

What's this report about?

- This report is about a community Co-op that was set up in the East End of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- The Co-op supported 12 people with learning disabilities to live in Walker, Byker and Heaton.
- KeyRing ran the Co-op. The report was paid for by Northern Rock Foundation.





What did the Co-op do?

The Co-op:

- Tried to find local people to provide paid 24-hour 'live-in' support – to share their lives with people with learning disabilities.
- Made people with learning disabilities, their families and staff equal members of the Co-op.
- Helped people with learning disabilities make friends and do things they like and enjoy in the local community.



What happened?

We found that the Co-op was good at:

- Supporting people with learning disabilities to do things they like and enjoy in their local communities.
- Helping people to make friends and get to know local people.
- Finding good housing for people.





What happened?

We found that the Co-op was good at:

- Helping people to plan what they want to do now and in the future.
- Helping some people to have more money.



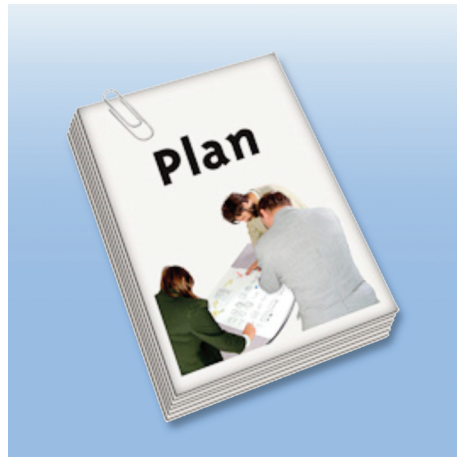


What happened?

Some things the Co-op tried to do did not work:

- It was not possible to find live-in supporters – some people said it was too big a job for them to take on.
- The Co-op didn't get enough money to keep it going and it had to close.





What people with learning disabilities said about the Co-op

Some of the things people said were important about the Co-op:



- Planning for the future. *“I have worked on this plan because I want my life to change. I am sitting on a lot of talent which could be used... I would like more friends.”*
- Getting help to find a good place to live that you have chosen.



What people with learning disabilities said about the Co-op

Some of the things people said were important about the Co-op:

- Getting to do interesting and enjoyable activities in the local community; for example, joining a local photography group, gardening group and doing voluntary work.
- Having a social life. One person said *“I made new friends and carried on seeing them”*.

What people with learning disabilities said about the Co-op

Some of the things people said were important about the Co-op:

- Being a part of the Co-op. One person said *“With the Co-op I was a member; now I am a ‘service user’; it’s not as good”*.





Who did this report?

- Text by Ian Copeman. Images by Housing & Support Partnership. Additional Images by Bill Norman using Photosymbols 3.



Who funded this report?

- Northern Rock Foundation
You can find out more about the Foundation from our website
www.nr-foundation.org.uk