

# Introducing our Pre-Tenancy NOCN Level 1 Course

In addition to housing and pastoral support, at ACH we progress our tenants onto specific needs-focused training. We have developed our own Tenants Curriculum consisting of scheduled supported training sessions, mixing accredited and non-accredited frameworks of learning which builds on our **Job Club** and other 'preparing to move on' services. ACH's experience is that tailored learning and skills provision can make a huge difference and helps tenants to:

- Rebuild their self-confidence
- Improve their mental health and wellbeing
- Prepare for and make a success of employment
- Build their social networks and,
- Restart their lives

ACH is registered with the National Open College Network (NOCN) to deliver their Developing Skills for Gaining Employment Awards. These qualifications are accessible to disadvantaged learners, and alongside more specialist vocational courses from other awarding bodies, form the accredited component of our curriculum. ACH have created a support and training offer which is not prescriptive but does deliver a quality service for funders and tenants alike. To find out more about our courses please [click here](#).

We are pleased to announce the introduction of one of our newest courses in Bristol, the **Pre-Tenancy Skills (QFC) NOCN Level 1 Award**. This course is in partnership with the **Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)** and will be taught by our support worker and qualified trainer, **Tom Dixon**.

Moving out of our supported housing and moving on with their lives is the ultimate goal for our tenants at ACH. Moving into a new home, although an exciting time, is often daunting and challenging, especially if renting for the first time.

The course has been designed for our tenants to learn more about their rights and responsibilities as tenants, as well as developing their confidence and practical knowledge of maintaining their home and tenancy. The course and qualification will also teach our tenants key skills in budgeting, preparing for Universal Credit, paying bills and being good neighbours.

Landlords will inevitably benefit from tenants taking this course too. They will have fewer problems with tenants and could save a substantial amount of money from chasing debt, dealing with repairs or even taking their residents to court.

As well as our Pre-Tenancy course in Bristol, we have created a new partnership in Birmingham with the **West Midlands Fire Service** to deliver an education programme and induction for all our new tenants. The programme, called '**Welcome to the West Midlands**', promotes safety, wellbeing, community understanding, and citizenship and is aimed at people who have lived in the UK for less than two years. It has been developed in consultation with migrants to meet the information gap which can occur when someone first arrives in the UK. The programme is delivered by the West Midlands Fire Service Community Volunteers to all new ACH tenants.

This course introduces our tenants to living in rented accommodation in the UK and creating a safe and healthy living environment. The training focuses on our tenants' health and wellbeing, giving them a good understanding of **road safety, fire safety, health services, drug and alcohol awareness and environmental awareness**. These are essential areas of learning for anyone moving to a new country and we hope that providing this information early on will ease our tenants' integration into UK life.

Many of our tenants are newly arrived refugees with little knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as a tenant. At ACH we care about our tenants and believe in supporting them to move on with their lives and integrating into the community. With our Pre-Tenancy courses and Induction programmes we enable our tenants to prove they are good, risk-free tenants who can successfully move on and into unsupported rented accommodation. This training means the landlords we work with can rest assured knowing that our tenants will respect and take good care of their properties.

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ACH have housed more than 1200 tenants over the past few years and we work closely with local authorities and other housing providers to maintain the highest standard of services.

**Currently we are experiencing increased demands for our accommodation services and are urgently require 4+ bedroom houses to rent on long term leases from the private sector. For the private landlord we offer some fantastic benefits:**

- Long term repairing leases with the possibility of extension
- Competitive rents
- No set up cost or ongoing management fee

- Complete peace of mind – the property will be fully managed by us with several visits per week
- The property returned to you in the same condition as it was handed to us
- No DSS payments – We will pay you or your agent directly each month in advance

If you would like further information please phone 0117 954 0433 or  
[emailinfo@ashleyhousing.com](mailto:emailinfo@ashleyhousing.com)

