

Housing Options



Winter
2011

bulletin

**Find out
about
Housing
Options and
Housing
Solutions in
Islington**



1 February @ Assembly Hall

*More
Information
inside*

NEWS



Find out about Housing Options and Housing Solutions in Islington

The council is organising a free Housing Needs training and information morning to be held on 1 February at Town Hall's assembly hall from 9am to 12 noon.

The event aims to bring staff from community groups, advice agencies and Registered Providers in Islington up to speed on what the council is doing.

Staff from community groups, advice agencies and Registered providers will have the opportunity to learn about new projects and schemes being implemented in Islington.

The event will also provide an unique opportunity for our partners in Islington to test innovative online systems and provide feedback on these.

There will be presentations and facilitated workshops on a wide variety of housing subjects.



To book a place on Housing Options and Solutions event contact Guida Xavier-Pinto on **0207 527 4344** or email **guida.xavier-pinto@islington.gov.uk**



Travel Green to the Town Hall, Upper Street

Cycle

There are public cycle racks at the front of the building

Walk

Find us on the London A to Z map, page 50 (B7)

Tube

Victoria line to Highbury & Islington Station (5 min walk)

Rail

Silverlink or WAGN to Highbury & Islington Station
Essex Road Station (5 min walk)

Bus

Routes 4, 19, 30 & 43 to Islington Town Hall
Route 271 to Canonbury Square / Halton Road
Route 277 to stop D
Route 393 to stops B & D


Accessibility

● Parking (020 7527 3109) ● Building ● WC

Go to: www.islington.gov.uk/contact



HomeSwapper

Housing Needs are working with  Homeswapper.co.uk to give additional help to tenants who would like to move but stay locally in Islington.

Mutual Exchange – when tenants ‘swap’ homes is a good way of allowing people to move and stay local.

‘Going Local’ will make searching for potential mutual exchange partners much easier for tenants. ‘Going Local’ will give matches in the Islington area if this is what the tenant wants. The new system will show wards and places of interest to help customers find a match in the area they wish to live.

For more Information

contact Sue Haire on **0207 527 4372** or email Sue.Haire@islington.gov.uk

The system can still help tenants who want to move to other areas too – this remains the same.

Housing staff have a reporting tool on this scheme, which helps officers to be pro-active in helping to matching tenants registered for mutual exchange.

There are nearly 4000 tenants registered for a transfer that have still not signed-up for Homeswapper. We want to encourage as many tenants as possible to consider mutual exchange and to help them find alternative housing.



Housing Self Assessment Ready Reckoner

We are currently developing an on-line Ready Reckoner, which will give people the opportunity to see how many points they may be entitled to before deciding whether to make an application on the housing register. We are hoping to go live with the Ready Reckoner early in the new year.



For more Information on Housing Self Assessment Ready Reckoner contact Jean Rattray on **0207 527 6364** or on Jean.Rattray@islington.gov.uk



Christmas Opening Hours



HAC - Housing Aid Centre

The Housing Aid Centre will close at 4pm on 23 December and reopen on 3 January 2012 at 9am. If you become homeless outside these hours, due to an emergency, you can ring 020 7527 2000.

Homes for Islington

All Homes for Islington (HFI) buildings will shut at 4.45pm on 23 December and reopen on 3 January 2012 as normal.



HFI Direct and the anti-social behaviour out of hours services will operate a limited service during this period. Emergency repairs can be reported when HFI Direct is closed via the emergency freephone number 0800 694 3344.



Winter Shelters

Some Islington Homelessness Forum Members will be running Cold Weather Shelters over the Christmas period.

Local Islington projects include The Pilion Trust, New Horizon, The Manna, Islington Churches Cold Weather Shelter (ICCWS) and the Single Homeless Project (SHP).

The Pilion Trust provides street outreach and sessions in community centres, providing advice, advocacy and support for homeless people.

Contact: adm_@pilion.org.uk

Islington Churches Cold Weather Shelter

is open every year in the winter months. Seven churches in Islington offer hospitality to homeless guests and help to find permanent accommodation.

Contact: Mark Brennan at iccws@hotmail.co.uk



The Manna is a drop in centre for homeless people.

Contact: Tony Crisp at tony@stsc.org.uk

New Horizon Youth Centre

works with young people aged 16-21 who are vulnerable, homeless and at risk of homelessness.

Contact: 020 7388 5560.

