiting long term illness | 19.0 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **29** |

2.7.3 The highest proportion of problems, 38.1% of those with a disability had mobility difficulties. 28.6% of those with a disability had mental health problems.

***Table 2-19 Age Groups of Special Needs Housing (all cases)***
Question 19c

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| 0 – 15 | 4.5 | 1 |
| 16 – 24 | 18.2 | 4 |
| 25 – 44 | 36.4 | 8 |
| 45 – 59 | 18.2 | 4 |
| 60 – 74 | 9.1 | 2 |
| 75+ | 13.6 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **22** |

2.7.4 The age of those with special needs was broadly spread across all the age groups. However, higher proportions are found in the younger age groups, with 59.1% of cases with special needs aged under 45 years. This compared to 19.7% of households with a disability across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove aged under 45.

***Table 2-20 Regular Contacts, For Those with Special Needs***
Question 19k

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Doctor | 100.0 | 19 |
| Hospital | 78.9 | 15 |
| Day centre | 10.5 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **36** |

2.7.5 Of 19 respondents answering a multiple choice question, all respondents with special needs indicated that they had regular contact with one of the services listed in Table 2-20 above. All had contact with their doctor on a regular basis and 78.9% had regular contact with the hospital.

2.7.6 15 people with special needs actually needed special care and all indicated that they had sufficient care.

2.7.7 Of those receiving care and support 14 received care from family / friends or neighbours, five received care from social services or a voluntary organisation. The data suggested that three of those with a disability received care from both sources.

2.7.8 Respondents were also asked what services might help them to live at home. Seven people responded to a multiple choice question. The results are shown in table 2-21 below. Community support and day care were the services most frequently identified.

***Table 2-21 Services to help you live at home***
Question 48

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Direct payment of your benefits to a relative | 28.6 | 2 |
| Home care | 14.3 | 1 |
| Assistance with home improvements | 28.6 | 2 |
| Community support | 57.1 | 4 |
| Day care | 42.9 | 3 |
| **Total** | | **12** |

2.7.9 60% of households with a disability said they knew where to go for help and advice for people with disabilities.

2.7.10 Finally in this section respondents were asked how easy they found it to get help and advice for people with disabilities.

***Table 2-22 How easy is it to get help and advice for disabled people***
Question 19j

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Very easy | 5.6 | 1 |
| Fairly easy | 38.9 | 7 |
| Not very easy | 16.7 | 3 |
| Not at all easy | 0.0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 38.8 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **18** |

2.7.11 Three people found it difficult to access help and advice. The majority experienced no particular problems, although seven people did not know how easy it was, suggesting they had not tried to access help.

2.7.12 All respondents in the sample were asked to indicate whether their home had been adapted to meet the needs of a person with a disability.

***Table 2-23 Adaptation for Disabled***
Question 20a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Adapted | 6.7 | 8 |
| Not adapted | 93.3 | 111 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

2.7.13 6.7% of respondents said adaptations had been made to their home (8 implied). This compared to 11.5% of all households across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

2.7.14 Respondents with adaptations had an average of 2.9 adaptations each. Seven respondents had bathroom adaptations and six had handrails / grabrails. These are usually the most common adaptations carried out in our experience.

***Table 2-24 Adaptations made to your home***
Question 20b

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Handrails / grabrails | 75.0 | 6 |
| Ground floor toilet | 50.0 | 4 |
| Access to property | 25.0 | 2 |
| Wheelchair adaptations | 50.0 | 4 |
| Bathroom adaptations | 87.5 | 7 |
| **Total** | | **23** |

2.7.15 Four people indicated that adaptations would be needed in the future to meet the needs of a member of the family with a disability.

2.7.16 Five people responded to the following multiple choice question asking what adaptations would be needed in the future for an existing member..

***Table 2-25 Adaptations Needed For An Existing Member***
Question 20d

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Handrails / grabrails | 40.0 | 2 |
| Stairlift/ Vertical lift | 20.0 | 1 |
| Wheelchair adaptations | 40.0 | 2 |
| Bathroom adaptations | 40.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **7** |

2.7.17 Handrails / grabrails and bathroom adaptations were again the type of work most frequently needed and two cases needed wheelchair adaptations. No other adaptations for an existing member were required.

## 2.8 Satisfaction with Neighbourhood

2.8.1 The next questions probed for information on levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the general living environment and the local neighbourhood. The responses to these questions are summarised in Table 2-26 and Table 2-27. Respondents were asked to make a first and second choice in order or priority. 'Do not know' and 'None / Nothing' responses have been ignored for the purpose of this table. We also exclude percentage columns in this case because of the significant difference in the level of responses between 1st, and 2nd choices which produces results, which are hard to compare in percentage terms.

***Table 2-26 Reasons for Liking Environment / Neighbourhood***
Question 24

| | 1st Choice N$^{os}$ | 2nd Choice N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Quality of the area | 40 | 33 |
| Close to relatives/carer | 2 | 3 |
| Near to shops and services | 3 | 8 |
| Familiarity of the area | 5 | 6 |
| Good neighbours | 7 | 13 |
| Accessibility around home | 3 | 0 |
| Access around local area | 1 | 4 |
| Close to religious /cultural amenities | 0 | 1 |
| Low cost rent or mortgage | 0 | 1 |
| Good quality housing | 4 | 7 |
| Size of garden / home | 1 | 0 |
| Good public transport / parking | 0 | 3 |
| Safeness of the area | 4 | 2 |
| Other | 42 | 18 |
| **Total** | **112** | **99** |

2.8.2 There was a generally high level of satisfaction with the area. 34.6% of all responses related to quality of the neighbourhood. 60 "other" responses were received, these also focused on quality of the neighbourhood, and access to friends, family and employment. The "other" reasons supplied by respondents for liking their environment/neighbourhood were also examined. These focused on being close to the beach/sea, being close to place of work, the quality of education provision in the area, the peace and quiet of the area, the fact that friends live close by and that the area is clean.

***Table 2-27 Reason For Disliking the Neighbourhood/Environment***
Question 25

| | 1st Choice N$^{os}$ | 2nd Choice N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Rundown area | 1 | 0 |
| Home too small | 2 | 1 |
| Insecure / threat of burglary | 1 | 2 |
| Threat of harassment | 4 | 0 |
| Too far from relatives / carer | 3 | 3 |
| Unable to get around home | 1 | 1 |
| Inconvenient for shops and services | 2 | 0 |
| High cost rent or mortgage | 1 | 0 |
| Poor public transport / parking | 2 | 0 |
| Home in poor state of repair | 1 | 0 |
| Other | 35 | 9 |
| **Total** | **53** | **16** |

2.8.3 Specific responses (i.e. excluding 'Do not know' and 'None / Nothing' responses) to the question on dislikes were far lower, endorsing the general perception of satisfaction evidenced above.

2.8.4 44 "other" responses were received, the wide range of other responses hampered analysis of this questions. There was some focus on quality and nature of the neighbourhood including for example problems with young people, noise, public transport, shops, places of worship, quality of the town and crime. No particular issues dominated. The 44 "other responses received for disliking their environment/neighbourhood were examined. These included too much crime, too quiet, low standard of living, too expensive to rent, lack of sports facilities and lack of appropriate place of worship.

## 2.9 Harassment

2.9.1 Specific questions were also asked about harassment or the threat of harassment. Overall just four people disliked the area because of the threat of harassment. However, 24 people said they knew of harassment in the area where they live (20% of all respondents); and 15.8% said that they or a member of their family had suffered harassment while living in their present home.

2.9.2 Those who had experienced harassment were asked why they thought they had been harassed. 20 people responded to the multiple choice question. 85% indicated that the reason for harassment had been their religion, race or ethnicity.

***Table 2-28 Reason For Harassment***
Question 28

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Religion, Race or Ethnicity | 85.0 | 17 |
| Gender | 5.0 | 1 |
| Disputes with neighbours | 5.0 | 1 |
| Individual with a personal grudge | 5.0 | 1 |
| Other | 10.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **22** |

2.9.3 92.4% of the sample indicated that they would take fear of harassment into account if deciding to move to another area.

## 2.10 Household Characteristics

2.10.1 A lot of data was collected about the households in the survey; the tables below show some of the main findings.

2.10.2 The first question in this section asked how many families lived at the address. We found three cases with three households living at the same address, three with two households and 107 with one household. The number of people in the main household is shown in Table 2-29 below.

***Table 2-29 Number Of People Living in the Respondent's Family***
Question 21b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| One | 25.2 | 30 |
| Two | 23.5 | 28 |
| Three | 16.8 | 20 |
| Four | 16.8 | 20 |
| Five | 11.8 | 14 |
| Six | 5.1 | 6 |
| Seven | 0.8 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

2.10.3 In the respondents' household (1st household) there were a total of 339 people giving an average of 2.8 per household. This compared with an average of 2.1 per household across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole.

2.10.4 Four households indicated that other people were due to join their household.

2.10.5 The age profile of respondents showed 75.6% to be aged 18 – 44. 71.2% in the case of partners.

***Table 2-30 Age of Self and Partner 1st Household***
Question 21k

| | Self | | Partner | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | N$^{os}$ | % | N$^{os}$ |
| 0 - 17 | 2.5 | 3 | 1.7 | 1 |
| 18 - 24 | 22.7 | 27 | 5.1 | 3 |
| 25 - 44 | 52.9 | 63 | 66.1 | 39 |
| 45 - 54 | 14.3 | 17 | 16.9 | 10 |
| 55 - 64 | 3.4 | 4 | 10.2 | 6 |
| 65 + | 4.2 | 5 | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** | **100.0** | **59** |

***Table 2-31 Members of 1$^{st}$ Household in Employment***
Question 21m

| | Self | | Partner | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | N$^{os}$ | % | N$^{os}$ |
| Employed | 57.3 | 67 | 72.9 | 43 |
| Unemployed | 20.5 | 24 | 15.2 | 9 |
| Other | 22.2 | 26 | 11.9 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **117** | **100.0** | **59** |

2.10.6 Of the BME sample responding as self, 20.5% were unemployed along with 15.2% of partners. 57.3% of respondents were in employment. In comparison, the average employment rate for the general population in the main East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Surveys was 48.3% and the average unemployment rate was 1.8%

## 2.11 Ethnic and Religious Origin

***Table 2-32 Ethnic Origin of Main Household***
Question 22b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| White other | 2.5 | 3 |
| White and Black Caribbean | 2.5 | 3 |
| White and black African | 3.4 | 4 |
| White and Asian | 1.7 | 2 |
| Mixed other | 0.0 | 0 |
| Black Caribbean | 6.8 | 8 |
| Black African | 17.8 | 21 |
| Black other | 1.7 | 2 |
| Bangladeshi | 16.1 | 19 |
| Indian | 7.7 | 9 |
| Pakistani | 0.8 | 1 |
| Asian other | 17.8 | 21 |
| Chinese | 17.8 | 21 |
| Other ethnic group | 3.4 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **118** |

2.11.1 17.8% of the BME sample was Black African, 17.8% were Asian Other, 17.8% Chinese. Due to the limited sample, these figures may not be representative of the ethnic origin of the wider BME community.

2.11.2 Respondents were also asked what faith group they belonged to. 34.5% were Christian, 27.7% Muslim.

***Table 2-33 Faith Group of Main Household***
Question 22c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Christian | 34.5 | 41 |
| Muslim | 27.7 | 33 |
| Hindu | 3.4 | 4 |
| Buddhist | 6.7 | 8 |
| Rastafarian | 0.8 | 1 |
| Other | 4.2 | 5 |
| None | 22.7 | 27 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

## 2.12 Costs of Present Housing and Income

***Table 2-34 Weekly Rent Paid for Present Accommodation***
Question 37

| | % | Cum % | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under £50 | 9.6 | 9.6 | 8 |
| £51 - £60 | 9.6 | 19.2 | 8 |
| £61 - £70 | 6.0 | 25.2 | 5 |
| £71 - £80 | 7.2 | 32.4 | 6 |
| £81 - £100 | 18.1 | 50.5 | 15 |
| £101 - £150 | 10.8 | 61.3 | 9 |
| £151 - £200 | 7.2 | 68.5 | 6 |
| Above £201 | 14.5 | 83.0 | 12 |
| Don't know | 14.5 | 97.5 | 12 |
| Refused to answer | 2.5 | 100.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **83** |

2.12.1 83 households were identified as renting in Table 2-34 above, 56 (67.5%) of these were in private rented accommodation. 69 households responded within a specific band giving the level of rent they pay. A further 12 said they did not know how much rent they pay and two refused to answer the question.

2.12.2 19.2% of respondents paid less than £60 per week, compared to 21.0% of all households renting in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Rents were fairly high in our experience with 32.5% paying more than £100 per week. Higher rents reflect the high proportion of renters in private rented housing.

2.12.3 34 owners were identified in Table 2-6. 22 of those were mortgage paying owner-occupiers. 17 households responded within a specific band giving their monthly mortgage repayments.

***Table 2-35 Monthly Mortgage Paid for Present Accommodation***
Question 38a

| | % | Cum % | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| £301 - £400 | 17.6 | 17.6 | 3 |
| £401 - £500 | 41.1 | 58.7 | 7 |
| £501 - £600 | 5.9 | 64.6 | 1 |
| £601 - £750 | 11.8 | 76.4 | 2 |
| £751 - £1,000 | 11.8 | 88.2 | 2 |
| Above £1,000 | 11.8 | 100.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **17** |

2.12.4 Mortgage levels were also fairly high in our experience, with no mortgage paying owners paying less than £300 per month and 35.4% pay more than £600 per month.

2.12.5 35 BME households responded to a question asking how much equity they have in their home. 31.4% have 100% equity. Seven did not know and one refused to answer the question. Overall levels of equity were high in our experience. There was no data available for any equity of £15,000 and under.

***Table 2-36 Level Of Equity In the Home***
Question 38b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| £15,001 - £20,000 | 5.7 | 2 |
| £20,001 - £30,000 | 8.6 | 3 |
| £30,001 - £50,000 | 20.0 | 7 |
| £50,001 - £100,000 | 11.4 | 4 |
| 100% equity (own home outright) | 31.4 | 11 |
| Don't know | 20.0 | 7 |
| Refuse to answer | 2.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **35** |

2.12.7 The next question probed for information on total household incomes. 119 people responded.

***Table 2-37 Gross Annual Income of Households***
Question 39a

| | % cases | Cum % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Below £10,000 | 26.1 | 26.1 | 31 |
| £10,000 - £12,500 | 3.4 | 29.5 | 4 |
| £12,501 - £15,000 | 5.9 | 35.4 | 7 |
| £15,001 - £17,500 | 1.7 | 37.1 | 2 |
| £17,501 - £20,000 | 11.8 | 48.9 | 14 |
| £20,001 - £25,000 | 5.0 | 53.9 | 6 |
| £25,001 - £30,000 | 2.5 | 56.4 | 3 |
| Above £30,000 | 10.1 | 66.5 | 12 |
| Don't know | 21.0 | 87.5 | 25 |
| Refused to answer | 12.5 | 100.0 | 15 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **119** |

2.12.8 Of those that answered the income question, 25 said they did not know their household income and 15 refused to answer. In our survey experience BME communities have tended to be more reluctant than other groups to declare their income. In East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, a response was received from 66.6% of the sample, which should give a good indication of incomes within the sample.

2.12.9 26.1% of cases had incomes below £10,000, compared to 21.3% of all households across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. 17.6% of households who responded to this question (i.e. excluding 'Don't know' and 'Refused') had an income above £20,000.

2.12.10 Respondents were asked to give the sources of their income. 117 people replied of whom 13 received none of the types of income listed. All the responses provided are shown in Table 2-38 below.

***Table 2-38 Source of Income***
Question 39b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Salary / wage | 75.2 | 88 |
| Income Support | 17.9 | 21 |
| Housing Benefit | 20.5 | 24 |
| State Pension | 7.7 | 9 |
| Additional private pension | 2.6 | 3 |
| Disability Living Allowance | 4.3 | 5 |
| Attendance Allowance | 2.6 | 3 |
| Incapacity benefit | 1.7 | 2 |
| Independent Living Fund | 1.7 | 2 |
| None of these | 11.1 | 13 |
| **Total** | | **170** |

2.12.11 Respondents made an average of 1.5 choices each with 117 respondents making a total of 170 choices. 75.2% of respondents received a salary or wage. 17.9% of respondents receive Income Support and 20.5% are in receipt of housing benefit (28.9% of renters in the sample).

2.12.12 Only 17.1% of respondents had their benefit entitlement checked by an advice agency.

2.12.13 Respondents were next asked about their savings and investments. 64.2% of BME respondents said they had no savings or investments, four people did not know and 15 refused to answer the question. 20% (24) of respondents said they had savings. In addition 27 respondents had equity in their home.

2.12.14 Those with savings were asked to indicate the level of those savings / investments, 24 people responded as shown in Table 2-39 below.

***Table 2-39 Total Savings / Investments***
Question 42

| | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|
| Under £3,000 | 14 |
| £3,000 - £5,999 | 1 |
| £6,000 - £8,999 | 1 |
| £9,000 or more | 5 |
| Don't know | 2 |
| Refused to answer | 1 |
| **Total** | **24** |

2.12.15 58.3% of respondents (14 implied) answering this question said they had savings / investments under £3,000.

## 2.13 Car Ownership

***Table 2-40 Car Ownership***
Question 23

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| One | 45.8 | 55 |
| Two | 15.0 | 18 |
| Three or more | 2.5 | 3 |
| None | 36.7 | 44 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

2.13.1 63.3% of respondents had access to at least one car. 36.7% had no car.

## 2.14 Information Sources

2.14.1 In this section respondents were asked which organisations they were aware of and whether they had ever contacted any of the organisations.

***Table 2-41 Organisations or services aware of***
Question 30

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Citizens Advice Bureau | 80.2 | 73 |
| Age Concern | 58.2 | 53 |
| Community Safety Partnership | 14.3 | 13 |
| The BME Community Safety Partnership | 9.9 | 9 |
| The Racial Harassment Forum | 18.7 | 17 |
| BME Forum | 4.4 | 4 |
| Racial Incident Reporting Scheme | 9.9 | 9 |
| Migrant Helpline | 4.4 | 4 |
| Youth Ethnic Forum | 11.0 | 10 |
| Sompriti | 12.1 | 11 |
| Communities of Interest | 12.1 | 11 |
| None of these | 18.7 | 17 |
| **Total** | | **231** |

2.14.2 91 people responded, making an average of 2.5 choices each. 17 respondents were not aware of any of the services listed. The service most respondents were aware of was the Citizens Advice Bureau.

