



# 'Our house' – A Community Housing Fund Project

31 January 2019

West Oxfordshire District Council and Cottsway are working in partnership to establish a community housing project with funding awarded from the government's Community Housing Fund. We have affectionately called the project 'Our house'.

This project supports single, under 35s on out-of-work benefits in West Oxfordshire. It takes larger properties and turns them into shared accommodation.

Participants become 'trainees' and have the opportunity to be supported back into employment through training and apprenticeships. They work with an Independent Work Coach to set their goals towards employment and get 'work ready'. The project aims to work with other agencies to help support the trainees journey towards employment.

All trainees who live in the shared house pay a social rent inclusive of bills for their own room. They also have use of a communal kitchen and a computer. Trainees will have a decorating pack so they can make their bedrooms homely. If trainees would like to take on any renovation or DIY in the property they are supported with the tools and a skilled trades tutor to assist them.

The project will run for two years and has already established one shared property in Witney. The next property will be ready in February/March 2019 and is also located in Witney.

## For more details...

**Contact the project coordinator:**

**Sam Stronach**

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

☎ 01993 890000

🐦 @samatcottsway or @ourhouseWESTOX

Instagram #ourhouseWESTOX

Working in partnership:

Cottsway



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL