

2020 Experiences in completing the 'old' Homefinder

1. It was similar to applying for a passport..only harder!
2. The amount of proof of residency, was extremely wearing, because I had changed Drs to a Devon practice. I couldn't prove I was born and bred here, as I had no utility bills (living at home Mum and Dad paid for them). I submitted baptism, school and dentist records but none considered official enough.
3. Mother: "Because she's unable to work she has no work history...I found the whole experience deeply upsetting if I'm honest."
4. Being asked if/what local connection you have is fine but what input you've given to the community is very short sighted when you may have a disability/ or chose to live 'quietly' - not everyone wants to be 'involved ' with the community, but to treat their community with respect is enough surely?
5. A personal statement at the beginning of the application, could cut a lot of duplication of other questions...if it was read by the person with some local knowledge, not someone in Liverpool for example! This could then go into detail of needs, reasons, requirements in a more human way than Yes/No answers.
6. When registering on Homefinder the applicant needs to know how long the processing time is....this was a massive hurdle for us, as due to Covid, it was skeleton staff and if I hadn't pleaded we would of missed the required deadline with Homefinder
7. We did feel we were pleading our case a lot, and feeling guilty that you are asking for independence from your family home, not because your parents are asking you to leave, or being made homeless.
8. One size does not fit all!
9. Most applications are done by young people, who are applying for their 1st home...this is all new to them, don't assume they know what they are doing.
10. I'm a mature reasonably intelligent adult, I struggled, but I knew to keep badgering people for advice.