

JobMoves steals the show at Harrogate

Since its launch on June 1st 2010, the team behind JobMoves has been working hard to promote the 12 month pilot, using a comprehensive engagement exercise aimed at key stakeholders within the employment, voluntary, community and housing sectors. JobMoves is designed to improve social mobility in the North, and offers a personalised advice and advocacy service for social housing tenants in the North. The scheme, which is funded by Communities and Local Government and is being delivered by the Northern Housing Consortium, is available to those social housing tenants who are already in work but are finding it difficult to commute; those who have a firm job offer, and those with an apprenticeship placement which is an unreasonable travelling distance from their home. The aim is to assist with moves between social rented homes to maintain the tenant's security of tenure and affordable rent.

The JobMoves team believe that the popularity of their promotional stand at the CIH annual conference in Harrogate reflects the level of interest that JobMoves has created in the housing sector in recent weeks. Rachel Collings, JobMoves Manager, commented, "The stand was inundated with tenants and delegates alike, all of whom were immensely impressed by the scheme and how it represents a proactive approach to reducing rising unemployment levels in the North by offering viable solutions for re-housing. Our presence at the event also gave the opportunity to raise pertinent questions on the current climate and how it facilitates social housing tenants' attempts to gain employment within the research element of the project."

"The highlight of the conference for us was the visit from the new Housing Minister, Grant Shapps. It was very timely, actually, as there have been several features in the national news over recent weeks regarding Government plans to explore incentives to help people living in social housing to relocate for employment, and such is the profile of JobMoves that when Mr Shapps visited the stand on Thursday 24th June, he said he was already aware of JobMoves, having read a brief on the pilot just a few days earlier! We were delighted that Mr Shapps had identified JobMoves as one of only half a dozen stands that he wanted to visit during the conference, and with the positive opinion he expressed on the objectives of the scheme. We're confident that our success at the CIH Harrogate conference is a sign of things to come for this exciting new mobility scheme."

For further information on JobMoves, contact Rachel Collings on Rachel.collings@jobmoves.org.uk, or telephone 0300 1231802.

Ends

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.
3. JobMoves is a 12 month pilot designed to improve social mobility in the North. JobMoves is in place to facilitate social mobility for tenants needing to move for their job. The aim is to assist with moves between social rented homes to maintain the tenant's security of tenure and affordable rent. JobMoves is a personalised advice and advocacy service for social housing tenants in the North, who are in work but are finding it difficult to commute, those who have a firm job offer or those with an apprenticeship placement an unreasonable distance from home. JobMoves advisors will spend dedicated time with tenants, talking about housing needs, guiding them through the range of housing options available and negotiating with social landlords to help facilitate a housing move closer to the tenants place of work. The JobMoves advice and advocacy service covers the North of England:
 - North East
 - Yorkshire & Humber
 - North West