

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Social landlords launch scheme to help people move around London**

Fifteen of London's largest social housing providers (G15) are pioneering a new scheme to enable their residents to move to sustain or take-up work opportunities. The pilot scheme, **G15 London moves**, will provide opportunities for G15 social tenants to move to another G15 home that better suits their needs, initially focusing on those who need to move for work.

The G15 works together to improve housing opportunities for Londoners and with this scheme they aim to break down the obstacles social tenants face when needing to move.

The launch of G15 London moves is an important milestone in delivering the Mayor of London's housing strategy, which includes a commitment to give social tenants more control over their housing and work situations. The lessons learnt from the scheme will support the Mayor's plans to roll out a London-wide housing mobility system, and the two schemes may eventually be combined.

To develop the pilot, representatives from the G15 have worked together since January this year, with input from the National Housing Federation, London Councils and the Greater London Authority. The scheme includes a bespoke website for G15 tenants to register and bid for properties, similar to the Choice Based Lettings system. The site [www.g15londonmoves.org.uk](http://www.g15londonmoves.org.uk) was developed in partnership with Home Connections and tenants can now register directly online. Once registered, their landlord will verify their eligibility and they can then bid on properties.

The G15 collectively manage more than 500,000 homes in London and each member will provide around 5% of their available void properties to the scheme (that are not subject to nomination arrangements) which equates to around 190 homes over the next year. The properties selected will be based on the demand from tenants registered with the pilot.

So far almost 60 residents have registered ahead of the full launch on 13 May. The scheme will be expanded soon and plans are in place to potentially roll it out further to allow moves for other reasons such as to downsize, to give or receive care, or for other health reasons.

**G15 London moves Group Chair and Circle chief executive Mark Rogers said:** "The g15 is committed to helping mobility amongst social housing tenants and this new scheme provides an innovative way for housing associations to work together to match tenants who need to move to for employment reasons with void homes across the Capital. The pilot will complement existing house exchange schemes, and give tenants another option to find right property."

**David Orr, chief executive of National Housing Federation:** "Tasked with giving Londoners greater mobility and control over where they work, this G15-led group has really thought on its feet. The 'G15 London moves' pilot project will be widely watched by both politicians and housing professionals as it rightly aims to show that housing can be a springboard as well as a safety net.

"Like the G15, the National Housing Federation has invested considerable resources in this project and shares a common determination to make it easier for Londoners to take full advantage when employment opportunities arise.

"Housing associations will always provide safe, decent and attractive housing but we also offer practical support to residents to 'move on' in life and I am delighted that this pilot is about to take off."

**The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson**, said: "G15 London moves is an important development that will help people in search of work or training to move much more freely around the capital, empowering tenants to do what they feel is best for them and their families. I have no doubt that the scheme will deliver significant benefits for Londoners and for London's economy."

**Peabody chief executive and g15 chair Stephen Howlett said:** "We believe assisting the mobility of social housing residents is one of the most important services we can provide. By helping to break down the barriers currently facing residents who need to move, G15 London moves will support thriving, sustainable communities across London."

## **ENDS**

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### **Editors notes-**

#### **1. About G15 London moves**

##### **Qualifying criteria. Applicants must be:**

- Existing social tenant (G15) with secure or assured tenancy
- Held their current tenancy for at least a year
- Confirmed by their current Landlord as having: good rental payment record , no anti-social behaviour reported in the household in last 12 months and that their current home in good condition
- (Priority also given to under occupiers needing to move)

##### **Employment criteria. Applicants must be:**

- Unemployed with a job offer for 16+ hours per week at time of application
- In full-time education or training linked to a job offer 16+ hours per week
- In employment with a demonstrable and self-evident reason to move to sustain it. (Employment **16 hours + per week**, in this job for **over 13 weeks**)

#### **2. About the G15**

The G15 work together to improve housing opportunities for Londoners and have already worked together on plans to reduce homelessness in London and tackle overcrowding.

**MEMBERS:** A2 Dominion, Affinity Sutton, Amicus Horizon, Catalyst Housing Group, Circle Anglia, East Thames Group, Family Mosaic, Genesis, The Hyde Group, L&Q, Metropolitan Housing Partnership, Network Housing Group, Notting Hill Housing, Peabody and Southern Housing Group.

The G15 collectively houses one in ten Londoners and manages more than 500,000 homes in London. In 2009/10 G15 made about 8,500 lettings across London. More than 70% of these went to Londoners on local authority waiting lists.

#### **3. Mayor of London's housing mobility strategy**

The Mayor is firmly committed to increasing opportunities for mobility among social tenants and aims to have a pan-London scheme in place in 2011. For more information visit:

<http://www.london.gov.uk/consultation/mobility-londons-social-housing-tenants>