Single Homeless Project provides accommodation and support services for 3,000 of London's most vulnerable people.

Contact: info@shp.org.uk.



For more information please visit www.islington.gov.uk/Housing/housingadvice/homelessness/ihforum

or contact Hitesh Tailor on **0207 527 4438** or on hitesh.tailor@islington.gov.uk

UPC MING EVENTS



Quaker Christmas Shelter

Open: 23-30 December 2011

Referral address: Union Chapel, Compton Avenue, Highbury, London N1 2XD

Phone: 07833 123155

Shelter hours: Last admission 8pm. Must leave by 7am.

Gender: Mixed. Includes a separate area for women.

Age: 18+

Target group: Anyone who is homeless over the Christmas period, including refugees, and particularly rough sleepers. Local connection not required. Can accept people with dogs.

Referral procedure: Self referrals and referrals from Islington Outreach Forum agencies (includes Islington DAAT, The Whitaker Centre, The Pilion Trust, New Horizon, Focus and Angel Drug Services) or other agencies that can provide ongoing support. Phone to check vacancies and book a bed. Require NI number and CHAIN number.

Spaces: 25

Rules: No alcohol or drugs allowed on premises. Smoking allowed outside.



Mutual Exchange Fair

The Housing Options Team will be holding their second mutual exchange fair on Tuesday morning, 24 January 2012 at the Assembly Hall, Upper Street.

At the fair tenants can:

- Get tenants tips for getting the best out of mutual exchange
- Find out how to upload pictures of their property onto Homeswapper
- Find out how to 'sell' their property to potential mutual exchange partners
- Register for Homeswapper.

Other housing options information will be available on the day including sheltered housing, shared ownership.

Date: 24 January 2012

Time: 10am to 3pm

Location: Assembly Hall, Town Hall, Upper Street

For more information

contact Sue Haire on **0207 527 4372** or on

Sue.Haire@islington.gov.uk



UPC MING EVENTS

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Housingmoves



Want to move to another part of London?

From 30 January 2012, social housing tenants will be able to move to different London boroughs, whether it be for work, training, downsizing or caring for a family member or friend.

Launched by the Mayor of London, 'housingmoves' is a new housing mobility scheme working across the whole of London giving London tenants more choice on where they want to live. All Landlords taking part will be putting 5% of their vacancies into a pool, which tenants registered for this scheme will be able to bid for via a choice-based online lettings system.

Eligibility: Social housing tenants who live in participating boroughs, with clear rent account and no history of anti-social behaviour.

To promote the launch of the Pan London Mobility scheme 'housingmoves', the Housing Options Team will organise an event in January or February 2012. The exact date will be publicised when it has been confirmed.

At the event tenants can:

- Hear more about the scheme
- Register for housingmoves (Islington would like all interested Islington tenants to register quickly and get maximum opportunity from scheme.)



For more Information on Housingmoves contact Sue Haire on **0207 527 4372** or on **Sue.Haire@islington.gov.uk**



USEFUL CONTACTS



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Islington Benefits Office

T 0207 527 4990

E benefits.service@islington.gov.uk

W www.islington.gov.uk/housing

Housing Aid Centre

The service is run by Islington Council and can offer face-to-face, telephone, internet support and advice about finding a home.

The Housing Aid Centre is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday **9am - 4pm**

Wednesday **12pm - 4pm**

38 Devonian Road
London, N1 8UY

T 0207 527 2000

F 020 7527 6307

M 0800 073 0536

E advice.housing@islington.gov.uk

W www.islington.gov.uk/housing

Homes For Islington

HFI Direct to report repairs

T 0800 694 3344

Holland Walk Area Housing Office

T 020 7527 7480

Upper Street Area Housing Office

T 020 7527 5300

Lyon Street Area Housing Office

T 020 7527 6880

Central Street Area Housing Office

T 0800 694 3344

W www.islington.gov.uk/housing

Private Sector Partnerships

Ian Tagg

T 0207 527 6078

E landlord.enquiries@islington.gov.uk

W www.islington.gov.uk/housing



We would like our partner agencies to contribute with articles.

The article only needs to be about 100 to 150 words. It could be a general overview of an organisation, or highlighting a service which would be of interest to other agencies in Islington.

If you are interested in writing an article, please contact Karen Lucas on **0207 527 6310** or email karen.lucas@islington.gov.uk

Contributing to the
Housing Options



bulletin