

# Southway Stories

The magazine for  
Southway Housing  
customers

March 2021

*inspired  
by our communities*

P3



## FUND YOUR PROJECT

We have grants of  
up to £2,500

P14



## LOOKING FOR WORK?

Creating My Future  
Careers Fair is back

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## LET'S COOK TOGETHER

Sign up to our new  
free scheme



£100s  
PRIZES  
FOR TAKING PART

Gift Voucher

*inspired  
by our communities*

## How should we reflect, reconnect and rebuild after COVID-19?

Welcome to the Spring edition of Southway Stories, and our first of 2021.

I hope that like me, you are feeling encouraged by the news of the pandemic restrictions being lifted throughout this year.

As we start to move out of lockdown, we will be progressing our **Inspired by our communities** consultation which I talked about in detail in the last newsletter.

The consultation will help us understand how Covid might have changed what residents want and need from Southway, giving you the opportunity to influence what changes we make to our services.

Given the last 12 months, we know priorities may have changed for some people and you may now feel differently about what is important to you. Some of us may have set new goals and require some support with them. In the initial conversations we've had, tenants have told us that finances and employment, mental health and wellbeing, and isolation and the loss of connection and community are common issues. We want to hear more about this so that we can design the services to help.

We want this consultation to go further than our traditional engagement by increasing the number of

people we listen to and the range of views we hear. We also want to give you the time to speak about your experiences in your own words. So, an independent organisation called **Viewpoint** will be helping us with the consultation, which is likely to start around the end of April. Tenants will be contacted directly and asked to take part in a short phone conversation (as always you have the choice to opt out if you wish).

There will also be a chance for all tenants to take part in the survey online, and we have further plans to build a Southway Customer Voice forum to host online conversations. If you want to be involved, please make sure that we have your up to date contact details, including your email address and phone number. You can update these in your tenant portal account at **my.southwayhousing.co.uk**, or just get in touch with us.

We will keep you updated on the consultation and our future plans via this newsletter, our social media, and our website. If you have any questions or ideas, or you are interested in the project and would like to play a bigger role, please feel free to contact me directly at [chiefexecsblog@southwayhousing.co.uk](mailto:chiefexecsblog@southwayhousing.co.uk).

*Karen*

Southway Chief Executive

## THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH FUND

### CARING FOR NEIGHBOURS AND COMMUNITIES

Are you involved in supporting your community? Have you got an idea that could improve your local neighbourhood?

The Beautiful South Fund offers grants of up to £2,500 to groups and organisations to make a difference in south Manchester.

The theme of the fund is 'neighbourliness' so we're looking for projects that will improve neighbourhoods, help people to connect and create a community spirit. Your idea must benefit Southway tenants.

All applications are considered by a panel of tenant volunteers, with support from Southway.

Past projects that have been awarded grants include:

- A community tea party in Withington
- A community orchard in Chorlton
- Cookery classes for young people in Chorlton
- An activity session for people aged 50+ in Ladybarn

If a grant could help you to do something for your local community or neighbourhood, please submit an application through our website: **[www.southwayhousing.co.uk/beautiful-south](http://www.southwayhousing.co.uk/beautiful-south)**



If you want to discuss your project, please contact Maureen Ward or Roz Hampson.

### JOIN THE PANEL

We're looking for new members to join the Beautiful South Fund decision-making panel. This is your chance to play a part in improving our neighbourhoods.

Meetings are held every 1-2 months (in person or by Zoom) and panel members are asked to read the applications in advance.

If you would like to find out more, contact Maureen Ward or Roz Hampson.

## GETTING INVOLVED

If you are someone who often has views about the way things work at Southway and ideas on how to improve things, have you thought about using these skills to help make services better for everyone?

We're always looking for tenants to get involved and tell us what you think about our services. You can give us feedback any time by going on our website, emailing us, or finding us on social media.

Due to Covid-19, we haven't held as many structured tenant meetings as usual, but we are now starting to reintroduce them via using virtual methods like Zoom. This means you can get involved from the comfort of your own home and meet other tenants and our staff for a discussion about Southway services.

Some of the topics we will be discussing are **anti-social behaviour**, **food poverty** and **advice services**.