2.14.3 21 people indicated that they had contacted one or more of the organisations listed.

## 2.15 Awareness of Housing Options

2.15.1 Respondents were asked which housing options they were aware of and what experience they had of different options.

2.15.2 19 respondents not currently renting from the Council said they had applied for Council housing, 13 of who had been successful and had either been successful in the past or were planning to move into Council rented accommodation. 12 people said they would consider applying for Council housing in the future and a further six said they may consider it.

2.15.3 Respondents who were not currently renting from a housing association were also asked a range of questions on the familiarity or otherwise of housing associations and their services.

2.15.4 53.4% (62 of the 116 respondents to the question) were aware of housing associations. Only 12 respondents had ever applied for housing association accommodation, six of whom were successful.

2.15.5 Respondents were asked about their perceptions and knowledge of sheltered housing.

2.15.6 Of the total respondents, 30% (36 implied) were aware of sheltered housing.

2.15.7 Of the 33 people responding to the question, 23 (69.7%) thought sheltered housing was appropriate for older members of their community.

2.15.8 Only one person had heard of extra care housing. This respondent thought it would be appropriate for older members of their community.

2.15.9 117 people responded, giving 122 responses, to the following question asking what type of supported accommodation they would ever consider moving to. The results are shown in Table 2-42 below. The vast majority of respondents would not consider any of the options listed. This may to some extent reflect the age profile of respondents.

***Table 2-42 What Type Of Supported Accommodation Would You Consider?***
Question 47

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Sheltered accommodation | 2.6 | 3 |
| Residential care home | 2.6 | 3 |
| Nursing home | 0.9 | 1 |
| High dependency unit | 0.9 | 1 |
| Extra Care | 0.9 | 1 |
| None of these | 96.3 | 113 |
| **Total** | | **122** |

## 2.16 Moving Households

2.16.1 Respondents were asked to say whether they or any members of their household were currently seeking to move or would do so in the next three years. The result (from 118 household respondents) is set out at Table 2-43 below.

***Table 2-43*** ***Are You Or A Member Of Your Household Planning To Move Within 3 Years?***
Question 49

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| No one expecting to move | 71.2 | 84 |
| Whole household expecting to move within the region (East Sussex) | 11.9 | 14 |
| Members from within the household planning to move within the region (East Sussex) | 5.1 | 6 |
| Whole household planning to move outside the region | 4.2 | 5 |
| Members of the household planning to move outside the region | 7.6 | 9 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **118** |

2.16.2 71.2% of cases were not expecting to move.

2.16.3 The movers included two types of situation; those in which the whole household was planning to move (19 cases), and those where there was a member of the household seeking to form an independent household (15 cases). We take the formation of new households as a proxy measure of the scale of concealment of households in the area. The latter category is designed to provide a measure of 'felt' housing need and be an indicator of the number of new households likely to be looking for accommodation but at the moment unable to enter the market.

2.16.4 The 14 households planning to move out of the Borough/District were asked their reasons for moving out of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Two households gave two reasons for moving away, 10 people gave "other" reasons for moving away. The high proportion of "other" responses hampers analysis of this question.

***Table 2-44*** ***Reasons for moving out of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove***
Question 50

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Family | 7.1 | 1 |
| Lack of affordable housing in the area | 7.1 | 1 |
| Prefer another area | 28.6 | 4 |
| Other reason | 71.4 | 10 |
| **Total** | | **16** |

## 2.17 New households characteristics

2.17.1 A number of questions were directed at new forming households. There were 15 such households identified in Table 2-43, six of which were planning to move within the region, the following questions were directed at this group.

2.17.2 The first question asked of the type of household forming, half were the children for the main household, one was a parent and two "other" members were forming a new household.

2.17.3 Three adults in the new forming households were aged 18 – 24, four were aged 25 – 44, one was aged 55 – 64, and one was aged over 65. Children were identified in three cases. In each case the new forming family with children had just one child.

2.17.4 Two cases were identified of the new household being formed through marriage with a partner living elsewhere in the district.

2.17.5 All new forming households required accommodation within 12 months, with two seeking to move immediately.

2.17.6 When asked why they want to move, four people needed a larger home and one gave "other" reasons.

2.17.7 The following house types were needed by new forming households.

***Table 2-45 Type of Accommodation Needed***
Question 56

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Detached house | 20.0 | 1 |
| Semi-detached house | 20.0 | 1 |
| Flat | 40.0 | 2 |
| Bedsit | 20.0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **5** |

2.17.8 Two of the five respondents to the question indicated that they needed family accommodation and three needed single person accommodation.

2.17.9 No new households needed housing with care and support.

2.17.10 50% (3 implied) of new forming households needed just one bedroom, one needed two bedrooms, and two needed three bedrooms.

2.17.11 In terms of tenure, one new household was hoping to buy, the other six wanted to rent, of whom three wanted Council rented accommodation and three wanted to rent in the private sector. No new household was registered on a housing waiting list.

2.17.12 When asked if they were expecting to pay rent or a mortgage / shared ownership mortgage, five people expected to pay rent and one expected to have a mortgage.

2.17.13 Those expecting to rent their next home were asked how much rent they expected to pay. Three people did not know, one expected to pay between £61 - £70 per week and one expected to pay £81 - £100.

2.17.14 3 people responded to the question asking how much mortgage they would pay, although only one new household indicated an intention to buy their own home. Of those responding one said they would have no mortgage, one did not know how much they would pay and one would pay between £401 - £500 per month.

2.17.15 New households moving were asked what there preferred location was. As with existing moving households, new households all wanted to remain in the same Borough, and one preferred to remain in the same area of their Borough. There was no preference for Brighton & Hove, Lewes or any other location.

***Table 2-46 Preferred Location***
Question 62

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Same area | 16.7 | 1 |
| Wealden | 16.7 | 1 |
| Hastings | 16.7 | 1 |
| Rother | 33.2 | 2 |
| Eastbourne | 16.7 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **6** |

2.17.16 Four new forming households preferred the area because they had always lived in the area (2 implied) or because it was close to family (2 implied). Two choices related to access to work and one because it was close to schools.

2.17.17 New forming households were asked to indicate their total annual income with the following results.

***Table 2-47 Total annual income of new household***
Question 53

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| £10,000 or Below | 14.3 | 1 |
| £10,000 - £12,500 | 14.3 | 1 |
| £12,501 - £15,000 | 14.3 | 1 |
| £15,001 - £17,500 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £17,501 - £20,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £20,001 - £25,000 | 14.3 | 1 |
| £25,001 - £30,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Above £30,000 | 14.3 | 1 |
| Don't know | 14.3 | 1 |
| Refused | 14.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **7** |

2.17.18 Only one household had an income below £10,000, although four had incomes below £30,000.

## 2.18 Existing households moving

2.18.1 Existing households planning to move within the Borough/District were asked when they would need new accommodation. 13 people responded.

***Table 2-48 When Accommodation Is Needed***
Question 55

| | % | % Cum | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Now | 61.5 | 61.5 | 8 |
| 1 year | 30.8 | 92.3 | 4 |
| 2 years | 7.7 | 100.0 | 1 |
| 3 years | 0.0 | | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **13** |

2.18.2 61.5% of households moving within the area needed accommodation immediately and 92.3% said they would need to move within a year.

***Table 2-49 Type of Accommodation Needed***
Question 56

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Terraced house | 6.6 | 1 |
| Semi-detached house | 26.8 | 4 |
| Flat | 53.4 | 8 |
| Maisonette | 6.6 | 1 |
| Bungalow | 6.6 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **15** |

2.18.3 The results from the survey show that 60.0% of movers need a flat or maisonette.

2.18.4 When asked if they needed family or single person accommodation, seven of the 13 respondents said they needed family accommodation.

***Table 2-50 Number of Bedrooms Needed***
Question 59

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| One | 38.5 | 5 |
| Two | 38.5 | 5 |
| Three | 15.4 | 2 |
| Four or more | 7.6 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **13** |

2.18.5 Need was found to be focused on smaller units of accommodation. 77% of BME households needed one or two bedrooms.

***Table 2-51 Reasons for Moving***
Question 60

| | % cases (13) | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Need Larger Home | 30.8 | 4 |
| Need Larger Home to Accommodate Family / Carer | 38.5 | 5 |
| Harassment | 7.7 | 1 |
| Fear of Crime | 23.1 | 3 |
| Neighbour Problems | 7.7 | 1 |
| Need Smaller Home | 7.7 | 1 |
| Need Extra Care Housing | 15.4 | 2 |
| Need Adapted Home | 15.4 | 2 |
| Other | 7.7 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **20** |

2.18.6 The majority of cases wanted to move to find larger accommodation.

2.18.7 12 people responded to the question on preferred tenure, making a total of 14 choices. 10 people preferred Council rented accommodation. No movers preferred to buy their own home. The ability to buy may be constrained by the low incomes and savings in the sample. No preference for any other tenure was stated.

***Table 2-52 Preferred Tenure***
Question 61

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Council rent | 83.3 | 10 |
| Private rent | 16.7 | 2 |
| Housing Association rent | 16.7 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **14** |

2.18.8 Six BME movers are registered on a housing waiting list, five with their local Council. Two were registered with a housing association, suggesting one applicant registered with both the local council and a housing association.

2.18.9 Three existing moving households needed housing with care and support.

2.18.10 Movers were asked where they wanted to live. 12 people responded. The choice of locations was very limited, with all respondents choosing to remain within the same Borough and 25.0% wishing to remain in the same area of their Borough.

***Table 2-53 Preferred Location***
Question 61

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Same area | 25.0 | 3 |
| Wealden | 16.7 | 2 |
| Hastings | 16.7 | 2 |
| Rother | 0.0 | 0 |
| Brighton & Hove | 50.0 | 6 |
| Eastbourne | 8.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **14** |

2.18.11 13 people responded to a question asking for the reason for their preferred location. An average of 2.3 choices was made per respondent.

***Table 2-54 Reasons for Preferred Location***
Question 63

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Near place of worship/cultural amenities | 15.4 | 2 |
| Near Schools | 38.5 | 5 |
| Near Specialist Shopping facilities | 15.4 | 2 |
| Near work/access to work | 15.4 | 2 |
| Near hospital/doctor | 30.8 | 4 |
| Always lived here/like the area | 46.2 | 6 |
| Near family | 38.5 | 5 |
| Availability of Public transport | 15.4 | 2 |
| Other | 15.4 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **30** |

2.18.12 The most common reasons chosen were always lived in the area (6 implied) and near family (5 implied). Access to schools (5 implied) was also an important factor.

2.18.13 Movers were asked if they were likely to be paying rent, mortgage or shared ownership mortgage on their new home. All 13 respondents to the questions thought they would be paying rent.

2.18.14 13 people responded to a following question asking how much rent they would be likely to pay per week. Anticipated rents were fairly high with five cases thinking they would pay £70 or less per week, but eight believing their rent would be more than £70 per week.

***Table 2-55 How much rent are you likely to pay per week?***
Question 66

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| £50 or under | 15.4 | 2 |
| £51 - £60 | 15.4 | 2 |
| £61 - £70 | 7.7 | 1 |
| £71 - £80 | 15.4 | 2 |
| £81 - £100 | 23.0 | 3 |
| £101 - £150 | 15.4 | 2 |
| £151 - £200 | 7.7 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **13** |

2.18.15 No respondents indicated the level of mortgage they would be likely to pay, because no one intended to buy their next home.

## 2.19 Conclusions

2.19.1 69.2% of respondents rent their accommodation, 46.7% rent in the private sector. 23.3% of homes had four or more bedrooms.

2.19.2 75.6% of respondents were aged between 18 - 44. 20.5% of respondents were unemployed.

2.19.3 The ethnic profile overall was 17.8% were Black African, 17.8% were Asian Other and 17.8% were Chinese. The profile of the religion of respondents was 34.5% were Christian and 27.7% were Muslim.

2.19.4 80% of all respondents said they were unaware of financial or other assistance available from the Council to help with adaptations of the home.

2.19.5 The sample indicated that the ethnic population of East Sussex and Brighton & Hove is not particularly well established in the area. 23.3% of BME households have lived in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove for less than one year and 31.7% have been in their current home for less than a year. Having settled in area however 71.2% have no plans to move, and those who are moving within East Sussex and Brighton & Hove wish to remain in the same Borough/District. 27.6% of households had moved to East Sussex and Brighton & Hove from outside the UK, 25% indicated a move to the current address for work reasons.

2.19.6 There was a generally high level of satisfaction with the area and with individual properties. 88.3% of respondents thought their homes were adequate for all their housing needs and 93.4% of respondents described the state of repair of their homes as satisfactory or better. 71.2% of cases were not expecting a move.

2.19.7 As with existing households moving new households all wanted to remain in the same area of their Borough/District. 60% of existing movers require a flat/maisonette, 77% wanted one or two bedrooms. The main reason for moving was to find larger accommodation and the tenure preferred for 83.3% was council rented.

2.19.8 In terms of repair need and overcrowding, these problems were not as significant as in other recent BME surveys carried out by DCA . Only 6.7% of the sample had an outstanding repair need, however of the respondents who said their property was inadequate, 80% said the dwelling was too small. There is a good match between house size and family size although three cases were identified as having three households living at one address, and three cases had two households at the same address.

2.19.9 Around 15.8% of the sample had suffered harassment. 20% knew of harassment in their area and 92.4% of respondents said they would take fear of harassment into account if moving to another area. 85% indicated that the reason for harassment had been their religion, race or ethnicity. Fear of harassment may limit the housing choices of BME households. There is a clear preference among movers to stay within existing communities.

2.19.10 The housing options of the BME community may also be limited by their low incomes. 26.1% have incomes below £10,000 although income levels are not as low for BME households in East Sussex as in other areas, they are lower than the general population. Rents were high with 32.5% paying more than £100 per week, 35.4% pay more than £600 in mortgage costs.

2.19.11 Overall from the sample of households interviewed BME households do not appear to be significantly disadvantaged within East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, although further comparison of the BME data to general housing needs data may reveal local inequalities.

## 2.20 Recommendations

2.20.1 The needs of the BME population in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are varied, but not dissimilar to the needs of the population as a whole. Each authority should look to adopt a BME Housing Strategy to differentiate this groups needs.

2.20.2 Information and advice services focusing on the housing and care options available to the BME community should be reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of these communities. A key finding from the survey was the lack of awareness of council funding schemes to assist with adaptations to the home, suggesting an improved communication strategy to raise this awareness.

2.20.3 The needs of older and disabled people in the BME community should be reviewed, both in terms of the services offered at home and the provision of supported accommodation in the community. The range of services available should be promoted and efforts made to understand the barriers to BME families using existing services. Doctor's surgeries may be a useful point of contact for distribution of information and advice. Links to the Supporting People strategy are significant.

2.20.4 The needs of BME in-migrants to East Sussex and Brighton & Hove may need further investigation, in particular the provision of information and advice for migrants from outside the UK, to enable them to access housing, support and employment and education locally.

2.20.5 Access to family, as well as fear of harassment in other areas may be limiting the housing and care choices made by BME residents. Although fear of harassment is a far bigger issue than actual harassment, a clear inter-agency policy and procedure for dealing with harassment should be in place and promoted across the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove area. A way to address the fear of harassment would be to make links with the Community Safety Strategies.

2.20.6 There is a need for new housing development to meet the needs of the BME community. This will require a focus on rented housing at the lower cost end of the market due to high levels of rent and mortgage repayments currently being paid. There is also a need for a mix of small, medium and large sized homes in a variety of locations across the County to cater for the varying requirements of BME households.

# 3 THE NEEDS OF OLDER PEOPLE

## 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The aim was to interview 120 older people to find out their housing needs now and in the future. 20 interviews were carried out in each Council area.

3.1.2 The face-to-face interviewing amongst a targeted sub-group of the population was intended to complement the more extensive postal surveys carried out by DCA, allowing a more in-depth understanding of the needs of this specialist group.

## 3.2 Methodology

3.2.1 All Interviews were conducted on a free find basis across the six authorities.

3.2.2 Mill Field Services were set the following quotas to ensure the data gathered was representative of the population as a whole.

***Table 3-1***

| | Quota | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Owners | 70% | 71% |
| Renters | 30% | 29% |
| Single households | 66% | 65% |
| Couple households | 33% | 35% |
| Ages 60 - 74 | 66% | 65% |
| Ages 75+ | 33% | 35% |

## 3.3 Fieldwork

3.3.1 The fieldwork for this project began on 20th February 2005 and finished on 19th March 2005. A total of 120 interviews were achieved.

## 3.4 Quality Control

3.4.1 Mill Field Services is ISO9001 accredited. As a stated part of their procedures Mill Field Services always conduct a minimum 10% 'back check'. In doing this, they can guarantee the validity of all interviews completed and ensure that high standards are met. Mill Field Services check that the interview took place, verify the answers to key questions and check that the respondent was happy with the way the interview was carried out.

## 3.5 Dwelling Type and Other Background Data

3.5.1 The first series of questions asked for data about the current dwelling. In so far as they are simply a statement of fact in terms of the data received, they only lend themselves to brief comment.

***Table 3-2 Tenure***
Question 1

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Owner occupied, still paying mortgage | 10.0 | 12 |
| Owner occupied, no mortgage | 60.8 | 73 |
| Private rented | 8.3 | 10 |
| Housing Association rented | 6.7 | 8 |
| Council rented | 14.2 | 17 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

3.5.2 In common with all our surveys of older people the majority are owner occupiers. In East Sussex and Brighton & Hove some 70.8% were owner-occupiers. 85.9% of older owners had no mortgage. This compared to 71.7% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove who are owners, of whom 48.0% have no mortgage. No data was provided for tied to employment, live with relatives, Housing Association Shared Ownership and 'other'.

3.5.3 29.2% of the sample is renting their home. 71.4% of renters were renting in the social housing sector. This compared to 28.9% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove who are renting their home, of whom 42% rent in social housing sector.

***Table 3-3 Type of Dwelling***
Question 2

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Bungalow | 26.7 | 32 |
| Flat | 44.2 | 53 |
| Terraced house | 13.3 | 16 |
| Semi-detached house | 6.7 | 8 |
| Bedsit/Room only | 0.0 | 0 |
| Detached house | 9.1 | 11 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

3.5.4 The proportion in bungalow accommodation at 26.7% was high in our survey experience and suggests a better match between the needs of the sample and the property type than found in other recent DCA surveys of older people. 44.2% of the sample live in flats. 29.1% of the sample still lived in traditional family accommodation (terraced, semi detached or detached houses).

