



INCREASING YOUR CHANCES OF HOUSING ADDITIONAL HOUSING CHOICES!



DPHS(F) welcomes the news from Fife Council's Fife Housing Register Team that you can now advise them of more than x3 area choices if this will help you in your search for housing to meet your needs. Initially you should let your local office know if you wish to add more than the original x3 area choices and they will add this to your details. At the moment we don't believe that the FHR computer system has been changed to allow for this and your additional choices will be followed up by your local housing allocation team so it makes sense to speak to them about any additional areas you would like to add and why. It would be helpful that if you are going to contact the Council's local office to advise them of any changes that you also give us a quick ring to let us know your additional choices as well.

This change is something that DPHS(F) has campaigned for over the past years and we are so glad to see it happening. This now means that a disabled person has access to far more of the housing stock than when restricted to only 3 areas. So let us know if this helps you!

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS – ADDITIONAL CHANCES FOR HOUSING!

After some research by DPHS(F) it has become apparent that some Housing Associations are still using their own forms and allocation processes for the housing they hold in Fife. Many of them do use the Fife Housing Register (FHR) but may only use it for 50% of their vacancies. If you are a current customer at DPHS(F) our Housing Advisor, Tracy Finnie, will already have ensured that you are aware of this and that any additional forms have been done. However, please note that if you decide to increase the number of area choices (as per above article) then this may mean that there are Housing Associations you can apply to direct as well as ticking the nomination boxes on your FHR. If you do decide to change or add to your area choices please do give us a ring here at DPHS(F) and Tracy will have a look to ensure you are not missing out!

Example: Cairn Housing Association use FHR only for general needs properties where as they use their own waiting list for all new build and specific needs properties.

Trust and Hanover Housing Associations use FHR for 50% of their lets which means every second vacant house is filled through their own list – making it worthwhile to fill out their form if they have the type of housing you are seeking in your area of choice!

We intend to duplicate full information on to our website so that any person seeking housing can see the allocation policies of each of the Housing Associations who hold stock in Fife. If in doubt just give us a call – that's what we are here for!

	We use FHR	We use own list	We use own list then FHR	Comments
Cairn HA	Occasionally for all our Fife based properties, all new builds and specific needs properties and always for general needs	At present for all our Fife based properties, all new build and specific needs properties	Except for general needs when we only use FHR	
Hillcrest HA		For all our Fife based properties, all new build, general needs and specific needs properties		We use our own list for 40% of void properties and give 40% to FHR for nominations. The remaining 20% we give to our own tenants for transfer if possible. We are in the process of hopefully being included in FHR at some future date.
Horizon HA		We only use our own list		Use own list exclusively for W/C accessible but have a 50% nomination agreement with Fife Council for re-lets
Bield HA	For all	Fife based and Specific Needs Properties		
Margaret Blackwood HA				We request LA noms for 50% of our vacancies, 10% lets to internal transfers, 10% to equality groups such as DPHS and 30% direct applicants. This is for all lets unless we have an agreement with Council for new builds where they have 100% nominations.
Ochil View HA	For all our Fife based properties			Fife Council has 100% nominations on vacancies. We are unable to access the FHR at present so request nominations by email.
Trust HA	Every 2 nd vacancy for all	For all		
Hanover HA	Every 2 nd vacancy for all	For all		Own list for all new build
Home Scotland	30% for all	70% for all		Home Scotland have a duty to help the LA with its homeless responsibilities we therefore have an agreement for 30% of our general needs properties in Fife to be allocated through homeless or section 5 referrals.

POST XMAS BLUES!

We've all been there - eaten and indulged too much over the festive period! Chances are that we are all finding our finances tight at the moment as well. If this is causing you worry or becoming a problem we can't stress enough how important it is to get some support at an early stage so you can manage things. Here at DPHS(F) we have seen how debt can cause an effect - for example, on someone's housing application due to suspension, etc. DPHS(F) has the ability to refer you directly for money advice. If you feel this may help please feel free to give us a ring and we can arrange an online referral which means a Money Advice service will contact you direct. Citizens Advice and Rights Fife (CARF) offer drop in at various please and times and also an appointment system. Fife Council's Money Advice service is also still in operation for the moment. DPHS staff can refer you whilst you are on the phone. Alternatively you can contact: **CARF**: 0845 1400 095 or **Fife Council Trading Standards Money Advice**: 01592 583123

Telephone: 01592 223905

www.dphsfife.org.uk

E-mail: enquiries@dphsfife.org.uk

Wendy Riveiro DPHS(F) Private Sector Worker

It's great to see that many of our customers are continuing to include the private sector as a possible solution to finding housing to meet their needs, whether this be buying property or taking a private let. I have also assisted, by providing information and advice, customers who have decided to apply for a grant through Scheme of Assistance to have adaptations on their current private sector housing. Consider all options available is my advice to all customers as waiting on social rented housing can be a very lengthy, sometimes stressful time due to the high number of applicants and the shortage of certain types of housing required by many of our customers. Looking at the private sector as a solution may increase a customers chances of finding and being offered a tenancy in housing to meet their needs.

