



HomeSwapper Helps Council Tenants Move to Find Work

Press release

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As the government announces its new plans to help social housing tenants move to find work, the UK's leading online service to help council tenants exchange homes is experiencing increasing demand.

HomeSwapper, which enables housing tenants to move properties through a home 'swap' or mutual exchange service, has received record levels of interest from tenants and landlords following the announcement from Work & Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith, of government intentions to make the workforce more mobile.

The government will also address the 'under occupation' of large council homes and introduce new plans to encourage residents living in council houses in unemployment blackspots, to relocate to more affluent areas where jobs are available.

To tackle the problem of under occupied homes, **HomeSwapper** has developed an e-alert system to significantly reduce the number of housing tenants living in properties that are too large for their needs. The system informs landlords when a property becomes under occupied and also provides landlords with an accurate number of properties that are under occupied or overcrowded in their area.

Research carried out by **HomeSwapper** has shown there are currently 400,000 properties identified as under occupied across the UK with an estimated 500,000 empty bedrooms.

HomeSwapper is currently the UK's biggest provider of mutual exchanges with over 650 landlords signed up to the business and over 19,000 families swapping their homes each year.

As a result of this sector experience and the business' extensive data on under occupancy and overcrowding, **HomeSwapper** is currently seeking discussions with the new government

to develop ways for the system to be used nationally to improve social mobility amongst housing tenants.

To further assist tenants wanting to relocate to find work, **HomeSwapper** is also looking at ways it could link its extensive database with the national network of Job Centres to enable tenants to search for jobs and available properties at the same time.

HomeSwapper's Head of Communications, Richard Blundell, said:

"The government announcement that they will help tenants move to find work and reduce under occupied council properties, is long overdue and a very welcome boost to social mobility in this country. As the largest provider of mutual exchanges in the UK, we are well placed to work with both tenants and landlords to tackle under occupancy and help tenants to move to find employment.

"**HomeSwapper** provides a real solution by helping thousands of tenants to move home more quickly and efficiently with a huge cost saving for landlords from filling empty properties, tackling under occupied housing and saved man hours".

Housing tenant Carol Maddy, said:

"I needed a bigger home to house my returning family who lost their home to the credit crunch. In order for my new family to get a hold in the job market we decided to support them the only way we could and that was to invite them to stay with us. My previous home was too small by far so it was essential to make the plan work that we secure a bigger home. This was achieved with **HomeSwapper** and the whole thing went smoothly and without any problems".

There are currently 1.8 million households on council housing waiting lists and 2.3 million people living in properties officially classed as overcrowded in England – a figure expected to rise by 15% to 2.6 million within two years.

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