



Information for owner occupiers

As an owner occupier you can still join our HomeHunt Housing Register, however there are some things you need to know before submitting your housing application.

Gentoo will offer accommodation to those who it is appropriate for us to house as a charity. This includes:

- Those in need of housing based on their personal circumstances
- Those who are disabled or chronically sick and in need of re-housing

If you already own a property and would like to apply for a Gentoo property, we will need to ensure that:

- 1.** Your existing property is sold or for sale (we do not allow owners to rent out their property while living in a Gentoo property under any circumstances). We will require evidence to support your current property ownership status and/or proof that you are actively selling or giving up ownership of your part of the property.
- 2.** We will carry out a full financial assessment based on your income, savings and equity before any formal offer of a property is made. If it is found that you could financially afford to purchase or rent a similar property in the area at a market rent you may not be eligible for a property with Gentoo.
- 3.** If as an owner occupier you sign your property over to a family member without selling it, we will assume that you have received a financial contribution for the property equal to its market value.
- 4.** Any equity from your property sale that is given to family member/partner(s) will be included in the equity/savings calculations. This is to ensure complete transparency and fairness in the decision making process.
- 5.** If we find you are not eligible for a social housing property, we will provide advice and support regarding other housing options available to you for example; Gentoo Homes new builds and market rent properties.

Please be assured we review each application on an individual basis. For more information or advice regarding owner occupiers and housing applications with Gentoo please contact your local area office.

Athenaeum: **0191 525 5001**
Havelock: **0191 525 5002**
Southwick: **0191 525 5003**

Silkworth: **0191 525 5004**
Houghton: **0191 525 5005**
Washington: **0191 525 5006**