

Press Release 12th May 2010

New Social Mobility Pilot Unveiled

The Northern Housing Consortium (NHC) has unveiled an exciting new initiative funded by Communities and Local Government, aimed at improving employment mobility in the North.

JobMoves is a 12 month pilot scheme designed to remove the obstacles that social tenants might face in taking up a better job, or moving in order to take up a new job. JobMoves will help to co-ordinate and liaise between social tenants and potential landlords and mutual exchange schemes in order to try and secure a move for employment reasons.

Rachel Collings, JobMoves Manager, explained, "With the high demand on secure and affordable social rented homes, there is now an even greater need to prioritise housing register applicants in a way that ensures that lettings are made in a fair and transparent way. And, in these tough financial times, it's more important than ever that there is nothing standing in the way of social tenants taking the best jobs available to them. Unfortunately, we know there are people out there who are put off applying for jobs that are over a certain distance from home, as it would be impossible to make the journey in terms of distance or travel cost."

"JobMoves will assist with social housing moves across the North by providing co-ordinated support to give tenants the best possible chance of obtaining a suitable home move within a commutable distance of their new job or apprenticeship. We don't intend to duplicate existing advice services, but will be working alongside local authorities and housing associations, as well as third sector organisations, offering a brokering role in assisting tenants to navigate the often complex routes to re-housing. Obviously, this can be particularly difficult for tenants trying to move to a new area, as they are likely to be unfamiliar with the services that may be available to them in a different town or city. We'll be relying heavily on Northern Housing Consortium members to help to share their local knowledge and experience. We're delighted that CLG selected us to conduct this important pilot, and look forward to delivering some very positive outcomes".

For further information, contact Rachel Collings on 0191 5651207, email info@jobmoves.org.uk, or visit www.jobmoves.org.uk.

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Notes to editors

1. The Northern Housing Consortium is a non-political, not for profit, member based organisation, whose members between them manage almost 90% of social housing in the North. Our main roles are:
 - To provide a comprehensive range of timely, relevant and affordable services for members with a distinct focus on Northern issues
 - To take a lead role in enabling the improvement of housing and organisational performance in the North
 - To work with Government and other bodies to ensure the region benefits from the resources and funding available to provide safe, vibrant, sustainable communities

Further information can be found at www.northern-consortium.org.uk

2. Communities and Local Government sets policy on local government, housing, urban regeneration, planning and fire and rescue. CLG have responsibility for all race equality and community cohesion related issues in England and for building regulations, fire safety and some housing issues in England and Wales. The rest of CLG's work applies only to England.