If you are interested in being involved in a video or telephone meeting, please get in touch with Maureen Ward at **[m.ward@southwayhousing.co.uk](mailto:m.ward@southwayhousing.co.uk)** or call **0161 448 4200**.

We're also looking for tenants to join our Scrutiny Panel, whose meetings will also be via video. For more information about their work, contact us or check out [www.southwayhousing.co.uk/get-involved](http://www.southwayhousing.co.uk/get-involved). You can also have a conversation with Jim, the Panel's deputy Chair, to discuss what's involved.

**We look forward to hearing from you!**





# BEAUTIFUL BULBS

The spring and summer of 2020 saw many of us using local green spaces for recreation and relaxation and a lot of positive feedback was received about the beautiful displays of bulbs.

**Daffodils at Merseybank Avenue**  
(Jubilee Woodlands)



The mass planting of Daffodils at Merseybank Avenue (Jubilee Woodlands) is an annual spectacle which can be enjoyed by residents and by commuters along Princess Road.

A mixture of other bulbs have been planted in many green spaces across south Manchester. Crocus are the earliest to flower and welcome in spring and as their flowers fade, Anemones, Grape Hyacinths and Tulips take over.

In 2019 and 2020 an amazing "Buglife bulb mixture" was planted at four sites in Chorlton. This is a special mixture which aims to provide valuable nectar and pollen for our precious pollinating insects and aims to Get Britain Buzzing. Bees and Butterflies love it.

Here are a few of the lovely Buglife flowers you can look forward to this year (photos courtesy of Jub Holland).

**The changing views at Craigmere Avenue with a lovely bench to sit and relax on** (above and left)



**Chionodoxa lucillae**  
(Glory of the Snow)



**Allium sphaerocephalon**  
(Round-headed garlic)

You can see beautiful bulbs on green spaces at Burrows Avenue, Craigmere Avenue, Cundiff Road, Darley Avenue, Farrington Avenue, Firethorn Avenue, Haldon Road, Princess Road and Westcott Avenue.

Enjoy the bulbs, take photos and, if you see a flower you would like to know the name of, get in touch. Send us a photo on Facebook or using communications@southwayhousing.co.uk and one of our Environment Team will help to identify it for you.

## Event!

**Our Urban Rangers and Barlow Hall Neighbourhood Group are hoping to head out from Darley Avenue in Chorlton for a Beautiful Bulbs Walk on the morning of Saturday 24th April.**

The event is currently provisional and will depend on the conditions of the Government's Covid-19 restrictions at the time. For confirmation and further information, please check Southway's Facebook

**f /southwayhousing**

**Anemone blanda**  
(Grecian Windflower)





## DON'T MISS OUT ON PENSION CREDIT

As many as 43,000 local residents could be eligible to benefit from £76 million of unclaimed Pension Credit.

While 73,000 people across the region currently use Pension Credit to top up their weekly budget and reduce daily household costs, around one in three pensioners around Greater Manchester aren't accessing the support available to them. Single women living alone the least likely to claim for their support.

While the issue is most pressing for people living in the city centre, residents in all Greater Manchester's boroughs are missing out on an average of £1,775 of support. This support ranges from topping up pension income to additional benefits such as a free television licence, council tax discounts, free NHS dental treatment and contributions to glasses prescriptions.

**“This money is for people of pension age and is better in the pockets of our local residents that need it...”**

*Karen Mitchell*

Tom, 70, and Rita, 69, were claiming Retirement Pensions. Tom had an occupational pension and was claiming Attendance Allowance. They had savings of £7.5K and paid full rent and Council tax.

Rita called Southway and asked to have their benefits checked. A Welfare Benefits Adviser advised that



she and Tom were not claiming their full entitlement. They helped Rita complete the forms to claim Pension Credit and Housing and Council Tax Benefit.

Before claiming, Tom and Rita were receiving £328.40 per month. After claiming they received £491.38 per month.

They were thrilled with the outcome and say it has changed their day to day lives, and that they are able to treat their grandchildren.

**Contact Southway's Advice Team if you have any questions, or would like help applying for Pension Credit or any other welfare benefits.**

## SPOTTING COVID VACCINE SCAMMERS

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is well under way across Greater Manchester.

Sadly, fraudulent calls and text messages offering the vaccine in exchange for money or personal information are also on the rise.