***Table 3-4 Number of Bedrooms***
Question 3

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| One | 20.8 | 25 |
| Two | 44.2 | 53 |
| Three | 22.5 | 27 |
| Four | 8.3 | 10 |
| Five | 2.5 | 3 |
| Bedsit/Studio | 1.7 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100** | **120** |

3.5.5 A high proportion of the sample are in one and two bedroom property (65%) as compared with the number of three and four bedroom accommodation (30.8%). The data reflects the expected needs of smaller older households and reinforces the view that there is a fair match between the needs of the sample and the property type.

3.5.6 Respondents were also asked about the total number of rooms in their home and the number of rooms in regular use. It should be assumed that this includes bathrooms, WC's, conservatories and utility rooms.

***Table 3-5 Rooms in the Home***
Question 4a / 4b

| | Rooms in the home | Rooms in regular use |
|---|---|---|
| | % | % |
| One | 1.7 | 0.8 |
| Two | 4.2 | 5.1 |
| Three | 5.9 | 10.2 |
| Four | 19.6 | 34.7 |
| Five | 30.5 | 30.6 |
| Six or more | 38.1 | 18.6 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **100.0** |

3.5.7 The average number of rooms in the home was at least 4.9. 68.6% of respondents indicated that they have five or more rooms (81 implied), suggesting three bedrooms or two living rooms.

3.5.8 Only 49.1% indicated five or more rooms in use (58 cases), suggesting 23 cases with 5+ rooms in the home are in fact under occupying their accommodation 10.5% of the sample.

***Table 3-6 Access to Facilities***
Question 5a

| | % Cases (120) | % responses (828) | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Hot water | 99.2 | 14.4 | 119 |
| Inside toilet | 99.2 | 14.4 | 119 |
| Wash hand basin | 99.2 | 14.4 | 119 |
| Central heating | 87.5 | 12.7 | 105 |
| Bath | 88.3 | 12.8 | 106 |
| Access to garden | 74.2 | 10.7 | 89 |
| Off road parking | 68.3 | 9.9 | 82 |
| Standard shower | 44.2 | 6.4 | 53 |
| Level access shower | 30.0 | 4.3 | 36 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **828** |

3.5.9 The general picture emerging from the sample is a high level of access to basic facilities. 14 cases without access to a bath are not a concern as 53 households have access to a standard shower and 36 have access to a level access shower. Of more concern is one household without an inside toilet, one without a wash hand basin, and one without hot water.

3.5.10 Access to central heating facilities (87.5%) is somewhat below the 2001 Census figure of 91.5% nationally. Across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove, 92.4% of all respondents had central heating.

## 3.6 Shared Facilities

3.6.1 No respondents indicated that they shared facilities with people not within their own household.

## 3.7 Length of tenure

3.7.1 The sample was next asked how long they had lived at their present address.

***Table 3-7 Time Resident at Present Address***
Question 6a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 1 year | 7.5 | 9 |
| 1 - 2 years | 5.0 | 6 |
| 2 - 10 years | 27.5 | 33 |
| 10 years or more | 60.0 | 72 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

3.7.2 As with other recent DCA surveys of older people the figures indicate a large measure of stability within the sample with some 60% of the 120 respondents occupying the same property for over 10 years. This compared to 40.1% of all households in East Sussex who had lived in their current home for more than 10 years.

3.7.3 Respondents who had moved within the last two years were asked what was the most important reason for moving to their current accommodation. 13 people responded to this question (15 indicated they had moved within the last two years). The results are given in Table 3-8 below.

***Table 3-8 Reason For Moving To Present Home***
Question 6b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Health / care reasons | 30.8 | 4 |
| To move to a smaller house | 30.8 | 4 |
| Safety / security | 15.3 | 2 |
| To move to a better home | 7.7 | 1 |
| Closer to amenities | 7.7 | 1 |
| Family breakdown | 7.7 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **13** |

3.7.4 Four respondents had moved for health / care reasons and four to move to a smaller home.

## 3.8 Adequacy of Present Dwelling

3.8.1 95% (113) of the 119 respondents to the question indicated that their present accommodation was suitable for all their needs. High levels of adequacy have been typical of other recent DCA surveys of older people. This compares to 86.7% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove reporting that their home was adequate.

3.8.2 Six people indicated that their home was inadequate for their needs. Eight people responded to a multiple-choice question specifically indicating inadequacy. The reasons for the inadequacy are provided in table 3-9.

***Table 3-9 Reason for Inadequacy***
Question 7b

| | % cases (8) | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Too small | 62.5 | 5 |
| Too large | 25.0 | 2 |
| Too costly to heat | 25.0 | 2 |
| Too costly generally | 12.5 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **10** |

3.8.3 Reasons for inadequacy were focused on the size of the home with five respondents saying their home was too small and two saying it was too large.

## 3.9 Condition of Property

3.9.1 The next set of questions referred to repairs and condition of the property beginning with a broad assessment of the general state of repair.

***Table 3-10 General State of Repair***
Question 9

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Very good | 43.3 | 52 |
| Good | 43.3 | 52 |
| Satisfactory | 8.4 | 10 |
| Poor | 5.0 | 6 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

3.9.2 Some 43.3% of the respondents described their property condition as very good; 94.9% gave it a rating of satisfactory or better. Such high rates of satisfaction are typical of other recent DCA surveys of older people.

3.9.3 The respondents were next asked a question on repairs / improvements done during the last five years. The results are set out in Table 3-11 below as responses to a multiple choice question.

***Table 3-11 Repairs Done***
Question 10

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| None | 53.8 | 63 |
| Yes- Repairs/improvements have been done | 37.6 | 44 |
| There are repairs and improvements which I feel are needed but have not been done | 6.0 | 7 |
| Do not know | 2.6 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **117** |

3.9.4 53.8% of respondents said they had no repair needs over the last five years. 37.6% of respondents reported having had repairs or improvements carried out on their home. 6.0% of respondents said they had a need for repair and improvements to their home but that these had not been carried out.

3.9.5 Respondents were asked to give the two main reasons why they had not had works carried out. The most common reason given was that the repair was awaited (six cases). Four respondents were waiting for adaptations. One respondent said the repair was too expensive and one stated that it was difficult to organise work.

## 3.10 Other Problems at Home

3.10.1 Respondents were asked to identify what problems, if any, they encountered in their homes. Of the 119 households responding, 68.1% (81 implied) indicated that they had no problems. The nature of problems identified by the remaining 38 respondents is set out at Table 3-12. Respondents made an average of 1.8 choices each.

***Table 3-12 Problems Encountered in Home***
Question 12a

| | % cases (38) | % responses (70) | N^os^ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Decoration | 60.5 | 32.9 | 23 |
| Gardening | 23.7 | 12.9 | 9 |
| Difficulty using the bathroom | 52.6 | 28.6 | 20 |
| Difficult climbing up stairs | 15.8 | 8.6 | 6 |
| Difficulty using the kitchen | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1 |
| Getting around home | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1 |
| Damp / condensation | 2.6 | 1.4 | 1 |
| Home not warm enough / difficult to heat | 7.9 | 4.2 | 3 |
| Other | 15.8 | 8.6 | 6 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **70** |

3.10.2 As in other recent DCA surveys of older people some of the most common problems encountered in the home were with basic household maintenance: decorating and gardening. In this survey however respondents also had significant difficulties using their home: problems using the bathroom are seen as significant. However only three respondents indicated a need for bathroom adaptations as stated in Table 3-24 below. The data suggests that older people do not necessarily relate problems in the home to the need for adaptations.

3.10.3 32.5% of respondents said they were unaware of financial and other assistance available from the local authority to help getting essential adaptations to their home.

3.10.4 14.7% of respondents said they would be willing to consider an equity release scheme to release money to pay for essential repairs or undertake a move to a more suitable property.

3.10.5 61.7% of respondents knew where to go to get assistance and advice with making energy efficiency improvements to their property. Levels of awareness were lowest in Lewes where 70% of respondents did not know where to go for advice.

## 3.11 Personal Information

3.11.1 We posed a number of personal questions to establish the profile of households for which a considerable volume of data was captured, particularly on the sex and age of all household members. Only a relatively small amount of key data has been extracted for the purpose of this report, beginning with the gender / age profile of the heads of households.

3.11.2 Of those responding as the main respondent or self (42) 35.0% were male and 65.0% female. Of those responding as spouse / partner (18), 41.9% were male and 58.1% female. Around 62.2% were 'single' person households.

3.11.3 All those responding as self, categorised themselves as white, except one respondent who categorised themselves as other mixed.

3.11.4 The age data on heads of household and their partner / spouse is detailed in Table 3-13 below.

***Table 3-13 Age Profile***
Question 15d

| | Self | | Partner / Spouse | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % | Nos | % | Nos |
| 25 - 44 | 0.0 | 0 | 2.3 | 1 |
| 45 - 59 | 0.0 | 0 | 11.6 | 5 |
| 60 - 74 | 65.3 | 77 | 58.1 | 25 |
| 75 - 84 | 26.3 | 31 | 25.6 | 11 |
| 85+ | 8.4 | 10 | 2.4 | 1 |
| Refused | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **118** | **100.0** | **43** |

3.11.5 In total 182 people lived in the 120 households responding to the question on number of people in the household, giving an average level of occupation of 1.5 persons per household. The breakdown is set out in Table 3-14 below.

***Table 3-14 Number in Household***
Question 15a

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| One | 62.2 | 74 |
| Two | 33.6 | 40 |
| Three | 2.5 | 3 |
| Four | 1.7 | 2 |
| Five or more | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

3.11.6 62.2% of the sample live in single person households.

3.11.7 Information was collected in the survey about the amount paid by households for their present accommodation and also about household incomes. The first question in the group related to those renting property. Responses were received from 36 cases, 35 indicated a rented tenure in Table 3-2 above. Of those responding, four said they did not know what rent they paid.

***Table 3-15 Weekly Rent Paid for Present Accommodation***
Question 19a

| | % | Cum % | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Under £30 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £31 - £40 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £41 - £50 | 8.3 | 8.3 | 3 |
| £51 - £60 | 13.9 | 22.2 | 5 |
| £61 - £70 | 19.4 | 41.6 | 7 |
| £71 - £80 | 13.9 | 55.5 | 5 |
| Above £80 | 30.6 | 86.1 | 11 |
| Don't know | 11.1 | 97.2 | 4 |
| Refused to answer | 2.8 | 100.0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **36** |

3.11.8 22.2% (8 cases) paid less than £60 per week compared to 21% of all households across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. 30.6% paid over £80. Rents are high considering that 71.4% of renters are in fact renting in the social housing sector. An additional cross tabulation was done looking at those in HA rented accommodation and the rent levels they pay. Of the 22% in HA rented 25% pay £61 - £70 per week, 62.5% pay £71- £80 per week and 12.5% pay above £80 per week.

3.11.9 Table 3-2 above indicates that just 12 households in the sample were mortgage paying owner-occupiers. Of those responding to the question on how much their monthly mortgage payments are, three pay £100 or less, two pay between £101 - £150 per month, two pay between £201 - £300 per month and one household pays between £301 - £400.

3.11.10 The next question asked about the level of equity owners have in their property. The results are shown for the 86 cases responding within a specific band, all of those indicating in table 3-2 above that there were owner occupiers.

***Table 3-16 Level of Equity in the Home***
Question 19c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| In negative equity | 1.2 | 1 |
| £5,000 or less | 1.2 | 1 |
| £5,000 - £10,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £10,001 - £15,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £15,001 - £20,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £20,001 - £30,000 | 0.0 | 0 |
| £30,000 - £50,000 | 1.2 | 1 |
| £50,001 - £100,000 | 9.3 | 8 |
| 100% equity | 84.9 | 73 |
| Don't know | 2.2 | 2 |
| Refused to answer | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **86** |

3.11.11 The final question in this section probed for specific information about household income. 120 people responded to the question. Of these 19 refused to answer within a specific band and five did not know their income. All responses are given in Table 3-17 below.

***Table 3-17 Gross Annual Income of Households***
Question 19d

| | % | % Cum | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Below £5,000 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 8 |
| £5,000 - £7,500 | 25.8 | 32.5 | 31 |
| £7,501 - £10,000 | 24.2 | 56.7 | 29 |
| £10,001 - £12,500 | 5.0 | 61.7 | 6 |
| £12,501 - £15,000 | 8.3 | 70.0 | 10 |
| £15,001 - £20,000 | 5.8 | 75.8 | 7 |
| £20,001 - £30,000 | 2.5 | 78.3 | 3 |
| Above £30,000 | 1.7 | 80.0 | 2 |
| Don't know | 4.2 | 84.2 | 5 |
| Refused to answer | 15.8 | 100.0 | 19 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **120** |

3.11.13 The response rate to the income question was 80% (96 out of 120), which should give a good indication of the incomes of older households in the sample. As with other DCA surveys of the older people, incomes were found to be very low although incomes are not as low in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as is many of our recent surveys. The table shows that some 56.7% of households have annual incomes below £10,000 compared to 21.3% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. Low incomes will have implications for the housing and care choices available to older people in the sample.

## 3.12 Source of Income

3.12.1 120 households indicated the source of their income, as set out in Table 3-18 below.

***Table 3-18 Source of Income***
Question 20a

| | % cases (120) | % responses (266) | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| State pension | 94.2 | 42.5 | 113 |
| Housing Benefit | 18.3 | 8.3 | 22 |
| Additional private pension | 69.2 | 31.2 | 83 |
| Income support | 10.0 | 4.5 | 12 |
| Disability living allowance (inc Mobility Allowance) | 5.0 | 2.2 | 6 |
| Attendance allowance | 7.5 | 3.4 | 9 |
| Incapacity benefit | 2.5 | 1.1 | 3 |
| Salary / wage | 14.2 | 6.4 | 17 |
| War disablement benefit | 0.8 | 0.4 | 1 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **266** |

3.12.2 94.2% of cases receive a state pension. Some 69.2% of households responding included additional private pension as a source. This is high in our experience. 10.0% indicated that they received Income Support. 18.3% of all respondents receive housing benefit, corresponding to 63% of renters in the sample. Respondents indicated an average of 2.2 sources of income each.

3.12.3 70.6% of 119 responding (84 implied) indicated that they had not had their benefit checked by an advice agency.

## 3.13 Savings Issues

3.13.1 60.8% (73) of the whole sample indicated that either the Head of Household or partner had savings or investments. Table 3-19 below indicates the level of those investments for 73 cases responding.

***Table 3-19 Amount of Savings / Investments***
Question 22a

| | % | Cum % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Less than £3,000 | 27.4 | 27.4 | 20 |
| £3,000 - £5,999 | 11.0 | 38.4 | 8 |
| £6,000 - £8,999 | 4.1 | 42.5 | 3 |
| £9,000 or more | 45.2 | 87.7 | 33 |
| Don't know | 2.7 | 90.4 | 2 |
| Refused to answer | 9.6 | 100.0 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **73** |

3.13.2 33 people had savings of more than £9,000. This is high in our experience and it should be noted that a high proportion of owner occupiers are the outright owners of their homes, as shown in Table 3-16, 73 cases have 100% equity in their home. The data suggests that there is significant potential for equity release schemes to unlock capital for home improvement and care packages for older home owners.

## 3.14 Transport Issues

3.14.1 Respondents were asked about their use of private cars and public transport. The first question asked how many cars were available to the household. The results are given in Table 3-20 below.

***Table 3-20 Cars Available Within the Household***
Question 22b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| One | 53.3 | 64 |
| Two | 5.1 | 6 |
| Three or more | 0.8 | 1 |
| None | 40.8 | 49 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

3.14.2 40.8% of households had no car.

3.14.3 Respondents were then asked if they regularly used public transport. 51.7% (62 implied) said they did use public transport. 62.2% of the 90 people answering the question (56 implied) felt public transport was adequate in their area.

3.14.4 Respondents were asked what problems they experienced travelling around the area. 44 cases (40.7% of the 108 respondents) said they experienced no problems.

***Table 3-21 Problems Experienced Travelling Around the Area***
Question 16c

| | %cases (108) | % responses (136) | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Infrequent / inadequate public transport | 24.1 | 19.1 | 26 |
| Lack of parking in town centre | 38.9 | 30.9 | 42 |
| Lack of parking facilities in the area | 16.7 | 13.2 | 18 |
| Lack of disabled parking facilities in the area | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Lack of disabled parking facilities in the town centre | 4.6 | 3.7 | 5 |
| None | 40.7 | 32.4 | 44 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **136** |

3.14.5 The main problem reported was with parking. 38.9% of respondents reported problems parking in the town centre, and 16.7% reported a general lack of parking facilities.

## 3.15 Adaptations for Disabled Persons

3.15.1 The next group of questions sought information of the degree to which the home had been adapted to meet the needs of a person with a disability.

***Table 3-22 Adaptation for Disabled***
Question 8j

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Adapted | 20.8 | 10 |
| Not adapted | 79.2 | 38 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **48** |

3.15.2 The proportion of adapted homes was low for this group at 20.8%, although 26.7% of the sample are living in bungalow accommodation which may not need adaptation. Across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole 11.5% of homes are adapted.

3.15.3 48 households in the sample (40%) were identified as having a member with a long-term illness or disability compared to 24.1% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. We ran a cross tabulation to see if households with a disability were in fact living in adapted accommodation. We found 20.8% (10 implied) of older people responding with a disability were living in adapted accommodation, suggesting a mismatch between the needs of the older population in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and their current accommodation.

3.15.4 However, it should also be noted that 26.7% of the sample indicated in Table 3-3 that they are already in bungalow accommodation, and may not need adaptations. In addition some of those with a disability may not in fact need any adaptations to meet their needs. 95% of respondents stated that their homes were adequate for their needs and 79.5% of the sample felt they had no further need for adaptations. These assumptions should be treated with some caution given the reluctance of some older people to recognise their needs.

3.15.5 13 people responded to a question asking which adaptations had been carried out. (10 cases were indicated in Table 3-22 above as having had adaptations).

***Table 3-23 Adaptations Carried Out***
Question 8b

| | % cases (13) | % response (20) | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Handrails outside / inside | 76.9 | 50.0 | 10 |
| Bathroom / shower / toilet adaptations | 20.0 | 20.0 | 4 |
| Ramps outside / inside | 15.0 | 15.0 | 3 |
| Kitchen adaptations | 5.0 | 5.0 | 1 |
| Mobility scooter store | 5.0 | 5.0 | 1 |
| Bath / shower / toilet relocated | 5.0 | 5.0 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **20** |

3.15.6 In common with other DCA surveys of the older, the adaptations most frequently carried out were additional handrails and bathroom adaptations.

3.15.7 79.5% of respondents indicated that no further adaptations were required to their home. Nine people indicated that there were other adaptations required, as detailed in Table 3-24 below (respondents could stipulate as many answers as necessary).