The long awaited Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in October 2010. I attended the consultation that Shelter arranged prior to this and was able to give feedback in relation to our customers needs. The Bill contains a number of provisions aimed at raising the standards of private rented housing in Scotland. The Bill sends a clear message to bad and unlawful landlords that they will not be tolerated and gives greater powers to Local Authorities to tackle the problem.

A briefing on the Private Rented Housing (Scotland) Bill can be found at: www.cih.org/scotland/policy/CIHS-PRSBillSummaryOct10.pdf

Changes to Housing Benefit/Local Housing Allowance



Be assured that here at DPHS(F) we are keeping an eye on all of the proposed changes so that we can find out how this may affect any of our customers.

Welcome to Sarah Smith!

DPHS Board and Staff would like to welcome Sarah who has just started a 6 month post through Future Jobs Fund. This scheme is to assist young people by providing a place of work for up to 6 months which can provide training and a valuable fulltime work experience. Sarah is a Fifer, enjoys music and has recently moved into her first house. So we wish Sarah all the best with learning all about DPHS(F) and how we assist our customers as we hope that an experience with DPHS(F) can lead a young person into thinking about a career in the voluntary sector, the equalities sector or indeed the housing sector.

DPHS has been delighted so far with our experience of working with Future Jobs Fund as we also recently welcomed Katie Muir here to work with us. Katie loves music and won a Gold Medal at the Special Olympics in 2009 for Freestyle Front. Katie has learned new skills and is now also carrying out some work for Adam Smith College.

Previously of course we also were fortunate enough to welcome both Louise Smith and Tracy Finnie via Future Jobs Fund and following their work experience and training they are both invaluable members of our team.

Looking Back!!! We thought we'd ask around to see the background that people have in addition to their personal experiencing of housing and disability and discovered quite a few different working backgrounds over the years: Accounting; Painter and Decorator; Sales; Social Work; Clerical Work; Telephonist; Piano Tuner; Solicitors Assistant; Building Society Worker; Carer; Dementia Specialist; Journalist; Hospital Radio DJ; Dishwasher; Bingo Caller!! Oh we have been around haven't we!!! We won't say who is who and leave you guessing!!!

Horseboy

DPHS(F) recently received information related to autism spectrum which includes aspergers. Gillian passed on information about how her son is now getting on and this information may be of interest to you.

Hi,

My name is Gillian Naysmith, I am Mum to a 5 yr old Son with Autism and I run Horse Boy UK. I also run a new company - Horse Boy Productions...

Horse Boy Productions are proud to let you know that we now have a new DVD available - Temple Grandin - 'A View From The Inside, Everything about Autism You Always Wanted To Know'. Here is how the dvd came about...

'When Rupert Isaacsons' Son, Rowan was diagnosed with Autism, he decided to learn everything he could about the condition...

Prior to the families journey to Mongolia, which is documented in Ruperts' best selling book and movie, 'The Horse boy', he went to Fort Collins, Colorado to meet with Dr Temple Grandin to try to understand how Autism feels from the inside.

Temple Grandin, an adult Autist herself is also one of the worlds' leading authorities on animal behaviour. In this interview she speaks to Rupert about Autism and her experiences growing up and going through life with the condition. She explains the way she thinks and how things make her feel.

A very inspiring interview between an Autism parent and one of the few people in the world who can offer him some insight into his Sons mind. Temple Grandin answers the questions that every parent or person with a family member on the spectrum wants to ask...'

I have really enjoyed co-producing and editing this wonderful dvd - I know anyone who buys it will love it... We will be producing further dvds in the future but have started out with this one.

The DVD is available now from <http://gilliannaysmith.com> or <http://horseboycamps.co.uk> and is also listed on Amazon.co.uk.

If you decide to purchase any of the DVDs or see them somewhere else please do let us know how you get on with them.

Here at DPHS(F) we will be viewing them as part of staff and trustee development as we think it is really important to understand the effect of different conditions so that we can assist people the best way we can.

Private Sector Success Story!

Mr. and Mrs. X decided that they wanted to move from England to Fife in order to receive valuable family support. Mrs. X has Huntington's disease and her husband is her full time carer. They contacted DPHS (F) to receive housing information and advice regarding the best and first steps they should make in order to find housing to meet their needs.

They were first advised to complete a Fife Housing Register form along with an illness and disability form, although as their current housing in England does meet their need they would only receive local connection support points which in all honesty would not be very high. They were advised to consider other options which included buying to meet their needs and taking a private let. They decided to take the private let option after DPHS (F) Private Sector Worker provided them with information on current available properties, although the property they decided to take does not fully meet Mrs. X's needs they have discussed with their future landlord what adaptations would need to be completed before they moved in. The landlord has agreed to this and has decided to install what is required out of his own pocket, this being handrails and a level access shower.

Should you wish to consider the private sector as a solution to your housing situation please contact me, Wendy Riveiro Private Sector Worker DPHS(F) on 01592 223905

Telephone: 01592 223905

www.dphsfife.org.uk

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