Remember, the Covid-19 vaccine is FREE and can only be offered by the NHS, your GP or your employer. You will never have to provide any of the following for a vaccine:

- Your bank account or card details.
- Your PIN or banking password.
- Proof of identity, such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips.

If you think you have received a fraudulent call, hang up and report the number to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. You can learn more about the Covid-19 vaccine at: [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/)



## OUR MIND MATTERS

We all need to think about our mind in the same way that we need to think about our bodies, especially in times of change. Here are the top tips from Greater Manchester Combined Authority.



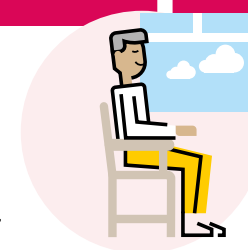
### STAY CONNECTED WITH OTHERS

- Stay in touch with friends, family, neighbours, clubs, and your community by phone.
- Asking for help with shopping and running errands.
- Volunteer to get or become a phone befriender to others.



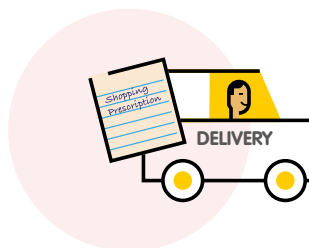
### STAY ON TOP OF DIFFICULT FEELINGS AND WORRIES

- Try to focus on things in your control.
- Limit how much news you watch or listen to and use trusted sources (BBC/ITV).
- Take time to chat about how you're feeling with others, it can really help.



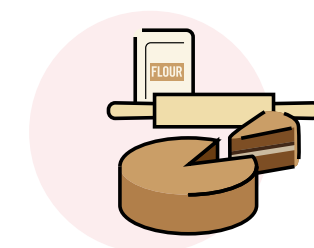
### PLAN PRACTICAL THINGS

- Keep up with usual everyday activities and interests at home.
- Make a 'to do list' for each day: writing shopping lists, making calls, order repeat prescriptions.
- Continue accessing treatment and support for health conditions from your GP.



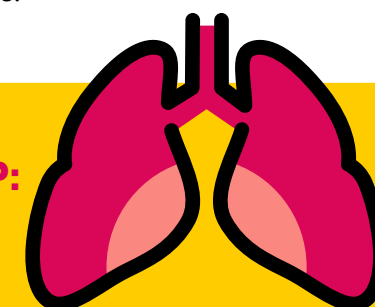
### TAKE TIME TO NOTICE AND FEEL JOY

- Take time to focus on activities you enjoy at home.
- Set yourself a goal, learn a new skill, or take on a challenge.
- Take note of things that bring you joy and share them with others.



### IF YOU START TO FEEL OVERWHELMED, SOME SIMPLE BREATHING EXERCISES CAN HELP:

1. Sit or lie down in a way that's comfortable for you.
2. Take a deep breath in and hold it, at the same time raising and tightening your shoulders, and clenching your fists.
3. Count slowly to five as you breathe out.
4. Do this several times.



**GMCA** GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY



# DOMESTIC ABUSE & VIOLENCE

Home should be a happy and safe place for us all. But for someone experiencing domestic abuse and trapped in with their abuser, home can be a very distressing and dangerous place to be.

**If you think you are experiencing domestic abuse, or are worried about someone who may be, then we want you to know that help and support is available. Or, if you are a person who is perpetrating domestic abuse and you want help and support to address and change your behaviour, that is available to you too.**

Please read our guide and get in touch if anything rings true with you so we can give you the support you need.

## WHAT IS DOMESTIC ABUSE?

*"Any incident or patterns of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This includes forced marriage and abuse within same sex relationships. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional".*

Domestic abuse can affect anyone, whatever your background or personal circumstances.

Domestic abuse is not exclusive to just physical abuse; sometimes abuse can be less visible and obvious, such as financial abuse or controlling and coercive behaviour. Psychological abuse such as 'gaslighting', whereby

the abuser makes someone question their sanity and perception of reality, has far-reaching implications for a person's mental wellbeing.

In addition to all the above, and equally worrying, are the children who experience domestic abuse, living in a household where it is occurring, whether this involves being directly harmed by the abuser or witnessing the abuse of others.

