



ANNE DOLAN – CASE STUDY

London is a wonderful city. Thousands of tourists from around the world visit its many attractions; it is soon to host the Olympic Games and attracts business from all over the globe.

Yet London is not always ideal for everyone; even many people who have grown up in the capital seek an alternative from the fast pace of city life as they approach retirement.

Anne Dolan is one such former London resident. Anne moved with her husband eight years ago from a council flat in the centre of Islington in north-east London to a two bedroom flat in the pleasant coastal town of Worthing, in West Sussex, managed by the Places for People Group.

Islington offered Anne the chance to move using the Seaside & Country Homes Scheme operated by housingmoves.

Seaside & Country Homes is a housing mobility scheme for London's social housing tenants who are aged 60 and above. The scheme has a portfolio of one and two bedroom flats and bungalows across the south and east of England, mostly in seaside towns or in rural countryside areas.

"I went to the council to complete an application and met with the Seaside & Country Homes staff in Victoria," says Anne. "This was



the first flat we were shown and we liked it straight away.”

Seaside & Country Homes applicants can ask to be considered for housing in up to nine areas. The Dolans chose Worthing because their daughter had married and moved to the area with her husband and their grand-children.

“We moved down in September and at Christmas received a card from everybody in the estate. I still hadn’t met half of them so I was really choked. The day we moved in the gentleman next door made us a big tray of teas and coffees, crisps and biscuits; it helped us to realise we were making the right decision straight away. Now we do the same for people when they move in to the estate. It’s very friendly:

Most of us have each other’s keys!

“The pace of life here is lovely. It can be quiet at times, especially compared to London but that’s a good thing. I was used to the hustle and bustle of London and I missed it for a while but not now. London seems a completely different place when I go back.

“Here I can go out of the flat, straight down the road and be on the seafront within minutes. Often I walk along the beach up to the pier. We have Marine Gardens to the right at the bottom too. In the summer we get all the sun in the windows and a little bit of sea breeze too! I really enjoy my life down here.”

Anne is now working at the local courts, maintains a hectic social life and is regularly out

and about. She is also the estate representative on the local Area Customer Liaison Panel (ALCP). The group, organised by the properties managing landlord, Places for People, holds regular meetings where the tenants are able to discuss all aspects of their tenancy and works and improvements for their estate. Residents on Anne’s estate recently received new carpets in each of their communal hallways as a direct result of Anne’s work on the ACLP.

“The ladies and gentlemen in the office are wonderful,” reckons Anne. “We asked for new carpets in the hallway and two days later we were being shown the patterns. They always do their best to help us.”

After eight years Anne clearly enjoys her life on the south coast and has no regrets about moving away from London yet her story is not unique. More than 250 London households move into Seaside & Country Homes properties every year. One of those could be yours!



SEASIDE AND COUNTRY
FLATS IN WEST SUSSEX

Social tenants aged 60 and above in every London Borough can register for the scheme. For more information on how to apply contact the housingmoves team on 08450 21 20 20 or visit our website www.housingmoves.org And if you want Anne’s opinion: “If I spoke to anyone who would be interested in moving from London I’d say: ‘move straight away; get down here as quick as you can”

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