

There are a number of options if you want to move home. You can:

- apply for a new home via HomeChoice
- find someone to exchange with (see the separate leaflet), called a Mutual Exchange
- buy a shared ownership home
- buy your existing home via the Right to Acquire
- rent privately
- move to a Rentplus home
- buy a home on the open market

HomeChoice

If you need to move home you can apply for a transfer via the appropriate HomeChoice scheme for each county which is run by your local Council. The scheme gives you the opportunity to move home to any social landlord; your circumstances determines your priority. Willow Tree Housing Partnership Limited (WTHP) does not routinely offer transfers within its stock, but this may be considered in the following circumstances:-

- there are exceptional circumstances (e.g. domestic violence, racial harassment, anti-social behaviour (ASB) that has not been resolved by any other means in accordance with our ASB Policy)
- you need to move for health or disability reasons
- you are under-occupying your home
- you are overcrowded
- you need to move for employment or to care for a relative

How to apply

You can apply for a transfer by using your local HomeChoice scheme. To find out about how it works you can visit the following websites:

Devon	www.devonhomechoice.com
Cornwall	www.cornwallhomechoice.org.uk
Dorset	www.dorsethomechoice.org/
Somerset	www.homefindersomerset.co.uk/

Each local authority runs their own HomeChoice scheme. Generally, each scheme works in a similar way but may have differences. In the first instance you should register with the appropriate HomeChoice scheme, preferably online. The relevant local authority will review your application and give you a priority banding (the exact criteria for each band varies between HomeChoice schemes). The broad categories are generally as follows:-

Emergency Housing	High Housing Need	Medium Housing Need
Low Housing Need	No Housing need	

Once you have been allocated a band you will be able to bid for a new property. Normally, the successful applicant will be the applicant from the highest band who bids. Where there is more than one applicant in a band, the date of the application is used by HomeChoice to decide who is allocated the property.

Bidding for properties

Properties are advertised on the appropriate website, and may also be advertised in the local press.

Rentplus

If you are a Rentplus resident you may not be able to register on the HomeChoice service. Contact your local authority for details.

Shared Ownership

Shared Ownership offers you a low cost way into home ownership. With Shared Ownership you part buy and part rent your home. You will need a mortgage for the part you buy, and will pay rent on the remaining part. There are a variety of landlords and properties available for Shared Ownership.

For more details of Shared Ownership, or to look for properties, visit <https://www.sharetobuy.com>, and you can also look on other websites such as Rightmove.

Right to Acquire

As a WTHP resident you may be able to get a discount to buy the home you currently rent if you meet the necessary criteria, this is called the Right to Acquire. It is different from the Right to Buy, with a maximum discount currently available of £11,000, please visit our website for more details.

Currently the Right to Buy does not apply to most WTHP properties.

If you are interested in the Right to Acquire or the Right to Buy please contact us.

Renting Privately

You can, of course, rent privately. There are a number of agencies who advertise private rented homes. Do remember that you will need a deposit, which is normally at least one month's rent, as well as the first month's rent.

Head Office registered at:

Eastbridge House, Pill Road, Rooksbridge,
Somerset BS26 2TN

Devon Office:

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Devon, PL1 3LF

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www.willowtreehousing.org.uk