

Hays Social Housing Reports Increase In Demand For Housing Professionals



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Hays, leading specialist recruiter, has stated that the government's plans to secure a brighter future for school leavers amid the rising tide of unemployment, has led to an increase in demand for support workers.

"We are experiencing a steady demand for [social housing jobs](#), particularly for support workers to undertake varying assignments with the 16-25 age group and this requirement is expected to increase as government grants for supported funding become available," said Matt Lewis, Business Director at Hays Social Housing. Support workers typically assist individuals in hostels and refuges with their lives and the transition back to work. This means the skills employers are looking for include proven experience with client groups and an ability to undertake support plans.

In line with the government initiative, Hays Social Housing has been partnering with social housing providers to offer careers advice to tenants and youngsters that are at risk of being made homeless. "We've been running a series of workshops with a focus on how to create a winning CV and how to conduct yourself during an interview. The sessions have had a positive impact, helping to break down some of the barriers that are preventing individuals from fulfilling their true potential," explained Lewis.

The recession, which has brought hardship to many families, has also fuelled an increased demand for specialist help for those at risk of having, or who have had, their homes repossessed. "The demand for [housing advice officers](#) has increased significantly over the past few months. Salaries have remained stable given the increased competition for skills to attract the best applicants, as pressure for these services continues to increase," continued Lewis.

Due to the changing regulatory framework, one of the key trends has been the increased focus of housing associations on their customer service provision, which has led to a requirement for tenant and community engagement, neighbourhood involvement and inclusion. In addition the Decent Homes Programme continues to fuel [tenant liaison opportunities](#) with organisations such as contractors, building and utilities companies' officers. Meanwhile, there is also a demand for housing policy roles that focus on strategy and commercially-minded individuals who can drive efficiencies and generate new business.

"Housing associations are looking for individuals with transferable skills to work as leasehold officers, liaising with private landlords and carrying out risk assessments," added Lewis.

Two of the key requirements for individuals in social housing jobs are a solid work history and an ability to hit the ground running. While CIH qualifications are important, particularly for senior roles, these are not usually a pre-requisite. The demand for social housing professionals is likely to continue given the pressing need to increase the supply of affordable housing, as highlighted by the government's commitment to build new homes, which is a continuing sign that the sector remains buoyant.

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Note to Editor:

About Hays Social Housing:

Hays Social Housing is part of Hays plc, specialising in a range of social housing jobs including [housing benefit jobs](#) and supported [housing jobs](#). It is market leader in the UK and Australia, and one of the market leaders in Continental Europe. The Group employs 8,294 staff operating from 380 offices in 28 countries across 17 specialisms.

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