

Latest News

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Advice at hand for debt and housing concerns

Solihull Council and its partners are committed to helping households affected by the economic downturn. People with debt and housing difficulties are to be offered help to stop them from losing their homes.

The Government has made changes to the Court rules, meaning that all mortgage lenders are legally required to inform the Council when possession proceedings against a property in their area have started.

Using this information the Council will be writing to all households in Solihull at risk of repossession to make them aware of the help and advice that is available to them.

The Mortgage Rescue scheme is one option for households faced with repossession. The national scheme aims to help those under threat of losing their homes.

In Solihull the mortgage rescue scheme is delivered through a partnership between the Council, Solihull Community Housing, Orbit Housing Association, The Citizens Advice Bureau and the mortgage lender.

Depending on their circumstances the home owner may be able to sell a share of their home to Orbit and benefit from significantly reduced monthly mortgage payments – Or sell their entire home and remain in the property as tenants paying a subsidised rent.

Orbit Housing Association recently completed Solihull's first mortgage rescue case, resulting in the household being able to avoid homelessness and stay in their own home at an affordable rent. Orbit are currently working on a further 10 applications from households in Solihull.

Councillor Ian Courts, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration, said: “In the current economic climate Solihull Council and its partners are committed to helping people as much possible. In addition to our efforts to provide more affordable homes and investment in additional housing and money advice services, our involvement in the national mortgage rescue scheme will prevent mortgage repossessions wherever possible.”

Matt Cooney, chief executive of Solihull Community Housing, said: “We are committed to doing all we can to help Solihull residents keep their homes and to point the way to affordable housing. The sooner we know if you are having problems paying your rent or mortgage the more we will be able to help. If you have concerns about losing your home we strongly advise you contact us sooner rather than later.”

People who are concerned about paying their mortgage should always keep in contact with their lender and get early advice on the options available to them. The sooner a household asks for help the more options they will have available to them.

People threatened with repossession or anyone who would like advice about their home or debt problems should contact Solihull Community Housing's homelessness prevention team on 0121 7171 1515 or one of the three Citizen's Advice Bureau in the Borough through the advice line number on 0844 826 9716.

Furthermore, if you, or anyone you know has been affected by the current recession, please visit Solihull Council's Weather the Storm website. The site offers advice and guidance on a range of topics covering business, employment, health, money and family matters – www.solihull.gov.uk/weatherthestorm

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