

HOME OWNERSHIP

Landlords and tenants can have a range of contractual relationships; such as licensees, tenants, shared-ownership leaseholders, or full-ownership leaseholders. There are a wide range of schemes on offer to facilitate residents owning part, or all of their home; such as Right to Buy, Right to Acquire, leasehold purchase, shared-ownership stair-casing provisions, equity loans & mortgage rescue schemes.

If you are interested in exploring the options available to you with regards to owning your home:

Consult your tenancy agreement to check whether you might be eligible for any home ownership schemes. Not all schemes are available for every resident, or in relation to every property, and there are often very specific requirements which must be met before you can progress an application for home ownership.

If you are unsure about the options available to you, you should contact the landlord in the first instance and ask it to send you any relevant information and guidance publications. You can also seek advice from:

Government Services and Advice - www.gov.uk/browse/housing
Leasehold Advisory Service – www.lease-advice.org or 0207 383 9800

It is important that you have realistic expectations of how and when the landlord should respond to your enquiries, and any subsequent application, so it is important to familiarise yourself with the landlord's relevant policies and procedures to manage home ownership issues.

Before you proceed with any home ownership scheme, you should get your own legal advice and carefully consider the documentation to ensure that you are fully aware of your rights and obligations as a home owner and those of the landlord. Often, you will have greater responsibility for repairing and maintaining the property, and there may be additional unforeseen charges.