***Table 3-24 Adaptations Required***
Question 8k/l

| | % cases (9) | % response (10) | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bathroom / shower / toilet adaptations | 33.3 | 30.0 | 3 |
| Additional handrails outside / inside | 22.2 | 20.0 | 2 |
| Stairlift / vertical lift | 11.1 | 10.0 | 1 |
| Bath / shower / toilet relocated | 22.2 | 20.0 | 2 |
| Other | 22.2 | 20.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **10** |

3.15.8 Bath / shower / toilet adaptations were still needed by three respondents and in two cases there was a need for the bath / shower / toilet to be relocated.

## 3.16 Advice

3.16.1 Respondents were asked if they knew where to go for help and advice with housing, support and care services for people with disabilities. 67.4% (31 implied) of respondents said they did know where to go for help and advice; 32.6% (15 implied) did not know where to go for help.

3.16.2 Respondents were then asked how easy they thought it was to get help and advice. The results are given in Table 3-25 below.

***Table 3-25 How Easy Is It to Get Help and Advice for Disabled People***
Question 8i

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Very easy | 8.3 | 4 |
| Fairly easy | 43.8 | 21 |
| Not very easy | 0.0 | 0 |
| Not at all easy | 2.1 | 1 |
| Don't know | 45.8 | 22 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **48** |

3.16.3 Of the 48 people answering the question only one had some difficulty accessing services. 22 people did not know how easy it would be, suggesting they had not tried to access services.

## 3.17 Special Housing Needs

3.17.1 40% of respondents (48) had someone in their household with a long term illness or disability. In 89.6% of cases just one household member had a disability; in 10.4% of cases two people in the household had a disability, giving a total of 53 people with a disability.

3.17.2 Of those with a disability 53.8% were over 75 years old; a further 42.3% were aged between 60 – 74. There is a clear over representation of disability in the sample among those aged over 75, thus a review of care and support needs of frail older people may be required in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

3.17.3 The next table addresses the nature of disability in relation to the main respondent and his / her spouse / partner. The most common problems were walking difficulty / restricted mobility, effecting 40.4% of those responding as self and 33.3% of partners, and other physical disabilities effecting 37.7% of all cases with a problem. Three people were identified as wheelchair users.

***Table 3-26 Households with Special Needs***
Question 8d

| | Self | | Partner | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % cases (47) | N^os | % cases (6) | N^os |
| Walking difficulty / restricted mobility | 40.4 | 19 | 33.3 | 2 |
| Wheelchair user | 4.3 | 2 | 16.7 | 1 |
| Limiting long term illness | 12.8 | 6 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Visual / hearing impairment | 27.7 | 13 | 16.7 | 1 |
| Asthmatic / respiratory problem | 19.1 | 9 | 16.7 | 1 |
| Mental health problem | 6.4 | 3 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Other physical disability | 34.0 | 16 | 66.7 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **68** | | **9** |

3.17.4 Further questions were posed to all respondents about support and care, firstly about support received by the main respondent or self and by other members. 91.5% of the 47 people with a disability responding said they received enough support, Four indicated that they were not receiving enough support. The following support was needed by three people responding to the question as shown in table 3-27. The headings covered by this question relate specifically to Supporting People services. The data suggests that while most older people feel able to access the support services they need there are still some outstanding needs.

3.17.5 Service providers should also be aware of hidden needs, where the client is reluctant to admit that they have a need or is unable to understand how a particular service, if provided, could improve their quality of life.

***Table 3-27 Help / Support Still Required By Respondent***
Question 8f

| | % cases (3) | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Claiming welfare benefits | 33.3 | 1 |
| Advice / Advocacy | 33.3 | 1 |
| Supervising health / well-being | 66.7 | 2 |
| Establishing personal safety / security | 33.3 | 1 |
| Setting up / looking after the home | 33.3 | 1 |
| Emotional support / managing behaviour | 33.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **7** |

3.17.6 In 89.5% of cases support was in fact provided by a family friend or neighbour, rather than a formal service provider.

3.17.7 Older respondents were also asked about the help they received at home. The majority of households received no support at home (85.5% of all respondents).

***Table 3-28 Support Received by all household members***
Question 13a

| | Self | | Other members | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % cases (119) | N^os | % cases (33) | N^os |
| Shopping | 7.6 | 9 | 3.0 | 1 |
| Cleaning | 10.9 | 13 | 6.1 | 2 |
| Bathing / toilet | 5.0 | 6 | 6.1 | 2 |
| Getting round the house | 1.7 | 2 | 3.0 | 1 |
| Gardening | 2.5 | 3 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Dressing | 4.2 | 5 | 3.0 | 1 |
| No support received | 84.0 | 100 | 90.9 | 30 |
| **Total** | | **138** | | **37** |

3.17.8 As with other recent DCA surveys of older people, of those who received any support most had help with household tasks such as cleaning and shopping.

3.17.9 The following parties provided the support in the case of the 17 persons responding.

***Table 3-29 Provision of Support (all household members)***
Question 13b

| | % cases (17) | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Visiting family/friend/neighbour | 23.5 | 4 |
| Resident family / friend | 11.8 | 2 |
| Paid carer (private) | 29.4 | 5 |
| Paid carer (social services) | 13.6 | 3 |
| Home care (social services) | 11.8 | 2 |
| Partner / spouse | 29.4 | 5 |
| Other | 5.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **22** |

3.17.10 Visiting family / friends / neighbours provided help in 23.5% of cases, a further 11.8% had resident family or friends to help and 29.4% depended on their partner / spouse. 5 people paid a private carer and three paid for social services support. Overall respondents used an average of 1.3 types of support with informal support being the most significant. Support for carers, including respite as well as further publicity about the formal support services available should be a priority in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

3.17.11 Respondents were also asked what support they need but do not receive.

***Table 3-30 Support Needed but not Received by all household members***
Question 13c

| | Self | | Other members | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | % cases (118) | Nos | % cases (30) | Nos |
| Shopping | 1.7 | 2 | 3.3 | 1 |
| Cleaning | 5.1 | 6 | 3.3 | 1 |
| Bathing / toilet | 3.4 | 4 | 3.3 | 1 |
| Gardening | 1.7 | 2 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Dressing | 1.7 | 2 | 3.3 | 1 |
| Feeding | 0.0 | 0 | 3.3 | 1 |
| Someone to act for you | 0.8 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Establishing social contacts / activities | 0.8 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 |
| Establishing personal safety / security | 0.8 | 1 | 0.0 | 0 |
| No support needed | 90.7 | 107 | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | | **126** | | **5** |

3.17.12 72.2% of all respondents said they needed no further help. Of those with an outstanding need most needed help with basic household tasks such as cleaning.

3.17.13 The next questions on support asked what formal services were used or received. As with other recent DCA surveys of the older people many people received no support. In this case 67.5% respondents received none of the services listed.

***Table 3-31 Provision of Services***
Question 14c

| | % cases (120) | % responses (146) | Nos |
|---|---|---|---|
| Housing Care (Community Alarm) | 17.5 | 14.4 | 21 |
| Home help / care | 6.7 | 5.5 | 8 |
| Meals on wheels | 2.5 | 2.0 | 3 |
| District nurse / health visitor | 2.5 | 2.0 | 3 |
| Day centre | 21.7 | 17.8 | 26 |
| Social worker | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Occupational therapist | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Respite care | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Other | 0.8 | 0.7 | 1 |
| No help received | 67.5 | 55.5 | 81 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **146** |

3.17.14 Of the 65 respondents receiving formal support services, 26 attended a day centre. 21 received services from Housing Care (Community Alarm).

3.17.15 The following questions asked specifically about respondents' knowledge of Housing Care Community Alarm 92.4% (109 implied) had heard of the service although only 17.5% of all respondents (21 implied) actually use it.

3.17.16 107 people responded to a question asking where they had heard about Housing Care Community Alarm. The results are given in Table 3-32 below.

***Table 3-32 Source Of Knowledge of Housing Care Lifeline Alarms***
Question 14b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Social Services | 13.1 | 14 |
| Local Council (other services) | 1.9 | 2 |
| Friend / neighbour | 41.1 | 44 |
| Advertisement | 12.2 | 13 |
| Family | 25.2 | 27 |
| Other | 6.5 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100** | **107** |

3.17.17 As in other recent DCA surveys of older people, the majority of people had heard about Housing Care Community Alarm from a friend / neighbour (41.1%). 1.9% of respondents had heard about the service from the Council.

## 3.18 Sheltered Housing

3.18.1 Respondents were asked a series of questions about housing specifically designed for older people, and in particular sheltered housing and extra care housing. In each section a proportion of respondents answered "don't know" suggesting lack of knowledge.

3.18.2 The first question asked all respondents if they would be interested in sheltered housing, either currently or in the future. 39.2% (47 implied) said they would be interested, 43.3% (52 implied) said they would not be interested and 17.5% (21 implied) said they did not know.

3.18.3 Those who expressed an interest were then asked if they would prefer to rent or buy. As would be expected in a sample such as this, the largest proportion (41.7%) of respondents would prefer to rent.

***Table 3-33 Would You Be Interested In Renting / Buying Sheltered Housing***
Question 23b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Renting | 41.7 | 20 |
| Buying | 27.1 | 13 |
| Shared Ownership | 4.2 | 2 |
| Shared Equity | 0.0 | 0 |
| Either | 2.0 | 1 |
| Don't know | 25.0 | 12 |
| No | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **48** |

3.18.4 The following questions asked older respondents with an interest in sheltered housing about extra care housing. 62.5% of respondents (29 of the 48 responding) indicated that they would be interested in renting or buying extra care housing. Again the data showed the largest proportion (34.5%) wanted to rent.

***Table 3-34 Would You Be Interested In Renting / Buying Extra Care Housing***
Question 23d

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Renting | 34.5 | 10 |
| Buying | 24.1 | 7 |
| Shared Ownership | 3.4 | 1 |
| Shared Equity | 0.0 | 0 |
| Either | 3.4 | 1 |
| Don't know | 34.6 | 10 |
| No | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **29** |

3.18.5 When asked about the particular features of extra care housing that would be of benefit to them, 29 people responded identifying a wide range of benefits. Respondents made an average of 5.8 choices each.

***Table 3-35 What Features of Extra Care Housing Would Benefit You?***
Question 23d

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Improved security | 100.0 | 29 |
| Having other people around you | 93.1 | 27 |
| The warden | 100.0 | 29 |
| The care and support team | 96.6 | 28 |
| Not worrying about home / garden maintenance | 100.0 | 29 |
| Meals | 93.1 | 27 |
| **Total** | | **169** |

3.18.6 If moving to sheltered or extra care housing, six people said they would like a bungalow, one person would prefer a flat, four would like just one bedroom and three would prefer two bedrooms.

## 3.19 Satisfaction with the Home and Neighbourhood

3.19.1 The next questions probed for information on levels of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the home and general living environment and the local neighbourhood. The responses to these questions are summarised in Table 3-36 and Table 3-37. Respondents were asked to prioritise their choices. 'Do not know' and 'None / Nothing' responses have been ignored for the purpose of this table. We also exclude percentage columns in this case because of the significant difference in the level of responses between 1$^{st}$ and 2$^{nd}$ choices, which produces results which are hard to compare in percentage terms.

***Table 3-36 Reasons for Liking Environment / Neighbourhood***
Question 17a b

| | 1st Choice Nos | 2nd Choice Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Quality of neighbourhood / area | 31 | 35 |
| Quality of home | 8 | 12 |
| Accessibility into / around home | 2 | 1 |
| Familiarity of neighbourhood / area | 21 | 15 |
| Distance to relatives / carer | 2 | 4 |
| Safety of neighbourhood / area | 0 | 2 |
| Public transport / parking | 2 | 3 |
| Neighbours | 2 | 6 |
| Access around neighbourhood area | 2 | 5 |
| Size of home / garden | 3 | 7 |
| Distance to community facilities / shops | 4 | 3 |
| Enjoy the peace and quiet | 16 | 5 |
| Security at home | 0 | 1 |
| Other | 21 | 9 |
| **Total** | **114** | **108** |

3.19.2 As in other recent DCA surveys of older people a high proportion of choices refer to the quality of or familiarity with the neighbourhood / area 45.3% of all choices in this case. The quality and accessibility of the home accounted for just 10.2% of choices which is similar to other recent DCA surveys of older people. 9.3% indicating enjoyment of the peace and quiet and neighbours represented just 3.5% of all choices.

***Table 3-37 Reasons for Dislike of Environment / Neighbourhood***
Question 18 a b

| | 1st Choice Nos | 2nd Choice Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of safety of neighbourhood / area | 1 | 1 |
| Cost to heat home | 0 | 1 |
| Distance to relatives / carer | 2 | 0 |
| Security at home | 1 | 2 |
| Distance to community facilities / shops | 1 | 0 |
| Neighbours | 3 | 1 |
| Quality of home | 1 | 0 |
| Poor public transport / parking facilities | 3 | 2 |
| Noise nuisance from youths | 8 | 2 |
| Other | 20 | 18 |
| **Total** | **40** | **27** |

3.19.3 Specific responses (i.e. excluding 'Do not know' and 'None / Nothing' responses) to the question on dislikes were far lower, endorsing the general perception of satisfaction evidenced above. As in other recent DCA surveys of older people the high proportion of "other" responses 38 responses (56.7%) in this case hampered analysis.

3.19.4 Overall concerns were spread over a number of headings but reference to noise from youths 10 responses (14.9%) may be seen as significant. 48 people said there was nothing specific they disliked about their area.

## 3.20 Moving Households

3.20.1 Respondents were asked to say whether they or any members of the household were currently seeking to move or would do so in the next three years. The result (from 115 household respondents) is set out at Table 3-38 below.

***Table 3-38 Intention to Move Within 3 Years***
Question 24

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Plan to move | 7.0 | 8 |
| Considered move but decided against | 1.7 | 2 |
| No move planned | 91.3 | 105 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

3.20.2 As in other recent DCA surveys of older people a high proportion of respondents have no plans to move, reinforcing earlier indications that members of the sample are settled in their current homes and neighbourhoods.

3.20.3 The two respondents who had considered moving but decided against it were asked why they had changed their plans. Both said they could not afford to move, one also said it was too difficult to organise the move.

3.20.4 Of the eight respondents indicating an intention to move, all gave a location, as detailed in Table 3-39 below. Only two respondents made more than one choice.

***Table 3-39 Where Are You Expecting To Move To?***
Question 26

| | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|
| Same area | 2 |
| Wealden | 1 |
| Hastings | 1 |
| Brighton & Hove | 1 |
| Eastbourne | 1 |
| Elsewhere in South East | 1 |
| Within the UK but outside the South East | 3 |
| **Total** | **10** |

3.20.5 Eight cases had indicated an intention to move away from their local area in Table 3-39 above. Only one person gave a reason for moving away, they were moving for family reasons.

3.20.6 Three people responded to a following question asking why they wanted to move away from the sub region. One person gave family reasons and two said they simply preferred another area.

3.20.7 Movers were then asked what were the main reasons for thinking of moving. Specific reasons chosen by six of the movers responding are shown in Table 3-40 below.

***Table 3-40 Reasons for Thinking of Moving***
Question 28

| | N^os^ |
|---|---|
| Home too large | 2 |
| Fear of crime / personal safety | 1 |
| To be nearer family | 1 |
| Prefer another area | 2 |
| Other | 3 |
| **Total** | **9** |

3.20.8 No particular trends emerged from the data. Two people said their home was too large and two stated that they prefer another area.

***Table 3-41 Preferred Tenure in Next Residence***
Question 29

| | N^os^ |
|---|---|
| Buying a ordinary home on the open market | 3 |
| Renting sheltered housing | 3 |
| Renting ordinary home | 1 |
| **Total** | **7** |

3.20.9 Buying an ordinary home on the open market or renting sheltered housing was the preferred options. One person wanted to rent an ordinary home. One person declined to provide their preferred tenure.

3.20.10 Two respondents were looking for smaller housing and two for housing of a similar size. No respondents wanted larger housing.

3.20.11 Seven respondents were registered on a housing waiting list and all those responding were registered with their local Council.

3.20.12 Five of the movers responded to a question asking how many bedrooms they would need. Two wanted one bedroom, two wanted two bedrooms and one wanted three bedrooms.

3.20.13 When respondents were asked about the type of property required, two respondents requested a bungalow and two required a flat.

3.20.14 When asked when they required this accommodation, three of the six respondents wanted to move now; two responding hoped to move within 12 months and one within three years.

## 3.21 Conclusions

3.21.1 Key Facts:

- 26.7% of respondents are currently living in bungalow accommodation.
- 65% of respondents have one or two bedrooms.
- 60.8% of respondents are the outright owners of their home.
- 60% of respondents have lived in their current home for over 10 years and 91.3% of the sample has no plans to move.
- 29.2% rent their home, of which 71.4% of those were renting in the social housing sector.
- 62.2% of the sample live in single person households.
- 68.6% indicated they have five or more rooms.
- Access to central heating facilities (87.5%) is below 2001 Census figure of 91.5% nationally.

3.21.2 These key facts from interviews with older people in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove give a picture of a settled community, happy with their current housing situation. However the overall picture representing residents own perceptions of their situation at this point in time masks trends which in the future could put significant pressure on the housing and care resources in the County.

- 40% of respondents / partners said they have a long term illness or disability. Disability is focused on households over 75 years old.
- Only 20.8% of households with a disability live in adapted accommodation. 32.5% of respondents said they were unaware of financial and other assistance available from the local authority to help adapt their homes.
- 85.5% of respondents receive no support at home; those who do receive support tend to rely heavily on visiting friends and family.
- 67.5% do not receive any formal support services.
- 56.7% of respondents have annual incomes below £10,000.
- 94.2% of cases receive a state pension.

3.21.3 There appears to be a lack of established patterns of care for older people living at home. 89.5% of cases support was provided by a family/friend/neighbour, rather than a formal support service, 85.5% of all households received no help at all. Although levels of income and savings are higher amongst older people living in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove than in other areas we have studied, low incomes and failure to mobilise savings and investments may already be, and is likely to become in the future, an issue for older people needing to purchase care or home improvements to meet their changing needs. Few respondents had sufficient savings for their future, and it is likely that for many owners their capital assets are tied up in the equity of their home.

3.21.4 The picture now beginning to emerge is of an ageing population with low levels of support, many living in traditional homes on low incomes with their capital tied up as equity in the property. Housing and care agencies across the district will need to address the issues facing their ageing population.

