

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. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to live in the shared house and share communal facilities such as white goods, communal areas, kitchens and gardens (property dependant). In return participants will be supported back into work, apprenticeships, training and 'up' skilling through a variety of targets, goal setting and coaching. Participants will also be able to make their bedspace their own with a decorating pack to get started.

It should be noted this project and project houses are not 'supported housing'. Trainees will be expected to be able to live and co-habit in a shared house.

Is it for me?

Participants will become a 'trainee' in this project. 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. Trainees will get 'work ready' and in a position to get themselves on the employment ladder. We will also offer the support

of an Independent Work Coach to help mentor and coach all trainees.

What are the benefits?

- ✓ Opportunity to take on an apprenticeship or training qualification;
- ✓ Gain skills and experience to live independently;
- ✓ Shared rent and utility costs;
- ✓ Have the opportunity to take pride in themselves.
- ✓ 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,
- Be able to provide a professional and personal reference;
- 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.



Our house



Our house

- An interest in the 'trades' desirable but not essential;
- Be able to afford the rent.

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 license being managed by Cottsway. This gives us (Cottsway) and you (the trainee) certain rights.

What kind of opportunities will be on offer?

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 live together and manage the cleanliness of the communal areas. From time to time items in the home may need to be replaced, painted or upgraded. Gardens will need to be maintained and tended too. The project will provide tools and equipment if the trainees wanted to take on any tasks themselves as long as approved by the Project Coordinator, Any emergency or repair work to the property will be done by Cottsway Repairs Team, it is up to the trainees to report and allow access to the property.

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

Who will cover the costs?

The materials and tools will be provided by the project. Apprenticeships, training costs and some travel costs will also be covered by 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. The Project Coordinator will be in touch to set up a meeting. We will then carry out the necessary checks and references,

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

☎ 01993 890000

🐦 @samatcottsway or

@ourhouseWESTOX

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



Registration form

Personal details

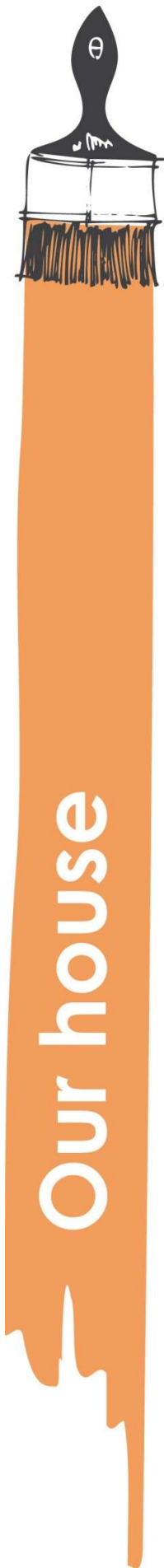
Name:			
Address:			
		Postcode:	
Phone number:	H:	M:	
Email:			
Date of birth:		Age:	

Personal information

Please tell us why you would like to participate in the project?

What do you hope to achieve?

Please provide the details of two references (ideally one personal and one professional)



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

Additional Information

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.

Do you have any criminal convictions?

- 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

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