**Exposing a child to domestic abuse and/or allowing them to be physically harmed is Child Abuse.**

## WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Although every situation is different and unique, there are some common signs which can indicate domestic abuse is occurring. So if you are a person who thinks you are suffering domestic abuse, here are some signs:

- Feeling afraid and like you are walking on eggshells, so as not to upset your abuser
- Your abuser is overly jealous or possessive, won't allow you to see friends or family. Questions where you are going or where you have been, tracks your movements, gives you time limits to going out. Tells you what you can/can't wear
- Is nice one moment and abusive the next



- Plays mind games, makes you question your judgement and or sanity
- Constantly puts you down, calling you names which make you feel bad about yourself
- Controls access to money and property, such as a shared car
- Monitors your phone, devices and Social Media
- Uses anger and/or intimidation to control you
- Uses Physical Violence to control you
- Threatens to or actually does spread malicious lies about you and/or reveal intimate information, such as photos, videos, messages
- Pressures or forces you to engage in sex or sexual acts against your will

## I'M WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE – WHAT SHOULD I LOOK OUT FOR?

- They seem scared or frightened of their partner
- They talk about their partner having a short temper, being possessive and/or jealous

- They have limited access to money/car
- They have unexplained physical injuries, wear inappropriate clothing for the weather (Eg; A jumper in Summer)
- Appear depressed or anxious
- Often have times that they have to be home, or have to check that they are allowed to go somewhere and/or check in constantly with the partner. They feel helpless and worried if they can't
- Not allowed to see friends and/or family.

## IS MY CHILD MY ABUSER?

Parent abuse, also known as child to parent abuse is a relatively hidden form of Domestic Abuse. It is vastly under reported, as parents often perceive such behaviour as a normal part of their child growing up and finding their independence. However, for parents who do recognise their child's behaviour as being abusive, they are often too ashamed or embarrassed to talk or ask for help. Abuse perpetrated by a child, may also be them abusing their sibling or another family member.

Whilst it is completely normal for your child to become more challenging, test your patience, mildly rebel, push boundaries and seemingly dislike their siblings, it is important to be able to spot when their behaviour becomes abusive, and more so when to seek help and support.

### Look out for:

- Feeling intimidated – if you or another family member don't give your child what they want, they retaliate in a way that is harmful.

- Extreme defiance – Outright defying the rules of you and your home without any concern or fear of consequence
- Escalating patterns of violence – Destroying property, punching walls, shoving, hitting things near you or family member, throwing things that almost hit you or another family member
- Verbal abuse – An escalation from normal family arguments/ disagreements to name calling and swearing which makes you feel bad about yourself and causes obvious distress

## WHAT IF I AM PERPETRATING ABUSE?

You may know your behaviour is wrong and want help to change it, but be unsure of how to ask for help or ashamed to seek support.

If this rings true, try accessing the **'Respect'** Helpline which provides advice for people who are abusive.

You can contact them on **0845 122 8609** or go to **www.respect.uk.net**.

## HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

**If you are at immediate risk yourself or are worried that another person/child is at immediate risk of harm call 999 immediately.**

If you suspect a person and/or child is experiencing Domestic Abuse or any other abuse, and where there is no immediate risk of harm then you should report to Manchester Social Care on 0161 234 5001 this line is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. (You can report anonymously if you are worried about revealing your identity) You can also email non-urgent concerns to: **mcsreply@manchester.gov.uk**

You can also report concerns for a child experiencing any form of abuse via the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000** or by visiting their website at **nspcc.org.uk**.

Non urgent reports of domestic abuse can be reported to the police on **101**.

As a tenant of Southway Housing, if you are experiencing domestic abuse or worried about another tenant, then you can contact our **Customer Hub** for advice and support.

**\*Please note that Southway Housing cannot respond to an immediate concern for the safety of a person or a child - if you have such concerns YOU MUST call 999\***

**There are lots more resources on our website [www.southwayhousing.co.uk](http://www.southwayhousing.co.uk)**



## GETTING THE QUIDS IN FOR

# 'Quids In' Food Clubs

Our Quids In food clubs have been working hard to keep members well fed through the pandemic. After switching to deliveries during the first lockdown, the clubs re-opened in August for members to pick up their pre-packed bags of food – it's great to see everyone again!

We know how much our members need the Quids In food clubs so keeping them running has always been a priority but we couldn't have done it without some extra help.