## 3.22 Recommendations

3.22.1 A range of housing and care options is appropriate to meet the needs of the ageing population in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. There will be a need for close working between housing, social care and health agencies through the Supporting People Strategy to ensure the growing needs of older people at home are met and appropriate inter agency responses initiated. Joint working protocols to ensure sharing of information on client needs between social services, housing and health agencies may be appropriate.

3.22.2 The findings of the research indicate a lack of understanding surrounding the provisions of sheltered housing, sheltered housing with extra care and shared equity schemes, this would suggest raising awareness of the these schemes and initiatives to the older population within the County.

3.22.3 Demand will be primarily for ordinary homes to buy in addition to sheltered and extra care housing, located in existing neighbourhoods with support provided in older peoples' own homes rather than in a residential setting.

3.22.4 Need for a protocol with Social Services to ensure that older people at home have access to appropriate care and adaptations. All staff and agencies with direct contact with older people at home should be signed up to the protocol so older people are able to gain access to full range of services via any service provider (health housing, social care etc).

3.22.5 Use of equity release schemes may be appropriate to help older owners access capital for home improvements and care to meet their changing needs.

3.22.6 Data suggests a reliance on informal networks of care and support. There is a need to ensure that older people gain access to the full range of services available to them. A network of information and advice services, linking service providers in the voluntary and statutory sectors should be considered. Particular issues to address include:

- Development of an older persons strategy, linked to the Supporting People strategy, with a particular focus on the needs of frail older people with support needs.
- Information and advice on repair and improvement services and adaptations, including the availability of grants and equity release schemes.
- Information and advice on the range of formal housing and support options available to older people, including a focus on low level support such as cleaning and home care.
- Money advice, including help on accessing benefits and mobilising investments.
- Carer support packages, to enable carers to access respite support as well as information and advice on formal care and support services available in the area.

# 4 THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

## 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The aim was to interview 120 young respondents to find out their housing needs now and in the future. 20 interviews were carried out in each Council area.

4.1.2 The face-to-face interviewing amongst a targeted sub-group of the population was intended to complement the more extensive postal surveys carried out by DCA, allowing a more in-depth understanding of the needs of this specialist group.

## 4.2 Methodology

4.2.1 The interviewers were provided with a quota of 60 males and 60 females to interview, 59 males and 61 females were actually interviewed in the following age groups.

4.2.2 Each authority provided key locations in each area for interviews to target young respondents.

4.2.3 Question A / Question B

| Age | Target Nos | Actual interview Nos |
|---|---|---|
| 16 – 17 | 40 | 40 |
| 18 – 21 | 40 | 41 |
| 22 - 24 | 40 | 39 |
| **Total** | **120** | **120** |

## 4.3 Fieldwork

4.3.1 The fieldwork for this project began on 20th February 2005 and finished 19th March 2005. A total of 120 interviews were achieved.

## 4.4 Quality Control

4.4.1 Mill Field Services is ISO9001 accredited. As a stated part of their procedures Mill Field Services always conduct a minimum 10% 'back check'. In doing this, they can guarantee the validity of all interviews completed and ensure that high standards are met. Mill Field Services check that the interview took place, verify the answers to key questions and check that the respondent was happy with the way the interview was carried out.

## 4.5 Existing Accommodation

4.5.1 The first group of questions cover the current accommodation circumstances of the respondent. Respondents were asked to indicate the nature of their current accommodation. The results are set out in table 4-1 below.

***Table 4-1 Description of Current Accommodation***
Question 1

| Live with others / not independently | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Live with parent / guardian | 46.7 | 56 |
| Live with another relative | 2.5 | 3 |
| **Live independently** | | |
| Live with partner | 15.0 | 18 |
| Live alone | 12.5 | 15 |
| Share with friends | 0.8 | 1 |
| Share with other tenants | 15.9 | 19 |
| Live in lodgings / with landlady | 1.7 | 2 |
| Bed and breakfast | 0.8 | 1 |
| Supported housing / hostel | 0.8 | 1 |
| Currently homeless | 3.3 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **120** |

4.5.2 46.7% of the sample lived with parents or a guardian. There were four cases of young people interviewed who were homeless, and three cases living with other relatives who may be hidden homeless. 50.8% are living in independent accommodation, 15.0% of whom live with their partner, 15.9% share with other tenants. These findings show a lower level of young people in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove living with their family and a higher proportion in independent accommodation compared to other recent DCA surveys of young people. No other descriptions of current accommodation were given.

4.5.3 Table 4-1 indicates that 61 respondents were not living with parents / guardian / friends / other relative. This group was asked to indicate the tenure of their present accommodation; responses were actually received from 66 respondents.

***Table 4-2 Current Tenure***
Question 2

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Owner occupied with mortgage | 9.1 | 6 |
| Owner occupied no mortgage | 3.0 | 2 |
| Council rented | 30.3 | 20 |
| Private rented | 45.5 | 30 |
| Housing association rented | 7.6 | 5 |
| Hostel | 1.5 | 1 |
| Tied to employment | 3.0 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100** | **66** |

4.5.4 As in other recent DCA surveys of young people, a higher proportion of young people living independently were found to be renting (87.9%) rather than buying their homes (12.1%). The contrast was particularly marked in Wealden where all respondents living independently were renting. No other tenure types were provided.

4.5.5 The 56 respondents who indicated rented tenure were asked if the landlord provided furniture. 58 responses were provided as shown in table 4-3 below, suggesting that a respondent may have ticked more than one option.

***Table 4-3 Furniture Provision***
Question 3a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Unfurnished | 56.9 | 33 |
| Partly furnished | 8.6 | 5 |
| Fully furnished | 34.5 | 20 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **58** |

4.5.6 The majority of renters live in unfurnished accommodation. Respondents who had their furniture provided by the landlord were asked their views on the quality of the furniture provided. 56.0% (14 implied) were happy with the quality stating it as good, 40.0% (10 implied) said it was adequate and 4.0% (1 implied) felt their furniture was inadequate for their needs.

4.5.7 All respondents in the sample were asked about the type of accommodation they currently occupy.

***Table 4-4 Current Property Type***
Question 4

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Semi-detached house | 24.3 | 28 |
| Terraced house | 21.7 | 25 |
| Flat | 29.6 | 34 |
| Detached house | 12.2 | 14 |
| Bedsit | 8.7 | 10 |
| Bungalow | 0.9 | 1 |
| Maisonette | 2.6 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

4.5.8 58.2% of respondents live in traditional family type accommodation: terraced, semi detached or detached houses. This reflects the high proportion of respondents living with parents or guardians (49.2%). No data for any other property types were provided.

4.5.9 40.9% of the sample of young people lived in flats / maisonettes / bedsit.

***Table 4-5 Number of Bedrooms***
Question 5

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| One | 16.4 | 19 |
| Two | 18.1 | 21 |
| Three or more | 56.9 | 66 |
| Bedsit/Studio | 8.6 | 10 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **116** |

4.5.10 The relatively high proportion of the sample living in properties with three or more bedrooms (56.9%) is linked to the proportion living in traditional family type accommodation (58.2% in Table 4-5 above).

4.5.11 Respondents were asked if they have any children living with them. 65.2% have no children. This question included partners' children but excluded brothers and sisters.

***Table 4-6 Number of Children in Household***
Question 6a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| None | 65.2 | 75 |
| Child due | 1.7 | 2 |
| One | 19.2 | 22 |
| Two or more | 13.9 | 16 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

4.5.12 38 people were identified as having children and a further two were expecting a baby.

4.5.13 All respondents apart from those indicating in Table 4-1 that they lived with their parents were asked if they shared their accommodation with anyone else. 54.8% (46 implied) of 84 respondents to the question indicated that they shared their accommodation with someone other than parents or a guardian.

4.5.14 In 23 cases (50.0%) the respondent was sharing with four or more people, in 8 cases with one person, in 7 cases with two people and in 8 cases with three other people.

4.5.15 Details of the rooms shared are shown in Table 4-7 below. 45 people responded to this question.

***Table 4-7 Part of Accommodation Shared***
Question 7

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Bathroom / shower | 100.0 | 45 |
| Kitchen | 100.0 | 45 |
| Toilet/WC | 100.0 | 45 |
| Living room | 100.0 | 45 |
| Bedroom | 8.9 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **184** |

4.5.16 As can be seen those involved in sharing, effectively shared almost all accommodation other than a bedroom.

## 4.6 Adequacy of Present Accommodation

4.6.1 78.4% (91) of the 116 respondents to the question indicated their present accommodation was adequate for their needs. This compared to 86.7% of all households across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove.

4.6.2 The 25 cases indicating that their property was not adequate were asked to reply to a multiple choice question on reasons for inadequacy. Highest levels of inadequacy were found in Wealden and Brighton & Hove where in each case 45.0% of respondents said their home was inadequate.

***Table 4-8 Reasons for Inadequacy***
Question 8b

| | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|
| Having to share | 2 |
| No privacy | 9 |
| Too crowded | 20 |
| No independence | 2 |
| Poor condition / needs repair | 1 |
| Neighbour problems / anti social behaviour | 4 |
| Too far from town centre / amenities | 1 |
| Other | 5 |
| **Total** | **44** |

4.6.3 As in other recent DCA surveys of young people the single most important factor emerging was that the home was too crowded, 80% of young people in the survey said the home was too crowded. Respondents made an average of 1.8 choices each. No other reasons for inadequacy were provided.

4.6.4 19 respondents had approached a Council housing advice service about their housing problems. The following services had been accessed by young people in the survey.

***Table 4-9 Services accessed by young people***
Question 8d

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rother / Hastings SHAH | 4.8 | 2.4 | 1 |
| Brighton & Hove YAC | 19.0 | 9.9 | 4 |
| Brighton Housing Trust | 14.3 | 7.3 | 3 |
| Eastbourne / Wealden Eastbourne Housing Aid and Legal Centre | 4.8 | 2.4 | 1 |
| NCH | 4.8 | 2.4 | 1 |
| Connexions | 14.3 | 7.3 | 3 |
| Youth Information Shop | 14.3 | 7.3 | 3 |
| CAB | 61.9 | 31.8 | 13 |
| Brighton YMCA | 14.3 | 7.3 | 3 |
| Hove YMCA | 14.3 | 7.3 | 3 |
| Other | 26.6 | 14.6 | 6 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **41** |

4.6.5 CAB was the most commonly used service, with 61.9% of respondents making this one of their choices. Respondents from all areas except Rother and Eastbourne had accessed CAB services.

4.6.6 Seven respondents said they had been in touch with other agencies such as Social Services, Probation and other Voluntary Agencies.

## 4.7 Location

4.7.1 114 respondents in the sample gave a location for their present accommodation. Respondents were evenly spread across the district in line with the quotas set for the sample.

***Table 4-10 Location of Present Accommodation***
Question 9

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Wealden | 15.8 | 18 |
| Hastings | 16.7 | 19 |
| Rother | 15.8 | 18 |
| Brighton & Hove | 17.5 | 20 |
| Eastbourne | 17.5 | 20 |
| Lewes | 16.7 | 19 |
| **Total** | **100** | **114** |

## 4.8 Homelessness

4.8.1 17.4% (20 of the 115 cases responding in the sample) indicated that they had been homeless; this was higher than other recent DCA surveys of young people where a figure of 9.0% has been the average. The proportion rose to 40.0% amongst respondents from Brighton & Hove and 35.0% amongst those from Wealden.

4.8.2 25 people answered a subsequent question asking how many times they had been homeless. We found that the majority (48.0%) had been homeless only once although two people had been homeless six or more times.

***Table 4-11 Number of Occasions Homeless***
Question 10b

| | N^os |
|---|---|
| Once | 12 |
| Twice | 7 |
| Three to five times | 4 |
| Six times or more | 2 |
| **Total** | **25** |

4.8.3 Table 4-12 shows the length of time young people said they had slept rough. 10 people responded to the question and of those, four respondents indicated that they has slept rough for between one week and one month and three respondents had slept rough for over one year.

***Table 4-12 Length of Time Sleeping Rough***
Question 10d

| | N^os |
|---|---|
| Less than 1 week | 2 |
| 1 week - 1 month | 4 |
| 1 month - 6 months | 0 |
| 6 months - 1 year | 1 |
| Over 1 year | 3 |
| Don't know | 0 |
| **Total** | **10** |

4.8.4 21 cases responded to a question asking how long they had been homeless for during the first period of homelessness.

***Table 4-13 Period of Homelessness (1st Occasion)***
Question 10e

| | Nos |
|---|---|
| Less than 1 week | 6 |
| 1 week to a month | 3 |
| 1 month to 6 months | 3 |
| 6 months to 1 year | 6 |
| Over 1 year | 3 |
| **Total** | **21** |

4.8.5 Nine people had been homeless for more than six months during their first period of homelessness and six people had been homeless for less than a week.

4.8.6 The respondents were then asked why they had become homeless. 22 people responded to a multiple choice question, each giving 1.2 responses on average.

***Table 4-14 The Reason for Becoming Homeless***
Question 10f

| | Nos |
|---|---|
| Family row / step parent dispute | 13 |
| Domestic violence / abuse | 3 |
| Relationship breakdown (non-violent) | 7 |
| Moved to a new area | 1 |
| Left care / children's home | 1 |
| Other | 2 |
| **Total** | **27** |

4.8.7 As in other recent DCA surveys of young people, family row and step-parent dispute was the main single reason given.

## 4.9 Residence

***Table 4-15 Length of Time Resident in this area***
Question 11

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Always lived here | 8.5 | 10 |
| Less than 6 months | 11.0 | 13 |
| 6 months up to 1 year | 7.6 | 9 |
| 1 year up to 2 years | 11.9 | 14 |
| 2 years up to 5 years | 11.9 | 14 |
| 5 years or more | 49.1 | 58 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **118** |

4.9.1 10 (8.5%) of the respondents were well-established in the area having been there all their life, this included six respondents from Wealden and four from Brighton & Hove. A further 49.1% had lived in the area for five years or more.

4.9.2 The following question asked young people how long they had lived at their current address.

***Table 4-16 Length of Time Resident at Present Address***
Question 12a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| 1 week - 6 months | 16.8 | 20 |
| 6 months - 1 year | 17.6 | 21 |
| 1 - 3 years | 15.1 | 18 |
| 3 - 5 years | 12.6 | 15 |
| 5 years or more | 36.2 | 43 |
| No fixed address | 1.7 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **119** |

4.9.3 36.2% of respondents had been resident at their present address for more than five years. This suggests a fair measure of stability within the sample, although not as high as found in other recent DCA surveys of young people where a higher proportion are still living with their family or guardian.

4.9.4 Those who had lived at their present address for less than three years (59 cases) were asked how many times they had moved in the last three years. 62 people responded to the question.

***Table 4-17 How Many Times Have You Moved In the Last 3 Years***
Question 12b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Once | 53.2 | 33 |
| Twice | 21.0 | 13 |
| Three times | 12.9 | 8 |
| Four times | 8.1 | 5 |
| Five times or more | 4.8 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **62** |

4.9.5 The majority had only moved once (53.2%). 12.9% (8 implied) of those who had moved in the last three years had actually moved four or more times, indicating an unsettled recent housing history. The average number of moves was at least two.

## 4.10 Previous Accommodation from Age 16

4.10.1 36.8% (43 implied) of the 117 respondents to the question indicated that they had lived nowhere other than their present address since the age of 16. This is a lower proportion to that found in other recent DCA surveys of young people where a proportion of around 50% has been typical.

4.10.2 The 74 cases indicating that they had lived somewhere else were asked about the nature of that accommodation (multiple-choice). The results are set out in Table 4-18 below. Respondents made an average of 1.7 choices each.

***Table 4-18 Nature of Previous Accommodation from Age 16***
Question 13a

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nowhere else | 36.8 | 21.3 | 43 |
| With parent / guardian | 53.0 | 30.7 | 62 |
| Lived alone | 6.8 | 4.0 | 8 |
| With spouse / partner | 12.0 | 6.9 | 14 |
| With a friend / relative | 13.7 | 7.9 | 16 |
| Children's home / care / fostered | 1.7 | 1.0 | 2 |
| In a shared flat / house | 11.1 | 6.4 | 13 |
| In a hostel | 2.6 | 1.5 | 3 |
| In a bed & breakfast | 7.7 | 4.5 | 9 |
| In a bedsit / lodgings | 7.7 | 4.5 | 9 |
| Slept rough | 6.8 | 4.0 | 8 |
| Stayed with different friends for one or two nights at a time | 9.4 | 5.3 | 11 |
| Other | 3.4 | 2.0 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **202** |

4.10.3 Some 53% of the cases had previously lived with their parents / guardian for at least part of the time from age 16. 12 cases had not lived with their parent / guardian since they were 16. A number of responses indicated less settled housing histories: living in hostel (3 cases), bed and breakfast (9 cases) or in care / children's home / fostered (2 cases), sleeping rough (8 case), 11 people had spent time staying with a number of different friends for a few nights at a time.

4.10.4 80 people responded to a question asking where they had lived before they moved to their current address. 20% had lived in the same area. 31 people had moved to East Sussex from outside the Area and 50% had settled in Eastbourne.

***Table 4-19 Where did you live before you moved to your current address?***
Question 13b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Same area | 20.0 | 16 |
| Wealden | 5.0 | 4 |
| Hastings | 10.0 | 8 |
| Rother | 8.8 | 7 |
| Brighton & Hove | 6.2 | 5 |
| Eastbourne | 6.2 | 5 |
| Lewes | 5.0 | 4 |
| London | 11.3 | 9 |
| Elsewhere in Sussex | 3.7 | 3 |
| Elsewhere in Kent | 5.0 | 4 |
| Elsewhere in South East | 1.2 | 1 |
| Within the UK but outside the South East | 8.8 | 7 |
| Outside UK | 8.8 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **80** |

4.10.5 All 74 of those who had lived elsewhere since the age of 16 answered a question asking for the most important reason for moving last time they moved. The results are given in Table 4-20 below.

***Table 4-20 Most Important Reason For Moving, Last Time***
Question 13c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Need more space | 18.9 | 14 |
| New relationship | 9.6 | 7 |
| Breakdown / dispute with family / friends | 6.8 | 5 |
| To move to a better home | 4.1 | 3 |
| Health reasons | 1.3 | 1 |
| Local employment / access to work | 9.6 | 7 |
| Wanted to buy | 1.3 | 1 |
| Got involved with crime | 5.4 | 4 |
| Away from bad influences | 1.3 | 1 |
| Education | 29.7 | 22 |
| Tenancy ended | 1.3 | 1 |
| Move to a cheaper home | 1.3 | 1 |
| Over crowding | 2.7 | 2 |
| To be near relatives / friends | 5.4 | 4 |
| Eviction | 1.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100** | **74** |

4.10.6 The most important reason for moving was education, 29.7% of respondents gave this as their reason. Needing more space was also an important reason, with 18.9% of people giving this as a reason, this was however less significant than in most of our surveys where it is often the most common reason for moving.

