

Swapping your home

Mutual exchange scheme



/HomechoiceStockport

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homes**

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What is a mutual exchange?

- A mutual exchange is where you swap your home with another council, Stockport Homes or housing association tenant.
- You can exchange with tenants across the UK.
- When you swap you take over the other person's tenancy, under the same terms and conditions, and they take over yours. This includes whether you would be able to buy the property under right to buy.

Who can apply for a mutual exchange?

- Any council or housing association tenant with a secure or assured tenancy can apply for a mutual exchange.
- If you live in sheltered housing or a home specially adapted to meet the needs of a disabled person there may be restrictions on who can swap with you.



How to find someone to swap with



If you are a Stockport Homes or housing association tenant you can add your property to the Stockport Homes exchange list by completing an application form online at www.stockporthomes.org/swap-homes



You can check the exchange list to see who might be interested in swapping with you by using the Stockport Homes Mutual Exchange Finder at www.stockporthomes.org/swap-homes



Stockport Homes tenants can register for FREE with exchange finding website www.houseexchange.org.uk this is especially good if you are looking to move outside of Stockport.



If you want to move closer to family or friends speak to them to see if they know anyone who might want to swap with you.



'Like' our Facebook page www.facebook.com/HomechoiceStockport to get updates of new tenants looking to exchange and to advertise your own property.

If you need help applying or looking for a match contact the Mutual Exchange Officer on

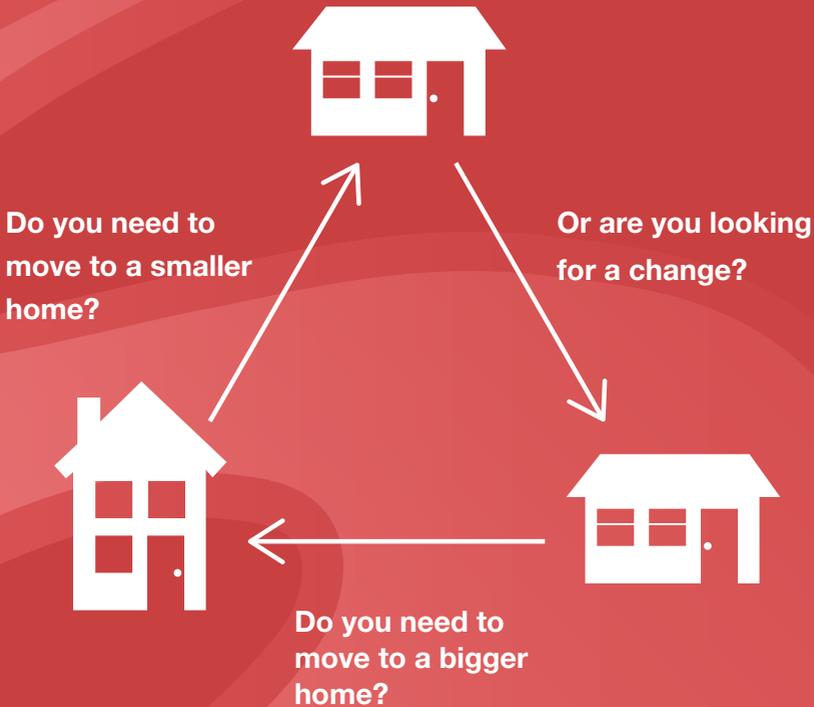
 **0161 474 3179** or

 mutualexchange@stockporthomes.org



Multi-swaps

If you find a property you like but your home isn't quite right for that tenant you can look for a third person to create a multi-swap. This is where three or more tenants all swap in a chain.



If so, a mutual exchange could be the answer!

For more information visit Stockport Homes website



www.stockporthomes.org/swap-homes

or contact the Mutual Exchange Officer, on:



0161 474 3179



mutualexchange@stockporthomes.org

Found a match?

When you have found someone to swap with make sure you view each other's properties and are happy to begin the exchange process. You should then contact the Mutual Exchange Officer to let them know, we will usually ask both tenants to complete and sign an application form.

Your Neighbourhood Housing Officer will arrange a full inspection of your property and will make a decision about the exchange within 42 days of us receiving the forms.

Please note: You should not make any arrangements to swap your home until permission has been granted and you have signed the appropriate paperwork.

How we make our decision

Property inspection

You will be

informed in writing if any of these are your responsibility and any that are Stockport Homes responsibility will be reported to the repairs team. Once these are completed there will be a second inspection. Some common issues are: missing or damaged doors and changes to light fittings.

Tenancy references will be required for each tenant. This will check that there are no rent arrears, no legal action is being taken for anti-social behaviour and that the tenancy has been conducted in a satisfactory manner.

Moving day

Once the exchange has been approved you can agree a moving date with the other tenant and we will arrange a date for you to complete the sign up paperwork.

Gas / electric checks will be completed once you have received permission and a moving date has been agreed.

On the day of the move make sure you leave the property (and any outside space) clean and tidy and you remove any unwanted items and rubbish.

Accessing our services

You can get a free copy of this leaflet from Stockport Homes on audiotape, CD or in large print.

For more information, please contact the **Social Inclusion Team** on  **0161 474 2860** or email:

 **inclusion@stockporthomes.org**