Funding from the Government's Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, meant that we were able to employ a temporary Quids In Assistant and buy a new refrigerated delivery van, personal protective equipment and other equipment and supplies for the clubs.

Our shelves and fridges have been kept well-stocked by grants from the Forever Manchester Community Support Fund, We Love MCR Covid Community Response Fund and Tesco Bags of Help COVID-19 Communities Fund.

We are very grateful for all the support we have received from staff, volunteers and funders, it has made a huge difference to what the clubs have been able to offer – THANK YOU from everyone at Quids In!

*"I have liked the selection and content of my food bags ... thank you to all of the staff and helpers for all of your help, support, kindness and smiles. It is very much appreciated."*

Funding from **Forever Manchester** for halal meat has been appreciated by the clubs' Muslim members:

*"I'm really proud to be a Muslim and, proud too to have a food club that thinks about us as small minority... To afford halal meat is not easy for us, is quite expensive, and meat you provided to us is tasty. So thank you to everyone."*



## WHY PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING LOCAL CREDIT UNIONS OVER BANKS

More and more people are choosing to become members of their local credit union, often seen as a community bank.

Credit Unions offer savings and loans and are known for being ethical organisations that treat their members fairly. This is why Southway has always supported South Manchester Credit Union and encourages both tenants and staff to join.

Since moving to a new shop on 187 Fog Lane in Burnage, the Credit Union now offers a much broader range of financial products including business and car loans and various saving options. There's also an app which is an easy way for members to manage their accounts, check balances, make payments and apply for loans.

In 2014 we developed the Southway Solutions loan scheme working in partnership with South Manchester Credit Union. The scheme allows tenants to borrow £100 to £300 to help with 'home emergencies'.

Now in its seventh year over 1,300 people have borrowed from the scheme with some having had several loans over the years as borrowers seem to like the quick and easy application process.

*"The loan was a Godsend. I needed the money as someone smashed into my car and drove off. I'm a taxi driver so couldn't operate till it was sorted and when you're self employed it's no work, no money. I got the loan sorted really quick, it may have been the same day, so I got the car in the garage and was back to work that night. It was a real lifesaver"* **Mr G from Burnage**

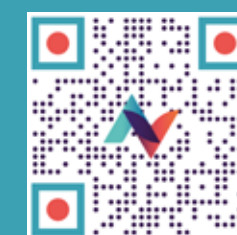
*"This is my first place so when I moved in I didn't have furniture or anything, just a few pots and pans from a friend. I don't like borrowing but it was miserable, no TV or somewhere to sit. With the loan I have been able to*

*furnish the place and I'm only paying a tenner a week. The flat's more like a proper home now"* **Ms F from Withington**

As with all reputable financial organisations your money is completely safe, guaranteed by the Financial Conduct Authority.

To find out more about the Southway Solutions loan scheme see our website or contact the Customer Hub. South Manchester Credit Union are at 187 Fog Lane or you can phone them on 0161 448 0200.

Scan QR code to launch the Credit Union app



## SUPPORT OLD MOAT QUIDS IN AS YOU SHOP

Old Moat Quids In Food Club is delighted to have been chosen as one of the Co-op's Local Community Fund causes.

Co-op members who choose us as their local cause can add money to our fund each time they shop until October 2021 – at no extra cost. All the money raised will be used to buy breakfast food for our club members.

The more people who choose Old Moat Quids In as their cause, the more we can help our members so if you are a Co-op member, please select us as your local cause at [www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/50016](http://www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/50016). You can become a Co-op member online at [www.coop.co.uk/membership](http://www.coop.co.uk/membership) or ask in your local store.

**If you need support with food, get in touch with our Advice Team. We can help you access Food Clubs and Foodbanks.**



## HOARDING SUPPORT IS BACK ONLINE

Many of us have felt trapped in our homes over the last year, and excess clutter can worsen those feelings.

If you feel overwhelmed and isolated by the amount of "stuff" in your house, don't suffer in silence – help is available.

If you or a family member is struggling with hoarding or household clutter, our 'Tidy Homes Tidy Minds' hoarding peer support group can help. Meeting twice a month, the group is open to anyone

– not just Southway tenants – who is struggling to cope with the amount of possessions in their home.