## 4.11 Future Housing Needs

4.11.1 Young people in the sample were asked a series of questions about their future moving intentions.

4.11.2 70.1% (82 implied) of 117 respondents indicated an intention to move in the next three years. This is typical of other recent DCA surveys of young people. 74.7% (56 implied) were looking for accommodation for the long term and 25.3% (19 implied) were looking for short term accommodation.

4.11.3 Those who were intending to move were asked what type of accommodation they were looking for. The results are given in Table 4-21 below.

***Table 4-21 Type of Accommodation Preferred***
Question 29a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Flat | 55.8 | 43 |
| Terraced house | 7.8 | 6 |
| Semi-detached house | 11.7 | 9 |
| Bedsit | 5.2 | 4 |
| Room in shared house | 6.5 | 5 |
| Detached house | 5.2 | 4 |
| Maisonette | 5.2 | 4 |
| Other | 2.6 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100** | **77** |

4.11.4 The largest single element of demand was for flats. 66.2% of movers hoped to get a flat / maisonette or bedsit, compared to just 40.9% of young people currently living independently who live in flats. 24.7% want traditional family accommodation: a terraced house, semi detached house or detached house. This compared to 40.1% of all concealed households moving across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove who wanted a flat.

4.11.5 The following question asked respondents how many bedrooms they would need. 65.7% need one or two bedrooms.

***Table 4-22 Number Of Bedrooms Needed***
Question 29b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| None | 8.6 | 6 |
| One | 14.3 | 10 |
| Two | 51.4 | 36 |
| Three | 7.1 | 5 |
| Four or more | 14.3 | 10 |
| Room in shared house | 4.3 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **70** |

***Table 4-23 Timescale of Move***
Question 28

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Looking now | 37.7 | 29 |
| 1 year | 36.4 | 28 |
| 2 years | 19.5 | 15 |
| 3 years | 6.4 | 5 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **77** |

4.11.6 74.1% (57 implied) of movers were seeking to move either immediately or within one year. This is higher than other recent DCA surveys of young people where a figure of around 59% has been typical. Across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole 31.2% of all concealed households wanted to move within a year.

***Table 4-24 Preferred Tenure***
Question 30

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Council rented | 33.3 | 23 |
| Private rented | 47.8 | 33 |
| Buy a house/get a mortgage | 5.8 | 4 |
| Housing Association rented | 8.7 | 6 |
| Other | 4.4 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100** | **69** |

4.11.7 Tenure choices were spread across social rented housing (42%), and private rented housing (47.8%). Across East Sussex and Brighton & Hove as a whole 34.4% of all concealed households expected to rent their next home, of whom 55.4% would rent in private sector. Owner-occupation was only an option for 5.8% of respondents. This may reflect a realistic assessment of what they can achieve given the low incomes in the sample.

4.11.8 The ability of young people to achieve their housing aspirations will be constrained by their low incomes and the relatively high price of owner occupation through out the County.

4.11.9 62 cases indicated a preference to rent at Table 4-24 above, 65 cases indicated the following preferred level of furnishing.

***Table 4-25 Preference for Furnished / Unfurnished Accommodation***
Question 31

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Unfurnished | 35.4 | 23 |
| Fully furnished | 33.8 | 22 |
| Part furnished | 30.8 | 20 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **65** |

4.11.10 64.6% of those intending to rent would like some furniture provided. This compares to 43.1% of people currently renting who have some furniture provided by the landlord.

4.11.11 Sharing accommodation is one way young people could reduce the costs of their housing. Movers were invited to give a view on whether they would in fact share their next accommodation with anyone. 69 people responded to the question. 41 (59.4%) indicated that they would be willing to share. The following question asked who they would be willing to share with, 41 people responded and one respondent made two choices.

***Table 4-26 Who Would You Share Your Accommodation With***
Question 33

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Friends | 92.7 | 38 |
| Parent / guardian | 4.9 | 2 |
| Other relative | 4.9 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100** | **42** |

4.11.12 As would be expected the majority of those who would be prepared to share, 92.7% (38 implied) said they would share with friends. 4.9% (2 implied) would share with their parent/guardian and 4.9% (2 implied) would share with 'other' relative. No other data was given regarding sharing accommodation.

4.11.13 11.6% (5 implied) of the 43 cases indicated that they would be prepared to share all facilities, the others all facilities other than a bedroom. Only three respondents were prepared to share their bedroom.

***Table 4-27 What Part Of the Accommodation Would You Share***
Question 34

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| All of it | 11.6 | 5 |
| Bedroom | 7.0 | 3 |
| Bathroom / shower | 83.7 | 36 |
| Living room | 83.7 | 36 |
| Kitchen | 83.7 | 36 |
| WC / Toilet | 83.7 | 36 |

4.11.14 The movers were asked to nominate their preferred location for a move. Respondents were allowed to make up to two choices. Respondents made an average of 1.1 choices each.

***Table 4-28 Preferred Location***
Question 26b

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Same area | 28.0 | 24.5 | 23 |
| Wealden | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4 |
| Hastings | 8.5 | 7.4 | 7 |
| Rother | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3 |
| Brighton & Hove | 19.5 | 17.0 | 16 |
| Eastbourne | 13.4 | 11.7 | 11 |
| Lewes | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4 |
| London | 11.0 | 9.6 | 9 |
| Elsewhere in Kent | 3.7 | 3.2 | 3 |
| Elsewhere in South East | 2.4 | 2.1 | 2 |
| Within the UK but outside the South East | 6.1 | 5.3 | 5 |
| Outside the UK | 8.5 | 7.4 | 7 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **94** |

4.11.15 28% of respondents wanted to remain in the same area. The most popular area chosen was Brighton & Hove, 19.5% of respondents made this one of their choices. 80% of respondents already living in Brighton & Hove wanted to remain there. 82 people responded making an average of 1.1 choices each. There was no data for Elsewhere in East Sussex.

4.11.16 24 people responded to a following question asking why they wanted to move out of the area. 37.5% wanted to move away to be closer to family or friends, 33.3% to be closer to school / college. No other reasons for moving away were provided.

***Table 4-29 Reasons for Moving Away From the Area***
Question 36e

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Prefer another area | 20.8 | 19.2 | 5 |
| To be near family / friends | 37.5 | 34.6 | 9 |
| Near school / college | 33.3 | 30.8 | 8 |
| Other | 16.7 | 15.4 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **26** |

4.11.17 All those planning to move were asked to give reasons for preferred location, 83 people responded giving an average of 2.3 responses each.

***Table 4-30 Reasons for Preferring Location***
Question 26c

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Near family / friends / carer | 44.6 | 19.6 | 37 |
| Always lived here | 39.8 | 17.5 | 33 |
| Better area | 10.8 | 4.8 | 9 |
| Near work / easy access to work | 19.3 | 8.5 | 16 |
| Safety / fear of crime | 7.2 | 3.2 | 6 |
| Near leisure facilities / shopping | 8.4 | 3.7 | 7 |
| Near schools / colleges | 38.6 | 16.9 | 32 |
| Need larger home | 21.7 | 9.5 | 18 |
| Availability of public transport | 6.0 | 2.6 | 5 |
| Near hospital / doctor | 12.0 | 5.3 | 10 |
| Away from family | 2.4 | 1.1 | 2 |
| Availability of cheaper housing | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Away from bad influences | 1.2 | 0.5 | 1 |
| Neighbour problems / anti social behaviour | 4.8 | 2.1 | 4 |
| Other | 9.6 | 4.2 | 8 |
| **Total** | | **100** | **189** |

4.11.18 The majority of cases preferred the area chosen as they had always lived there (39.8%) or wanted to stay close to family (44.6%). Only two cases wanted to move to get away from their family. The results reinforce the importance of friends and family providing support to young people when the move away from home. The needs of young people moving into the County or those without family networks should be considered. No other reasons for preferring the location were provided by the respondents.

4.11.19 Proximity to schools and colleges is also a significant factor, 38.6% made this one of their choices. Access to work was a choice for 19.3% of respondents. In other recent DCA surveys of young people this has also been a priority.

4.11.20 The next question asked young people to say what the most important reason for moving was. 77 people responded giving the following reasons.

***Table 4-31 Most Important Reason for Moving***
Question 26d

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Need more space | 32.5 | 25 |
| New relationship | 1.3 | 1 |
| To be near relatives / friends | 6.5 | 5 |
| Local employment / access to work | 9.1 | 7 |
| Education | 14.3 | 11 |
| Wanted to buy | 1.3 | 1 |
| To move to a better home | 10.4 | 8 |
| Breakdown / dispute with family / friends | 1.3 | 1 |
| Live independently without support | 11.7 | 9 |
| Tenancy ended | 6.5 | 5 |
| Overcrowding | 1.3 | 1 |
| Away from bad influences | 1.3 | 1 |
| Got involved with crime | 2.5 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **77** |

4.11.21 As with other recent DCA surveys, the most common reason chosen was needing more space (32.5%). In other recent DCA surveys however this has accounted for more than half of all choices. In East Sussex and Brighton & Hove choices were spread across a wider range of options with 14.3% choosing education as the most important reason, 11.7% wanting to live independently, and 10.4% saying they wanted to move to a better home. No other reasons for moving were provided by the respondents.

4.11.22 Respondents were asked about their expectations of income, rent and mortgage levels when they moved.

4.11.23 62 people indicated in table 4.24 above that they intend to rent their next home. The first question asked respondents at what age they thought they could become a tenant. 94 people responded, 34.0% thought they could have a tenancy from the age of 16.

***Table 4-32 At What Age Can You Become a Tenant?***
Question 15

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| 16+ | 34.0 | 32 |
| 18+ | 57.4 | 54 |
| 21+ | 8.6 | 8 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **94** |

4.11.24 Respondents were also asked if they had any idea how much deposit they might have to pay on a rented home. 64 people responded, of whom 79.7% of respondents expected to pay a months rent as a deposit.

***Table 4-33 As a Tenant how Much Deposit Might You Have To Pay?***
Question 16

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| None | 4.7 | 3 |
| One weeks rent | 9.4 | 6 |
| One months rent | 79.7 | 51 |
| 6 weeks rent | 6.2 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **64** |

4.11.25 23.5% of respondents thought their rent would be covered by Housing Benefit (24 implied). 52.0% expected their wages to cover their rent. Respondents made an average of 1.1 choices each.

***Table 4-34 How do you think you would pay your rent?***
Question 17

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Wages | 52.0 | 53 |
| Housing Benefit | 23.5 | 24 |
| Help from Parents | 17.6 | 18 |
| Anyway I can | 16.7 | 17 |
| **Total** | | **112** |

4.11.26 Respondents were asked how much housing benefit they thought they would entitled to if they were renting their own accommodation.

***Table 4-35 How Much Housing Benefit do You Think You Would Be Entitled To?***
Question 18

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| £0 - £25 / week | 15.0 | 3 |
| £26 - £40 / week | 25.0 | 5 |
| £41 - £55 / week | 20.0 | 4 |
| £56 - £70 / week | 0.0 | 0 |
| £71 - £90 / week | 20.0 | 4 |
| £91+ / week | 20.0 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **20** |

4.11.27 Finally young people were asked what type of housing they thought they could realistically afford. 56.0% thought they could afford a flat / maisonette.

***Table 4-36 What type of housing do you think you could afford?***
Question 19

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Semi detached house | 8.3 | 7 |
| Detached house | 2.4 | 2 |
| Terraced house | 3.6 | 3 |
| Bed sit / Studio | 8.3 | 7 |
| Flat / Maisonette | 56.0 | 47 |
| Room in shared house | 21.4 | 18 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **84** |

4.11.28 Respondents were asked what help if any they needed finding a new home. 74 people responded giving an average of 1.7 responses each.

***Table 4-37 Help Required Finding A New Home***
Question 35

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Practical help to find accommodation | 91.9 | 54.8 | 68 |
| Advice on budgeting / paying bills | 16.2 | 9.7 | 12 |
| Financial help with bond / deposit | 18.9 | 11.3 | 14 |
| Provision of furniture | 28.4 | 16.9 | 21 |
| Accommodation linked to employment | 1.4 | 0.8 | 1 |
| Support / Training linked to accommodation | 1.4 | 0.8 | 1 |
| Life skills support | 1.4 | 0.8 | 1 |
| None | 8.1 | 4.9 | 6 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **124** |

4.11.29 Most people wanted practical help to find accommodation (91.9% of cases mentioned this). 28.4% required help with furniture and 18.9% required financial help with securing a bond/deposit.

4.11.30 22 people were registered on a housing waiting list, 20 with their local Council, two were registered with a Housing Association, and two with another Council. 23 people actually hoped to get a Council tenancy when they moved (see Table 4-24 above) and six hoped to rent from a housing association.

## 4.12 Advice

4.12.1 All respondents were asked to indicate their awareness of housing advice support agencies. Table 4-38 sets out the response to a multiple choice question given by 119 respondents. Respondents made an average of 3.6 choices each.

***Table 4-38 Awareness of Housing Support Agencies***
Question 37

| | % cases | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Social Services/Social Worker | 48.7 | 58 |
| Council Housing Advice & Homelessness | 26.1 | 31 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | 63.0 | 75 |
| Probation Officer | 21.0 | 25 |
| Brighton & Hove YAC | 16.0 | 36 |
| Youth worker in youth centre | 17.6 | 21 |
| Brighton Housing Trust (BHT) | 21.0 | 25 |
| Rother/Hastings – Shelter Housing Action for Hastings (SHAH) | 7.6 | 9 |
| Rother/Hastings Youth Accommodation Support Services (YASS) | 3.4 | 4 |
| Hastings Advice and Representation Centre (HARC) | 2.5 | 3 |
| NCH | 5.0 | 6 |
| Xtrax | 5.0 | 6 |
| Eastbourne/Wealden Eastbourne Housing Aid and Legal Centre (EHLAC) | 8.4 | 10 |
| Other youth support agency | 4.2 | 5 |
| Youth information shop | 9.2 | 11 |
| Lewes District Foyer | 9.2 | 11 |
| Brighton YMCA | 30.3 | 36 |
| Hove YMCA | 22.7 | 27 |
| Other housing support agency | 0.8 | 1 |
| None of these | 10.1 | 12 |
| **Total** | | **412** |

4.12.2 10.1% of respondents did not know about any of the services available. Those most commonly recognised were Citizens Advice Bureau (63.0%) and Social Services (48.7%). A wide range of local services were also recognised, the most well recognised being Brighton YMCA.

4.12.3 79.0% of the respondents said they would have benefited from housing advice having been offered to them at school or college.

## 4.13 Disability

4.13.1 Only six cases in the whole sample of 120 respondents indicated that they had a disability. The nature of the disability is shown in the table below, seven people responded.

***Table 4-39 Nature of Disability***
Question 24b

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Mental health problems | 57.1 | 4 |
| Visual / hearing impairment | 14.3 | 1 |
| Learning difficulties | 28.6 | 2 |
| Other physical disability | 14.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **8** |

4.13.2 Four people said they needed care / support in relation to a disability of long term illness. Two people said they did not receive sufficient care / support. No other types of disability were stated by the respondents.

4.13.3 Four people said they knew where to go to access support services for people with disabilities. The following question asked how easy they thought it was to find support services for people with disabilities.

***Table 4-40 How Easy is it to Find Support Services for Disabled People?***
Question 25d

| | % cases | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Very easy | 16.7 | 1 |
| Fairly easy | 33.3 | 2 |
| Not very easy | 0.0 | 0 |
| Not at all easy | 16.7 | 1 |
| Don't know | 33.3 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **6** |

## 4.14 Personal Information

4.14.1 The sample was asked a series of questions relating to their personal circumstances. This included details on their employment status, income and housing costs.

4.14.2 Respondents were asked about their employment status. The results from all 120 respondents are set out in Table 4-41 below.

***Table 4-41 Current Circumstances***
Question 14

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Employed | 30.8 | 37 |
| At school | 4.2 | 5 |
| Unemployed | 15.8 | 19 |
| University / college | 36.7 | 44 |
| Looking after a home | 10.9 | 13 |
| Long term sick / disabled | 0.8 | 1 |
| Caring for someone | 0.8 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100** | **120** |

4.14.3 30.8% of the sample was in employment and 40.9% were studying or training. A high proportion of young people in the sample were unemployed; 15.8%.

4.14.4 We next asked for information on current source(s) of income. The results from 113 respondents to a multiple choice question are set out at Table 4-42 below. Respondents made an average of 1.4 choices each.

***Table 4-42 Source of Income***
Question 20

| | % cases | % response | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Wage / salary | 59.3 | 41.9 | 67 |
| Income support / Job seeker allowance | 18.6 | 13.1 | 21 |
| Any other source | 25.7 | 18.1 | 29 |
| Housing benefit | 15.9 | 11.3 | 18 |
| Education grant / Student loan | 18.6 | 13.1 | 21 |
| Other social security benefits | 3.5 | 2.5 | 4 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **160** |

4.14.5 59.3% of respondents got at least part of their income from wages / salary, 30.8% had indicated in Table 4-41 above that they were in employment, suggesting that 30 respondents get part of their income from employment. 21 of cases indicated that they were on Income Support / Job seekers allowance, reflecting the high proportion of respondents out of work indicated Table 4-41 above, and suggesting that two respondents get part of their income from income support.

4.14.6 Respondents were asked to indicate their gross annual income (including that of their partner where appropriate). 106 of the 120 cases (88.3%) responded with a specific band, which gives a good picture on the income of the young people in the sample. In addition to those responding within a specific band five people said they did not know their income.

***Table 4-43 Gross Annual Income***
Question 21

| | % | % cum | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| £5,000 or less | 61.3 | 61.3 | 68 |
| £5,000 - £7,500 | 13.5 | 74.8 | 15 |
| £7,501 - £10,000 | 6.3 | 81.1 | 7 |
| £10,001 - £12,500 | 2.7 | 83.8 | 3 |
| £12,501 - £15,000 | 0.9 | 84.7 | 1 |
| £15,001 - £17,500 | 1.8 | 86.5 | 2 |
| £17,501 - £20,000 | 2.7 | 89.2 | 3 |
| £20,001 - £30,000 | 3.6 | 92.8 | 4 |
| £30,000 or above | 2.7 | 95.5 | 3 |
| Don't know | 4.5 | 100.0 | 5 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | | **111** |

4.14.7 61.3% had income below £5,000 per year; 81.1% below £10,000, this compared to 21.3% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove with incomes below £10,000. These very low incomes reflect the profile of the sample, and the high proportion not working. The findings are typical of other recent DCA surveys of young people.

