

Press Release 4th August 2010

Social Mobility plans backed by the Northern Housing Consortium

Today's announcement from the Minister of State for Housing & Local Government, Grant Shapps MP, of plans to assist people who live in social housing in England to swap homes more easily with other tenants anywhere in the country is supported by the Northern Housing Consortium.

Rachel Collings, JobMoves Manager at the Northern Housing Consortium explained, "Today's announcement is very exciting for the future of social mobility in England and assisting social tenants to remain in, and move into employment across the country. In light of the Northern Housing Consortium's current delivery of JobMoves, an employment focused social mobility pilot across the North of England, the announcement is particularly welcomed and timely. The JobMoves Team are pleased to be involved in the delivery of a pilot which will contribute to the social mobility debate and help to demonstrate the landscape in the North in terms of social tenants needing to move for work related reasons. We look forward to delivering some very positive outcomes".

JobMoves is a 12 month pilot scheme funded by Communities and Local Government until March 2011, designed to remove the obstacles that social tenants often face in moving to take up employment or get back into work after a period of unemployment. The JobMoves service advises and assists social tenants to move for work, and looks at the demand for employment related moves in the region.

JobMoves provides advice and support in seeking and securing a new home within the social rented sector to help tenants through the often difficult and complex processes of identifying potential social landlords in a new area, engaging in choice based lettings schemes and exploring mutual exchange options.

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

Ends

Notes to editors

1. JobMoves is a Communities and Local Government funded pilot until March 2011.
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

Further information can be found at www.jobmoves.org.uk

2. 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

3. 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.