Since launching in January 2020, this friendly group has welcomed lots of new members and they are always happy to see new faces. If you feel like you or your family could use some help, please do not hesitate to join a session and get some friendly, empathetic support.

**Sessions take place on the first and last Thursday of the month, online at 7pm. You can find out more on Tidy Homes Tidy Minds' Facebook page - @tidyhomestidyminds.**





## AMBITIOUS YOUNG MANCUNIANS CAN BENEFIT FROM £200,000 RISING STARS FUND

Southway is excited to have partnered with We Love MCR in delivering their new 'Manchester's Rising Stars Fund' - a £200,000 fund offering hope and opportunity to determined young Mancunians who need a helping hand to take their next step in education, entrepreneurship, employment, or training.

We Love MCR Charity knows that young Mancunian's opportunities for study, business and employment have been impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. But something that hasn't changed is their ambition and drive. The Manchester's Rising Stars Fund supports talented young people to overcome the barriers they face, to become the potential rising stars who will help to shape Manchester and become the next generation of achievers. The Fund is unique – it asks young Mancunians what they believe they need to progress on their path to success, and then provides funding to enable them to achieve their ambitions.

The charity encourages young people living or studying in Manchester aged 16-24\* to apply for an award up to the value of £2,000. (\*up to 30 if the individual has lived experience of homelessness). They believe that the right support, at the right time, can be life changing for young people. The Manchester's Rising Stars Fund has already supported over 40 young people to take positive steps towards their

goals by funding vital equipment, courses and accreditations in a successful pilot scheme.

The Manchester's Rising Stars Fund was created with the generous support of the Sir Howard Bernstein Endowment Fund. Other partners of the fund include The Manchester College, UCEN, Manchester Young Lives, Sale Sharks, City in the Community, SENDcode, N-Gage and The Growth Company.

**Marie O'Neill-Steinegger, Grants Manager for We Love MCR Charity says:**

*"We've seen that a grant from the Manchester's Rising Stars Fund can be life changing for some young people. The commitment today demonstrates our belief in the young people of Manchester, in their ambition and their drive to succeed, whatever the barriers are. The Fund is here to support those young people who might need some financial help to overcome these barriers, to help them become Manchester's Rising Stars!"*

For more information about the fund please visit We Love MCR's website:  
[www.welovemcrcharity.org](http://www.welovemcrcharity.org)

**WE ♥ MCR**  
CHARITY



## ADVICE MANAGER TRISH HELPS TENANT SECURE WINDRUSH COMPENSATION

In October 2019, Trish was approached by a tenant to help them with their application to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

*"The application was very difficult and so we concentrated on explaining how the tenant's adult life had been affected by their inability to obtain a British passport. These difficulties ranged from employment, to health, to being unable to travel outside the UK."*

*In February 2020 I received a call from the Home Office, Windrush Compensation Scheme to confirm and discuss what we could add to the information provided.*

*We got the tenant's GP and Jeff Smith MP on board to help.*

*Last week the tenant called me in tears of joy. They had been awarded £44K to compensate them for the difficulties they have experienced all these years. The first thing they want to do is to visit their place of birth as they have never been able to go back. This is why I love my job!"*

**Remember, if you need support with managing your money, our Advice Team are here for you. Our skilled and experienced advisers can help you with bills, rent, benefits and more. Contact the Customer Hub or visit [www.southwayhousing.co.uk/support-services/rent-money](http://www.southwayhousing.co.uk/support-services/rent-money) for more information.**



A beautiful development of 1 & 2 bedroom apartments available for rent, exclusively for people aged 55 and over. Includes a café, hair salon, bathing suite and landscaped garden with lounge. Please contact us further information.

**T: 0161 448 4200**

**E: [AFapplications@southwayhousing.co.uk](mailto:AFapplications@southwayhousing.co.uk)**

## Apartments available to rent

\* Our 'With Care' offer means there is a dedicated care team based on site, 24 hours a day, in case they are ever needed.





# EU, EEA OR EFTA CITIZEN?

## APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME BEFORE 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

As a result of Brexit, EU, EEA and EFTA Citizens living in the UK must confirm their immigration status by applying to the government's EU Settlement Scheme.

This does not include Irish citizens, who can live and work in the UK under the Common Travel Area arrangement. There is no charge to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme and, if your application is successful, you will receive either Settled or Pre-Settled status.