4.14.8 55 cases were identified as renting at Table 4-2 above. 62 people responded within specific bands indicating the level of rent currently paid. (Query)

***Table 4-44 Monthly Rent Paid***
Question 22a

| | % | Cum % | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| £173 or less | 14.5 | 14.5 | 9 |
| £173 - £195 | 4.8 | 19.3 | 3 |
| £196 - £233 | 16.1 | 35.4 | 10 |
| £234 - £290 | 29.0 | 64.4 | 18 |
| £291 - £325 | 11.3 | 75.7 | 7 |
| £326 - £364 | 8.1 | 83.8 | 5 |
| £365 - £390 | 0.0 | 83.8 | 0 |
| £391 - £464 | 1.6 | 85.4 | 1 |
| £Above £464 | 14.6 | 100.0 | 9 |
| | **100.0** | | **62** |

4.14.9 14.5% of the sample pays less than £173 per month. 64.4% pay less than £291 per month. Table 4-2 above showed 45.5% of those renting are in fact in the private sector where rents are traditionally higher suggesting that young people living independently in rented accommodation will, for reasons of cost, move towards the lower end of the rented market. Those renting cheaply in the private sector are thought to be particularly vulnerable to poor conditions and insecurity of tenure. It should also be noted that in spite of the low incomes of young people in the sample, only 18 cases said they were currently in receipt of housing benefit (32.7% of those indicating rented tenure at Table 4-2 above).

4.14.10 Only eight people indicated they were buying their home in Table 4-2 above. Five people responded within a specific band to a question asking for their monthly mortgage payment. Two pay £250 per month or less, two pay between £401 - £500 per month and one respondent pays between £501 - £600 per month.

## 4.15 Ethnic Origin

4.15.1 Finally, respondents were asked to indicate their ethnic origin.

***Table 4-45 Ethnic Origin***
Question 39

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| White British | 79.3 | 95 |
| White Irish | 0.8 | 1 |
| White other | 2.5 | 3 |
| White and Black African | 2.5 | 3 |
| White and Asian | 0.8 | 1 |
| Black African | 0.8 | 1 |
| Bangladeshi | 2.5 | 3 |
| Indian | 1.7 | 2 |
| Asian other | 5.8 | 7 |
| Chinese | 3.3 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100** | **120** |

## 4.16 Conclusions

4.16.1 Key Facts

- 46.7% of the sample live with their parents / guardian;
- 50.8% are living in independent accommodation, 87.9% of these were living in rented accommodation. 56.9% of these live in unfurnished accommodation;
- 78.4% of respondents thought their accommodation was adequate for their housing needs;
- 58.2% live in traditional family type accommodation;
- 57.6% of respondents had lived in their current Area for more than 5 years;
- 36.2% of respondents had lived at the same address for more than 5 years;
- 36.8% had never lived anywhere other than their current address since the age of 16.
- 40.9% were studying or training.

4.16.2 There was a significant amount of evidence suggesting that the sample of young people interviewed were well established in the areas they lived and in their homes 78.4% indicated their present accommodation was adequate for their needs. Many appeared to have an existing network of support at home and had little desire to move away from familiar locations. 44.6% of movers would choose location based on proximity to their family or friends, 39.8% based on the fact that they had always lived in the area. However there was also, as would be expected in a sample of this type, evidence of mobility. For example 63.2% of cases had lived somewhere other than their current address since the age of 16, far higher than the average in our survey experience (40%).

4.16.3 Overall figures may mask some of the growing needs and aspirations of young people for independent accommodation. In addition it is perhaps more important to look at the relatively small numbers of young people who do not indicate a settled housing history, it is this group who are likely to make the most challenging demands on housing services in the future. Of the household that suggested they accommodation was inadequate 80% said it was due to being too crowded.

4.16.4 17.4% of respondents indicated that they had experienced a period of homelessness, the most common reason for homelessness was family row.

4.16.5 2.5% of respondents are currently living with friends or relatives other than their parent / guardian, suggesting some hidden homelessness.

4.16.6 A number of cases had previously lived with friends (16), been in care (2), lived in lodgings or bed and breakfast (9), been sleeping rough (8), or in hostels (3) or living with different friends for a few days at a time (11) since the age of 16.

4.16.7 28.0% wanted to remain in the same area, the most popular area chosen was Brighton & Hove.

4.16.8 Overall the sample showed 70.1% of respondents intend to move in the next 3 years. 74.1% of movers want to move within one year. 20.7% of young people intending to move want to move out of the County. The most important reason for moving was for more space.

4.16.9 Demand for property types and tenure are varied, although demand from young people was for renting rather than buying compared to all concealed households in the general population and for flats rather than houses. 65.7% want one or two bedrooms.

4.16.10 House prices in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove are rising, and low income is a major barrier to young people achieving their housing aims and aspirations. Only 30.8% of the sample is in employment, 81.1% of respondents had incomes below £10,000 per year. Sharing is an option for 59.4% of respondents wishing to move, enabling access to housing and reducing costs for young people in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. 23.5% of respondents thought their rent would be covered by Housing Benefit.

4.16.11 CAB was the most commonly used service by young people. Most young people wanted practical help to find accommodation. Respondents also said they would have benefits from advice having been offered to them at school or college.

## 4.17 Recommendations

- Housing provision for young people needs to be planned imaginatively to take account of their needs and aspirations, low levels of income and desire to maintain links with areas where they have grown up. A range of housing options is appropriate, including furnished tenancies and shared houses. There is a preference for renting flats both in the social rented sector and the private sector.

- The local authorities need to review the information and advice services offered to young people in their areas. Working with the voluntary sector information and advice should be targeted to the needs of young people. In particular offering practical help and advice on money, budgeting and accessing and sustaining their tenancy. It may be appropriate to link this to advice on training and employment.

- The needs of vulnerable young people, including those with an unsettled housing history and those new to the area without local family support should be closely linked to the Connexions service and the homelessness strategy. Joined up working is essential to create networks of support to help young people sustain their tenancies.

- Youth homelessness is a particular issue in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove and should be addressed through the homelessness strategy at both a local and County level. Joint working with the YMCA or similar at a local level and develop a foyer scheme linking employment and accommodation.

- Need to assess provision for youth homelessness across the district via Supporting People strategy. Need to consider the needs of young people in more rural communities e.g. what are their options if homeless: “sofa surfing”, moving to towns? Young people are often hidden homeless and their needs go un met. Need to work with local advice and information providers to identify and meet needs.

- The ability of young people to achieve their housing aspirations will be constrained by their low incomes and the relatively high price of owner occupation through out the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove area.

- Recommend improved links with young people while they are still at home / school / college. Housing support and information packs distributed via Connexions or local schools.

# 5 THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

## 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The aim was to interview respondents with Learning Disability to find out their housing needs and aspirations now and in the future.

## 5.2 Methodology

5.2.1 Mill Field Services were provided with a dedicated questionnaire and picture board by DCA, with the assistance of East Sussex County Council.

5.2.2 The interviewers were provided with an address file of 146 potential interviewees. Mill Field Services allocated time prior to the field work pre-arranging a number of interviews within each authority area.

5.2.3 A total of 115 interviews were achieved overall. The interviews were conducted either in day centres or the respondents' homes with the accompaniment of the carer or parent. Brighton made their own appointments and Community Support workers accompanied each interview.

## 5.3 Fieldwork

5.3.1 The fieldwork for this project began on 7th March 2005 and finished 19th March 2005. A total of 115 interviews were achieved. Table 5-1 below illustrates the breakdown of the achieved interviews in each authority area.

***Table 5-1***

| Area Name | Addresses Issued | Interviews Achieved |
|---|---|---|
| Brighton | 24 | 13 |
| Eastbourne | 16 | 14 |
| Hastings | 30 | 24 |
| Lewes | 19 | 18 |
| Rother | 22 | 19 |
| Wealden | 35 | 27 |
| **Total** | **146** | **115** |

## 5.4 Profile of Respondents

5.4.1 A breakdown of the profile of those interviewed is outlined in Table 5-2 below.

***Table 5-2 Profile of Respondents***

| Age | Male | Females |
|---|---|---|
| 16-24 | 7 | 6 |
| 25-44 | 42 | 27 |
| 45-59 | 11 | 16 |
| 60-74 | 0 | 5 |
| No data for age | 1 | 0 |
| **Total** | **61** | **54** |

## 5.5 Current Housing Situation

5.5.1 The first section of the questionnaire assessed the current housing situation of people with a Learning Disability. The type of accommodation of people in this group is outlined in below.

***Table 5-3 Present Living Accommodation***
Question 1

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Large residential nursing home | 8.7 | 10 |
| Shared living / small group living | 15.7 | 18 |
| Own property with community support | 4.3 | 5 |
| Supported living complex | 6.1 | 7 |
| Family placement | 2.6 | 3 |
| Family home | 46.1 | 53 |
| Independent Living | 14.8 | 17 |
| Other | 1.7 | 2 |
| | **100.0** | **115** |

5.5.2 46.1% of respondents with learning disabilities were living in their family home. 71.4% of those living in Eastbourne (10 cases) were living in the family home compared to none from Brighton & Hove.

5.5.3 Of respondents living in a residential nursing home, 50% were in Wealden (5 cases). 33.3% of those living in shared living / small group homes were in Rother (6 cases), 22.2% in Lewes (4 cases). 58.8% (10 cases) in independent living were in Brighton & Hove.

***Table 5-4 Tenure of Present Living Accommodation***
Question 2

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Owner occupied, still paying mortgage | 15.7 | 18 |
| Owner occupied, no mortgage | 23.5 | 27 |
| Housing Association shared ownership | 0.0 | 0 |
| Housing Association rented | 21.7 | 25 |
| Private rented | 14.8 | 17 |
| Council rented | 12.2 | 14 |
| Other | 12.1 | 14 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.5.4 39.2% of respondents live in owner occupied accommodation, of whom 23.5% had no mortgage. 48.7% were in rented accommodation, of whom 33.9% were renting in the social housing sector.

***Table 5-5 Accommodation Property Type***
Question 3

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Terraced house | 18.4 | 21 |
| Semi-detached house | 19.3 | 22 |
| Detached house (not bungalow) | 33.3 | 38 |
| Flat | 15.8 | 18 |
| Maisonette | 0.9 | 1 |
| Bungalow | 12.3 | 14 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **114** |

5.5.5 71.0% of respondents were living in traditional family housing (terraced, semi detached or detached houses). 15.8% were living in flats and 12.3% in bungalows (14 cases). This corresponds to the high proportion of respondents living in the family home (above). No data for any other accommodation type was provided.

***Table 5-6 Which Facilities Does the Property Have***
Question 4

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| A bath | 99.1 | 114 |
| A standard shower | 64.3 | 74 |
| A level access shower | 40.0 | 46 |
| An inside toilet | 100.0 | 115 |
| Hot water | 100.0 | 115 |
| Central heating | 97.4 | 112 |
| A wash hand basin | 100.0 | 115 |
| A kitchen | 98.3 | 113 |
| Access to a garden | 89.6 | 103 |
| Off road parking | 67.8 | 78 |
| Other | 10.4 | 12 |
| **Total** | | **997** |

5.5.6 Respondents had access to a wide range of basic facilities, with the majority having access to both a shower and bath and 40% having access to a level access shower. 97.4% had central heating, well above the national average in the 2001 census of 91.5%.

***Table 5-7 Are Facilities Shared With Other People Not Members of the Family***
Question 4a

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 27.7 | 31 |
| No | 72.3 | 81 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **112** |

5.5.7 27.7% of respondents shared facilities with people not within their family (31 implied); this corresponds to the proportion of households indicating that they are living in shared accommodation in Table 5-3 above.

***Table 5-8 Which Facilities are Shared***
Question 4b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Toilet | 91.2 | 31 |
| Bath | 100.0 | 34 |
| Kitchen | 97.1 | 33 |
| An eating area | 100.0 | 34 |
| Shower | 100.0 | 34 |
| Living room | 100.0 | 34 |
| Garden | 97.1 | 33 |
| Other | 2.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | | **234** |

5.5.8 Of those who were sharing facilities all shared bathing facilities, eating area and the living room.

***Table 5-9 How Long Have You Lived at This Address***
Question 5

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Less than 6 months | 1.8 | 2 |
| 6 months up to 1 year | 7.1 | 8 |
| 1 – 2 years | 8.8 | 10 |
| 2 – 5 years | 16.8 | 19 |
| 5 – 10 years | 21.2 | 24 |
| 10 years or more | 44.3 | 50 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **113** |

5.5.9 44.3% of respondents had been living at their current address for more than 10 years, compared to 40.1% of all households in East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. This corresponds to the high proportion indicating in Table 5-3 that they were living in their family home. A further 21.2% had been living in their current home for 5 – 10 years. The majority of respondents appeared to be well settled in their current home.

***Table 5-10 Income: Which of These Do You Get***
Question 6

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Salary / wage | 12.5 | 14 |
| State pension | 5.4 | 6 |
| Housing benefit | 48.2 | 54 |
| (Additional) private pension / occupational pension | 1.8 | 2 |
| Income support | 47.3 | 53 |
| Attendance allowance | 27.7 | 31 |
| Independent living fund | 8.9 | 10 |
| Incapacity benefit | 20.5 | 23 |
| Disability working allowance | 2.7 | 3 |
| Disability living allowance (including mobility allowance) | 90.2 | 101 |
| Other | 21.4 | 24 |
| **Total** | | **321** |

5.5.10 Respondents were claiming a range of benefits, only 12.5% received a salary or wage, 47.3% were on income support and 90.2% receive Disability Living Allowance.

## 5.6 Views on your current housing situation

5.6.1 The next set of questions in the questionnaire assessed a person's view of their current housing situation. 113 respondents answered the multiple choice question regarding what they like about the accommodation where they live.

***Table 5-11 What Do You Like About the Accommodation Where You Live***
Question 7

| | % | Nos |
|---|---|---|
| Good condition, no need for improvements/repairs | 93.8 | 106 |
| Good size | 92.9 | 105 |
| Rent/mortgage cheap | 6.2 | 7 |
| Other | 5.3 | 6 |
| **Total** | | **224** |

5.6.2 The size and condition of their home were the things respondents liked most about their current accommodation.

***Table 5-12 What Do You Not Like About the Accommodation Where You Live***
Question 8

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Poor condition needs improvements / repairs | 36.4 | 4 |
| Too small | 45.5 | 5 |
| Other | 45.5 | 5 |
| **Total** | | **14** |

5.6.3 Only 11 people responded to the multiple choice question asking what they disliked about their home, reinforcing the impression that respondents were happy and settled in their current accommodation. Five felt their home was too small and four said the condition was poor. No other reasons for disliking the accommodation where they live was provided.

***Table 5-13 Do You Like the People You Live With***
Question 9a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 87.8 | 101 |
| No | 0.0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 12.2 | 14 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.4 All those who were living with other people said they liked those they were sharing with.

***Table 5-14 Do You Like Your House (Or Your Room/Care Home)***
Question 9b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 96.5 | 111 |
| No | 3.5 | 4 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.5 Only four respondents (3.5%) said they did not like their home.

***Table 5-15 Do You Like the Staff Here***
Question 9c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 41.7 | 48 |
| No | 0.0 | 0 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 58.3 | 67 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.6 All those living in homes with staff said they liked the staff.

***Table 5-16 Do You Like Your Key Worker or Main Support Worker***
Question 9d

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 84.2 | 96 |
| No | 4.4 | 5 |
| Don't know | 1.8 | 2 |
| N/A | 9.6 | 11 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **114** |

5.6.7 84.2% of respondents said they liked their key worker / main support worker, only 4.4% (5 implied) said they did not like their key worker.

***Table 5-17 Do You Have Fun in your Home***
Question 9e

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 94.8 | 109 |
| No | 4.3 | 5 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.8 94.8% of respondents said they have fun in their home and only 4.3% (5 implied) said they did not have fun.

***Table 5-18 What Would You Like To Change About the Accommodation***
Question 10

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Different building | 13.8 | 8.9 | 4 |
| Bigger rooms | 31.0 | 20.0 | 9 |
| Decorations / paint colour | 44.8 | 28.9 | 13 |
| Additional security | 13.8 | 8.9 | 4 |
| Better heating | 3.4 | 2.2 | 1 |
| Insulation | 3.4 | 2.2 | 1 |
| More space | 20.7 | 13.3 | 6 |
| Other | 24.1 | 15.6 | 7 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **45** |

5.6.9 29 respondents answered the multiple choice question asking them what they would like to change about their accommodation, providing 45 responses. 31.0% of respondents would prefer a larger room, 20.7% said they needed more space. 44.8% of respondents simply wanted to change the decoration or paint colour in their home. No other preferred changes to the accommodation were stated

5.6.10 The following questions asked respondents about the area in which they live.

***Table 5-19 Do You Enjoy Living in this Area***
Question 9f

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 95.7 | 110 |
| No | 4.3 | 5 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.11 95.7% of respondents said they enjoyed living in the area and only 4.3% (5 implied) said they did not like the area.

***Table 5-20 What are the Good Things About Living in the Area***
Question 11

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public transport | 25.2 | 6.1 | 29 |
| Clean / no litter / well maintained | 27.0 | 6.5 | 31 |
| Community facilities | 21.7 | 5.3 | 25 |
| Community spirit | 26.1 | 6.3 | 30 |
| Good services | 19.1 | 4.6 | 22 |
| Family live nearby | 27.0 | 6.5 | 31 |
| Heath Services are good / accessible | 30.4 | 7.4 | 35 |
| Good Housing / Housing Services | 25.2 | 6.1 | 29 |
| Local employment | 4.3 | 1.1 | 5 |
| Leisure & entertainment facilities | 23.5 | 5.7 | 27 |
| Quiet and peaceful | 34.8 | 8.4 | 40 |
| Schools | 11.3 | 2.7 | 13 |
| Shopping facilities / access to shops | 30.4 | 7.4 | 35 |
| Place of religious worship near by | 19.1 | 4.6 | 22 |
| Near to cultural facilities | 7.8 | 1.9 | 9 |
| Day care provision for particular groups | 16.5 | 4.0 | 19 |
| Multi-cultural area | 6.1 | 1.5 | 7 |
| Like everything | 55.7 | 13.5 | 64 |
| Nothing good | 1.7 | 0.4 | 2 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **475** |

5.6.12 Respondents identified a wide range of good things about the area they live in, making an average of 4.1 choices each. 55.7% said they like everything about the area. 30.4% said they had good access to health services, 68.4% of respondents from Rother gave this as one of their responses. 34.8% liked the area because it was quiet and peaceful. 30.4% of respondents liked the area because there were good shopping facilities/access to shops, 27.0% liked the area because it was close to their family, this rose to 63.2% amongst households living in Rother.

