



Our house

# Application form

## What is our house?

West Oxfordshire District Council and Cottsway are working in partnership to establish 'Our house' - a community housing project, with funding awarded from a government grant.

Our house will support single, under 35-year-old people in West Oxfordshire. It will take larger properties and turn them into shared accommodation for single under 35-year olds. Participants will have the opportunity to be trained in different 'trades' while they renovate the property, taking on apprenticeships and being supported throughout the whole process.



## Is it for me?

Participants will become a 'trainee' in this project and supported to work on their home as part of a team of like-minded people. Trainees will have the opportunity and support to work, take on an apprenticeship or training course and access various local support agencies so trainees can get the most out of the project. There will also be an opportunity to have a mentor to help guide and support trainees on their journey to living independently – this is your journey!

## What are the benefits?

- ✓ Opportunity to take on an apprenticeship or training qualification;
- ✓ Work as a team of like-minded people;
- ✓ Gain skills and experience to live independently;
- ✓ Shared rent and utility costs;
- ✓ Have the opportunity to take pride in your work.
- ✓ Become part of the local community;
- ✓ Change and focus aspirations for the future.

## Your questions answered...

### What's the criteria?

Trainees must:

- Have a local connection to West Oxfordshire;
- Be under the age of 35;
- Either be in training, on benefits or work ready with a drive to become independent. If work ready, evidence of engagement with local agencies may be required;
- Have a work related goal or career aspiration in mind;
- Not be dependent on drugs or alcohol – if dependant in the past, trainees must have received treatment and support for these issues;
- Not currently be on a probationary license that prevents them undertaking certain types of work or activities.



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## What about the shared house?

Cottsway has to source a suitable property as and when they become available. We hope these will be in the larger West Oxfordshire towns to make access to colleges and other services easier.

During the project, trainees will become licensees of the property with the tenancy being managed by Cottsway. This gives us (Cottsway) and you (the trainee) certain rights.

## What kind of apprenticeships will be on offer?

Whilst we need trainees to take on a 'trade' in order to get the property renovated it may be possible for other types of apprenticeships to be considered. We will work with you to support you to find a suitable apprenticeship and any costs associated with it will be covered by the Project. The Project Coordinator will also support you into finding employment or other training opportunity if an apprenticeship is not the right path for you.

## What else is expected of me?

Everyone in the property will be expected to pull their weight and do their share. As well as skilled-trade renovations, items in the home may need to be replaced, painted or upgraded. Gardens will need to be maintained and tended too. Any emergency or repair work to the property will be done by Cottsway Repairs Team.

All trainees will come together and meet before the project kicks off and together we will draw up some house standards for everyone to abide by.

## Who will cover the costs?

The materials and tools will be provided by the project. Apprenticeships, training costs and travel costs will also be covered by the project.

## What happens when the property is renovated?

When the property is fully renovated the rent will return to social rent - this will be discussed in more detail at the beginning of the project.

## What happens if anything goes wrong?

The Project Co-ordinator is on hand to help in a variety of matters and these will be managed as and when they arise. You will be supported throughout all aspects of the project.

## Great – what happens next?

Any further questions just get in touch using the details below or fill in the form on the back and I will be in touch for an informal chat and we can go from there! Your personal information will be stored securely at Cottsway and destroyed if you decide not to continue with your application.

## For more details...

### Contact Project Coordinator:

**Sam Stronach**

✉ [sam.stronach@cottsway.co.uk](mailto:sam.stronach@cottsway.co.uk)

☎ 01993 890000

🐦 @samatcottsway or  
@ourhouseWESTOX





### What are your current circumstances

What is your current employment status i.e. working part-time, volunteering, training etc

What are your current living arrangements i.e. living at home, renting etc

### Medical information and support needs

Please tell us of any medical conditions or support needs you would like us to be aware of, for example epilepsy, diabetes, heart conditions, allergies etc.

- Tick that you agree for your information to be stored securely and used for the purposes of this project. Your details will be deleted if you do not participate.

Please return form to: Sam Stronach, Cottsway Housing, Heynes Place, Avenue Two, Witney, OX28 3YG or [sam.stronach@cottsway.co.uk](mailto:sam.stronach@cottsway.co.uk)

Working in partnership:

Cottsway 



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Thanks. We will be in touch with you shortly to discuss your application.