Both of these will mean you can continue to live in the UK, however you may need to take further action if granted Pre-Settled status.

If you don't apply, there is a very real risk that you will no longer be able to work in the UK, receive NHS treatments or claim benefits, so we

strongly encourage you to apply as soon as possible.

Applications to the EU Settlement Scheme close on **30th June 2021**. Remember, Southway's Advice Team are always here to support you. Email the team on **adviceteamreferrals@southwayhousing.co.uk** or call us on **0161 448 4200** to make an appointment.

### HELP FROM EUROPIA

Europaia is a Manchester-based charity specialised in supporting European expats living in the UK.

The team there can provide you with free, impartial advice and support you with your application.

You can visit Europaia's website: **www.europia.org.uk/** or Facebook: **www.facebook.com/EuropaiaMcr** for more information.



# CREATING MY FUTURE

## CAREERS FAIR

Are you looking for work, training or a career change? Are you finding the new world of work intimidating and uncertain?

Following our successful launch event last year, we're holding another 'Creating My Future' on **Tuesday 20th April 11am-2pm** – an online, virtual Careers Fair to support you in the shifting world of work.

Creating My Future will showcase the jobs and careers that are available during these challenging times, linking people with good quality work, with a focus on growth industries like construction and green energy, technology, and social care. You will be able to meet with employers with current live vacancies face to face and find out about how to work for them.

It will promote training opportunities, and provide support for people in the hugely shifting post-Covid world of work. There will be presentations mixed with breakout sessions with a range of different service providers and employers throughout the session. Workshops will include

current key topics like 'How to do online job interviews' and 'How to set up your business'.

You will also find out about specific support for young people, older people and underrepresented groups, like the Kickstart programme and Women in Tech.

If you need help using the internet or getting online for this event, contact us and we will help you get set up. You won't need a laptop or computer – you will be able to join using your mobile phone.



To sign up, go to [www.southwayhousing.co.uk/creating-my-future](http://www.southwayhousing.co.uk/creating-my-future) or contact the Customer Hub

# LOVING MINEHEAD LIVING

WELCOME HOME SHARON!

"When I was married I'd lived in Chorlton", she says, "but Chorlton was out of my price range".

Fortunately a friend of Sharon's lived close to Minehead, the new community of stylish two bedroom apartments in the heart of Withington. Impressed by the community café, health services and that the flats had all the latest eco-features and double-glazing, she suggested Sharon take a look at the show apartment.

"I walked into the show apartment and just thought, 'Wow! I absolutely love it!'"

Having moved back to Manchester to be closer to family, Sharon Burns' six-month 'temporary' stay with a friend quickly stretched into four years. It was time to buy a place of her own and settle down.

Sharon contacted **Gecko Homes** to find out about the benefits of Shared Ownership.

With Gecko's simple and personal approach, it wasn't long before Sharon became the proud owner of her very own Minehead apartment.

"It's one of the best moves I've ever made. I absolutely love it. I've always lived in old Victorian terraces where there's always something needed doing. So it's lovely just to walk in. I've got everything new."

With older housing notorious for expensive energy bills, Sharon found Minehead's double-glazed eco homes are more affordable to heat and maintain.

"I moved in in September, and I've had my heating on for about an hour the whole time. It's so warm."

Buying a Shared Ownership home may seem daunting for some who are unfamiliar with how it works – but Sharon was surprised by how stress-free the process was compared to other routes of buying and renting.

"There was no stress at all. Gecko were really helpful, and shared ownership is easy. They gave a list of solicitors who deal with shared ownership. I'm just really pleased with the whole experience of it all. And I feel settled. This feels like it could be my forever home. I do have a bit of wanderlust in me but I'm just happy now."

Are you looking to move on? To find out about Gecko's latest developments and learn about Shared Ownership, visit [www.geckohomes.co.uk](http://www.geckohomes.co.uk) or contact us.



COMING SPRING 2021 • TO LET

## New Café Opportunity

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# LET'S COOK TOGETHER

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For more information and to join, contact:

E: [Westcroftcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:Westcroftcommunitycentre@gmail.com) T: 0161 448 8232

**Westcroft Community Centre**  
24-26 Westcroft Road, Burnage M19 2GU