***Table 5-21 What do you not like about Living in the Area***
Question 12

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public transport | 6.3 | 4.8 | 7 |
| Crime / not feeling safe | 10.7 | 8.2 | 12 |
| Dogs (mess / strays / attitude of owners) | 12.5 | 9.6 | 14 |
| Drugs (dealing / misuse) | 3.6 | 2.7 | 4 |
| Education / schools provision | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Environmental maintenance (litter / grass uncut / etc.) | 1.8 | 1.4 | 2 |
| Harassment (from neighbours / youths) | 5.4 | 4.1 | 6 |
| Health services / access to heath services | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Housing availability / affordability | 0.9 | 0.7 | 1 |
| Housing condition | 2.7 | 2.1 | 3 |
| Away from relatives / friends (feeling isolated) | 6.3 | 4.8 | 7 |
| Dislike nothing | 71.4 | 54.8 | 80 |
| Other | 7.1 | 5.4 | 8 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **146** |

5.6.13 Responses to the question on dislikes were much lower. Respondents made an average of just 1.3 choices each reflecting the high levels of satisfaction recorded through other questions in the survey. 71.4% of respondents said they dislike nothing about the area. The biggest issues to emerge were problems with dogs (12.5%) and crime / not feeling safe (10.7%). No other reasons for disliking the area were provided

***Table 5-22 Is This a Pleasant Area To Live***
Question 13a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 95.7 | 110 |
| No | 3.5 | 4 |
| Don't know | 0.8 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.14 Overall 95.7% said the area they lived in was pleasant.

***Table 5-23 Is It Close Enough to Your Family***
Question 13b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 84.3 | 97 |
| No | 13.0 | 15 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| N/A | 1.8 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.15 13% of respondents felt their home was not close enough to their family (15 implied), 18.5% of respondents from Wealden and 16.7% from Hastings said they did not live close enough to their family.

***Table 5-24 Is It Close Enough to Your Friends***
Question 13c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 80.9 | 93 |
| No | 19.1 | 22 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.16 19.1% of respondents felt their home was not close enough to their friends. The proportion rose to 31.6% amongst respondents from Rother.

***Table 5-25 Do You Get On Well With Your Neighbours***
Question 13d

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 85.2 | 98 |
| No | 9.6 | 11 |
| Don't know | 2.6 | 3 |
| N/A | 2.6 | 3 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.17 85.2% of respondents said they got on well with their neighbours.

***Table 5-26 Do You Feel Safe in the Area***
Question 13e

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 92.2 | 106 |
| No | 6.1 | 7 |
| Don't know | 1.7 | 2 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.18 92.2% of respondents said they felt safe in the area, 6.1% said they felt unsafe. Two respondents in each of the areas of Wealden, Hastings and Rother said they felt unsafe and one person in Lewes.

***Table 5-27 Do you like the Local Shops***
Question 13f

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 89.6 | 103 |
| No | 5.2 | 6 |
| Don't know | 1.7 | 2 |
| N/A | 3.5 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.19 89.6% of respondents liked the local shops. 30.4% of respondents (Table 5-20) said that they liked the area because of access to shops and leisure facilities.

***Table 5-28 Is Local Transport Good Around Here***
Question 13f

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 65.2 | 75 |
| No | 9.6 | 11 |
| Don't know | 15.7 | 18 |
| N/A | 9.5 | 11 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.20 65.2% of respondents said local transport was good. 25.2% of respondents (Table 5-20) gave public transport as a reason for liking their area.

***Table 5-29 Is There Enough to do Around Here***
Question 13g

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 69.6 | 80 |
| No | 27.0 | 31 |
| Don't know | 3.4 | 4 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.6.21 69.6% of respondents felt there was enough to do in their area.

## 5.7 Moving Plans

5.7.1 The final section of the questionnaire assessed the moving intentions of each interviewee.

***Table 5-30 Do You Want to Move Home***
Question 14

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Soon | 10.6 | 12 |
| Next Couple of Years | 17.7 | 20 |
| Much Later when you are Older | 5.3 | 6 |
| Never / Don't want to | 66.4 | 75 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **113** |

5.7.2 66.4% of respondents never wanted to move home, we ran a cross tabulation looking at the type of accommodation occupied by people who want to move, we found that 36% of those who don't want to move were living in their family home; 52.9% of all those living in the family home did not want to move.

5.7.3 33.6% of respondents thought they would want to move, although of those planning to move (38 implied), 5.3% would want to move much later, when they are older.

***Table 5-31 What are your Main Reasons for Wanting to Move Home***
Question 15

| | % cases | % responses | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better access to work | 2.9 | 2.0 | 1 |
| Family / carer | 5.7 | 3.9 | 2 |
| Safety / fear of crime | 14.3 | 9.8 | 5 |
| Better shops / leisure | 20.0 | 13.7 | 7 |
| Anti-social behaviour / neighbour problems | 8.6 | 5.9 | 3 |
| Poor quality neighbourhood | 5.7 | 3.9 | 2 |
| Lack of affordable housing | 2.9 | 2.0 | 1 |
| Other | 85.7 | 58.8 | 30 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **51** |

5.7.4 35 people responded to the multiple choice question on reasons for wishing to move home, offering a wide range of reasons. Respondents gave an average of 1.5 reasons each. 85.7% of people gave "other" reasons, Of the individual choices offered the most popular reason given for moving was better shops / leisure facilities (20%). Only one person wanted to move to gain better access to work. "Other" reasons provided by the respondents were a desire to move in order to gain more independence (mentioned by 19 respondents), the fact that their parents were getting older and could no longer cope (mentioned by five respondents), a desire to have a different property type to that which they are currently living (mentioned by one respondent) and wanting to move to a property with a garden (mentioned by two respondents

***Table 5-32 Do Your Need More Help Than You Get Here***
Question 16a

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 13.9 | 16 |
| No | 85.2 | 98 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.5 13.9% (16 implied) of respondents felt they needed more help and support than they currently receive.

***Table 5-33 Do You Want to Live More Independently***
Question 16b

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 21.7 | 25 |
| No | 73.9 | 85 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| N/A | 3.5 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.6 21.7% of respondents wanted to live more independently. We ran a cross tabulation looking at the type of accommodation currently occupied by those wanting more independence. We found 76% of those who wanted to live more independently currently live in the family home. Of all those currently living in their family home 35.8% said they wanted more independence, 64.2% did not want more independence.

***Table 5-34 Do You Want to Live with Other People***
Question 16c

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 27.0 | 31 |
| No | 71.2 | 82 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| N/A | 0.9 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.7 Only 27.0% of respondents wanted to live with other people. This included 30.7% of people currently living with other people.

***Table 5-35 Do You Want to Live by Yourself***
Question 16d

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 13.0 | 15 |
| No | 83.6 | 96 |
| Don't know | 1.7 | 2 |
| N/A | 1.7 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.8 However, when asked if they wanted to live alone only 13% of respondents said they did want to live alone (15 implied).

***Table 5-36 Do You Want to Change the Size of your Accommodation***
Question 16e

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 14.8 | 17 |
| No | 79.1 | 91 |
| Don't know | 2.6 | 3 |
| N/A | 3.5 | 4 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.9 14.8% of respondents wanted either a bigger or smaller home. 20.7% of respondents wanted a bigger home.

***Table 5-37 Do You Want to Live in Another Type of House (a flat, a house with a garden etc)***
Question 16f

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 12.2 | 14 |
| No | 83.5 | 96 |
| Don't know | 2.6 | 3 |
| N/A | 1.7 | 2 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.10 12.2% of respondents would like to live in a different type of house, (14 implied). This rose to 28.6% amongst respondents from Hastings. 83.5% of respondents were satisfied with the type of housing they currently live in.

***Table 5-38 Do You Want to Live Somewhere Else Around Here***
Question 16g

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 17.5 | 20 |
| No | 81.6 | 93 |
| Don't know | 0.9 | 1 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **114** |

5.7.11 17.5% of respondents want to live somewhere else in the area where they currently live, this rose to 25.0% amongst households from Lewes.

***Table 5-39 Where do you want to live?***
Question 16h

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Wealden | 26.5 | 30 |
| Hastings | 22.1 | 25 |
| Rother | 16.7 | 19 |
| Brighton & Hove | 13.3 | 15 |
| Eastbourne | 17.7 | 20 |
| Lewes | 15.9 | 18 |
| **Total** | | **127** |

5.7.12 Four people indicated that they wanted to live in another area.

***Table 5-40 If You Never Want To Move, Why Do You Never Want To Move***
Question 17

| | % cases | % responses | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Near family / always lived here | 72.5 | 15.9 | 58 |
| Quality of the neighbourhood | 52.5 | 11.5 | 42 |
| Employment / close to work | 6.3 | 1.4 | 5 |
| Near shopping facilities | 48.8 | 10.7 | 39 |
| Great availability of cheaper housing | 1.3 | 0.3 | 1 |
| Near schools and colleges | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2 |
| Good public transport | 30.0 | 6.6 | 24 |
| Near hospital / doctor / carer | 42.5 | 9.3 | 34 |
| Great availability of larger homes | 2.5 | 0.5 | 2 |
| Great availability of smaller homes | 1.3 | 0.3 | 1 |
| Nice area | 53.8 | 11.9 | 43 |
| No neighbour problems /no anti social behaviour | 32.5 | 7.1 | 26 |
| Safe | 60.0 | 13.2 | 48 |
| No racial harassment | 5.0 | 1.1 | 4 |
| Near leisure facilities | 8.8 | 1.9 | 7 |
| Other | 35.0 | 7.8 | 28 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **364** |

5.7.13 Family was the main reason given for not wanting to move (72.5% of cases). 60% said they did not want to move because they felt safe where they were. 53.8% simply felt they did not want to move because they live in a nice area.

***Table 5-41 Would You Like To Live In A Shared Housing***
Question 18

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 23.2 | 22 |
| No | 75.7 | 72 |
| Don’t know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 1.1 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **95** |

5.7.14 23.2% of respondents who don't currently live in shared housing wanted to move to shared housing (22 implied).

***Table 5-42 If Yes, Who Would You Like to Share With***
Question 19

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Family | 4.8 | 1.5 | 1 |
| Friends | 66.7 | 20.6 | 14 |
| Other people with Learning Disabilities | 90.5 | 27.9 | 19 |
| People of your own age | 66.7 | 20.6 | 14 |
| People of the same sex | 28.6 | 8.8 | 6 |
| People of mixed sex | 66.7 | 20.6 | 14 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **68** |

5.7.15 Of those who wanted to share, 90.5% wanted to share with other people with learning disabilities. 66.7% want to share with friends, 66.7% want to share with people of their own age and 66.7% want to share in a mixed sex house.

***Table 5-43 If Yes, How Many People Would You Want to Share With***
Question 20

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| One | 0.0 | 0 |
| 2 or 3 | 50.0 | 8 |
| 4 to 6 | 37.5 | 6 |
| More than 6 | 12.5 | 2 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **16** |

5.7.16 50.0% of respondents want to share with two or three people.

***Table 5-44 Would You Like to Live in your Own Home***
Question 21

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 22.5 | 20 |
| No | 75.3 | 67 |
| Don't know | 2.2 | 2 |
| N/A | 0.0 | 0 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **89** |

5.7.17 22.5% of respondents who don't currently live in their own home would like to live in their own home (20 cases), the majority (75.3%) do not want to live in their own home.

5.7.18 Those who want to live in their own home were then asked a series of questions about the type of accommodation they would like to live in.

***Table 5-45 If Yes, Would You Prefer Staff To Live With You Or Visit You Occasionally***
Question 21a

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Live with | 56.0 | 14 |
| Visit | 40.0 | 10 |
| Don't know | 0.0 | 0 |
| N/A | 4.0 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **25** |

5.7.19 20 people said they would like to live in their own home, 25 responded to a further question asking about the support they would like to receive if they lived in their own home. 56% said they would like staff to live with them, 40% would prefer staff to visit.

***Table 5-46 If Yes, Would You Prefer to Own or Rent Your Home***
Question 21b

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| Own | 47.8 | 11 |
| Rent | 39.1 | 9 |
| Don't know | 8.8 | 2 |
| N/A | 4.3 | 1 |
| **Total** | **100** | **23** |

5.7.20 23 people responded to a question asking if they would like to rent or own their own home. Of those responding 47.8% of respondents would like to own their own home, 39.1% want to rent.

***Table 5-47 If Yes, What Type of House Would You Like***
Question 21c

| | % | N^os |
|---|---|---|
| A flat | 68.2 | 15 |
| A house with a garden | 31.8 | 7 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **22** |

5.7.21 22 people responded to a question asking what type of house they would like to live in, 68.2% wanted a flat, and 31.8% wanted a house with a garden. No other house type was required.

***Table 5-48*** ***Do You Currently Receive Help From Any Of These Support Services***
Question 22

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Housing Care or Lifeline Alarms | 18.4 | 6.0 | 21 |
| Home help / care (support workers / community outreach) | 46.5 | 15.1 | 53 |
| District nurse / health visitor | 1.8 | 0.6 | 2 |
| Occupational therapist | 12.3 | 4.0 | 14 |
| Day centre | 58.8 | 19.0 | 67 |
| Respite care | 36.8 | 11.9 | 42 |
| Resident warden/ scheme manager | 15.8 | 5.1 | 18 |
| Mobile Warden Service | 2.6 | 0.9 | 3 |
| Social Worker | 47.4 | 15.3 | 54 |
| Community Nurse | 6.1 | 2.0 | 7 |
| Dietician | 3.5 | 1.1 | 4 |
| Physiotherapist | 8.8 | 2.8 | 10 |
| Speech therapist | 7.9 | 2.6 | 9 |
| Paid Carer / Home Care | 33.3 | 10.7 | 38 |
| Other | 6.1 | 2.0 | 7 |
| No help received | 2.6 | 0.9 | 3 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **352** |

5.7.22 When asked about the formal support they currently receive respondents made an average of 3 choices each. 111 people receive formal support services. 58.8% of respondents receive support from a day centre, this fell to just 25% amongst respondents from Brighton & Hove. 47.4% receive support from a Social Worker, 78.6% of respondents from Eastbourne have the support of a Social Worker. 46.5% of respondents have support from Home Help / Home Care, 91.7% of respondents from Brighton & Hove have Home Care / Home help services.

***Table 5-49*** ***Do You Receive Care and Support from any of the Following***
Question 22a

| | % cases | % responses | N^os |
|---|---|---|---|
| Their partner / spouse | 9.2 | 8.1 | 8 |
| Resident family / friend | 65.5 | 57.6 | 57 |
| Visiting family / friend / neighbour | 28.7 | 25.3 | 25 |
| Other | 10.3 | 9.0 | 9 |
| **Total** | | **100.0** | **99** |

5.7.23 When asked about informal support, respondents made an average of 1.1 choices each. 87 people receive informal support. 65.5% of respondents receive support from resident family or friends, 28.7% from visiting family or friends.

***Table 5-50*** ***How Easy Do You Think It Is To Get Advice Or Help With The Range Of Housing Support Care Services Available***
Question 23

| | % | N$^{os}$ |
|---|---|---|
| Very easy | 4.3 | 5 |
| Fairly easy | 19.1 | 22 |
| Not very easy | 14.8 | 17 |
| Not at all easy | 40.0 | 46 |
| Don't know | 21.8 | 25 |
| **Total** | **100.0** | **115** |

5.7.24 Respondents reported problems accessing advice on the range of housing and support services available. 54.8% said it was not very easy or not at all easy to get advice. Only 4.3% found it very easy to get advice.

## 5.8 Conclusions

5.8.1 46.1% of the sample lives in the family home, 71% of the sample live in traditional family accommodation.

5.8.2 48.7% of the sample lives in rented accommodation, of whom 33.9% live in social housing.

5.8.3 27.7% of those not living with their family share their accommodation with others.

5.8.4 The majority of respondents are settled and happy in their current accommodation. 65.5% have lived in their current accommodation for more than 5 years and a high proportion are satisfied with their property (96.5%) and staff (100% of those with staff), 94.8% say they have fun in their home. 44.3% of respondents had lived at their current address for more than 10 years.

5.8.5 The size and condition of the home were the things respondents most liked about their accommodation. 92.2% of respondents said they felt safe in the area.

5.8.6 The survey also found high levels of satisfaction with the neighbourhood. 95.7% of respondents like the area. The vast majority feel they live close enough to their family (84.3%) and to friends (80.9%), and get on well with their neighbours (85.2%). 71.4% said they disliked nothing about the area.

5.8.7 66.4% of respondents never want to move. 33.6% said they would move but 20 people were looking for accommodation in the next couple of years.

5.8.8 21.7% of movers want more independence. The most popular reason for moving was for better shops / leisure facilities (20%).

5.8.9 23.2% of those not sharing their home now would like to share if they moved. Of those who wanted to share, 90.5% wanted to share with other people with learning disabilities.

5.8.10 22.5% of those not living in their own home now would like to live in their own home.

5.8.11 Of those who don't want to move, 72.5% gave family as a reason for not moving.

5.8.12 Respondents with learning disabilities had access to a wide range of support services, 96.5% receive some formal support services, and 75.7% receive informal support services. 58.8% of respondents receive support from a day centre and 65.5% receive support from resident family or friends. However 54.8% had some difficulty accessing help and advice on the range of housing and care services available.

5.8.13 There was a high level of support required from benefits. Only 12.5% of respondents receive a salary.

## 5.9 Recommendations

- Services for people with learning disabilities need to be targeted at a range of housing situations. In particular service providers need to develop strategies for supporting people in their family home in existing neighbourhoods.

- Service planning needs to make allowances for support to ageing parent carers, and include plans to enable people to move to independence long before this is a crisis situation to enable a planned relocation from home to care/supported housing for when their parent carers die.

- Information and advice to people with learning disabilities should be promoted via formal support providers. 54.8% of respondents reported some difficulties accessing advice about services although 92.5% receive some formal support.

- People with learning disabilities require support from state benefits. Low incomes will be a factor limiting the housing choices of people with learning disabilities. Strategies for housing and social care need to recognise this factor.

- There needs to be some clear links to the Supporting People Strategy.

- A long term strategy is required to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities before their parent's age; to allow them to move to independent accommodation in good time. Consequently planning for this relocation is crucial.

- Links to employment and training may be important for this group. Equally important are the links that help maintain and develop social contacts.