



Latest updates for residents at Vantage Point



April 2023

Changes to payment options: no longer accept cheque payments

We're making some changes to the ways you can make a payment to us over the spring / summer period. From 1 April, we will no longer accept payments by cheque. You will need to use another payment option to make a payment to us if this was a payment method you used.

We will be making more changes to your payment options, however Direct Debit and standing order payments will not be affected.

To find out more about the changes we will be making, please check out the ways to pay section on our website at www.networkhomes.org.uk/waystopay.

Window cleaning

The window cleaning programme for 2023 is scheduled for May and October.

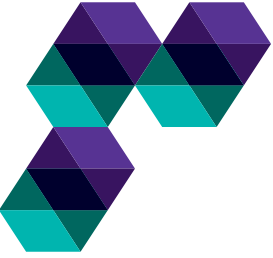
Upcoming estate inspection

The next estate inspections will take place on:

Day	Date	Time	Meeting point
Friday	19 May 2023	10.30am	Meet at: Archer Tower
Tuesday	18 July 2023	10.30am	Meet at: Archer Tower

If you would like to join Andrew Robertson, your Neighbourhood Officer, during the estate inspection or discuss a specific issue, you can meet him on the dates above. Please contact Andrew on **0300 373 3000** or email customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk





Site inspection findings

Your Neighbourhood Officer, Andrew Robertson has identified the below issues

Repair identified	Location	Action taken	Any other notes
Carpet repairs	5 blocks	Reported to repairs team	

Cost of living help

Rising cost of living is a key concern for people nationwide and it can be overwhelming to keep track of what can be done to ease the impact of increased outgoings. We want to make it easy for resident to access useful advice and support that can hopefully reduce the rising cost of running your home this winter.

How we can help

- **Support with claiming benefits**

We have a Welfare and Benefits Advice team at Network Homes that can support you with claiming benefits. The team has helped residents claim more than £1.5million each year for the past three years and £2.4million last year. This includes housing benefit, Universal Credit, disability benefits, pension credit and carers allowance. We can also help with Discretionary Housing Payment applications. In some cases, we can help gain grant funding.

If you would like to speak to the team, please call **0300 373 3000** or email them at welfareadvisors@networkhomes.org.uk.

- **Charitable fund**

If you have had a change in circumstances that has reduced your household income or you're experiencing financial difficulties, you may be eligible to receive support from us through our charitable fund. The most common ways we support people through the fund is by providing food vouchers, beds and white goods. We've also helped with small electronics, energy vouchers (prepayment meters with a card or key only), and school uniforms.

You can find out more information and apply to our charitable fund by visiting the charitable fund page on our website at www.networkhomes.org.uk/charitablefund.

- **Cost of living hub**

We have a cost of living help section on our website where you can access the support we provide, top tips and information about support from external organisations. You can find it in the advice section or directly at www.networkhomes.org.uk/costofliving.

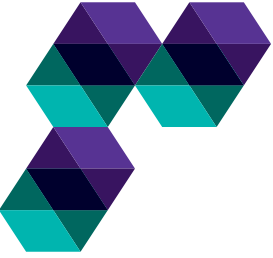
Support from your local council

- **Hackney Council cost of living help and advice**

For tips to support you through the rising cost of living you can visit Hackney Council's cost of living support hub at hackney.gov.uk/hackney-money-help.

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Please take recycling seriously

Recycling contamination remains a major problem and occurs when materials are sorted into the wrong recycling bin (placing a glass bottle into a mixed paper recycling bin for example), or when materials are not properly cleaned, such as when food residue remains on a plastic yogurt container.



What happens if I put the wrong things in my recycling bin?

If you put the wrong items in your recycling bin, the Council may not collect your bins. Sometimes things like nappies and food waste could spoil the rest of the recyclables and mean a whole load may need to be disposed of and not recycled.

Due to contamination of the recycling and the council then refusing to collect the bin, we have to arrange for our contractors to dispose of the bins at a cost which will be **service chargeable to all residents**. It is important to recycle properly to avoid such unnecessary additional cost to you.

How to prevent recycling contamination

1. Rinse your containers as soon as they're empty and before placing in the recycling bin.
2. Sort your recycling materials.
3. Check the recycle material list to see what is accepted and how to sort it.
4. Follow your local council's recycling guidelines.
5. Remind other residents about the recycling guidelines as their actions could cause your recycle bin not to be collected by the council if it's contaminated.

If you live in a block of flats, you should have access to communal recycling bins. These will have labels that clearly show what you can recycle.

Anti-Social behaviour (ASB)

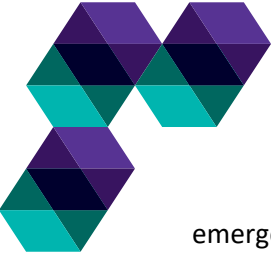
If you think you're experiencing ASB, please check out our ASB toolkit to help you identify ASB and understand the steps you need to take if you're experiencing it. You can find the toolkit on our website at www.networkhomes.org.uk/asbtoolkit

Total evacuation fire safety strategy for your building

The fire strategy at Vantage Point is a Temporary Simultaneous Evacuation policy. This means that if a fire starts or you hear the alarm sounding you must evacuate your building immediately and you should exit as soon as possible to the designated fire evacuation point opposite Homerton Overground station. Remember if you do need to evacuate because of a fire, do not use the lifts. Close the door behind you and safely make your way out of the building before calling the

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emergency services on **999**. If you require an additional fire safety information or any assistance to develop your escape plan in the event of a fire, please contact Network Homes on **0300 373 3000**.

New residents' information

If you are a new resident, then welcome to your new home. Please check out our website for information about our services and important information you would need to know as a resident. You can also find previous updates about your scheme.

Visit our website at www.networkhomes.org.uk.

Read previous updates about your scheme on our website at <https://bit.ly/3iE0JDE>

Read the latest issue of Network Life, newsletter for residents, on our website at www.networkhomes.org.uk/networklife.

Important contacts

If you have any **issues with communal cleaning or grounds maintenance service**, call Pinnacle on **0330 332 0845** or email networkhomes@pinnaclepsg.co.uk.

Andrew Robertson, Neighbourhood Officer, is your main contact if you are a General Rented residents on the estate.

Nina Ashiru, Property Manager, is your main contact if you are Immediate Rent residents living in the blocks.

Hannah McIntyre, Leasehold Property Manager, is your main contact if you are a shared owner/leaseholder in the blocks.

You can contact all of them by phone on **0300 373 3000** or by email at customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk.

If you need to report a repair, check on the progress of an existing repair or need any other information get in touch by:

- Your My Network Homes account – www.mynetworkhomes.org.uk
- Phone – **0300 373 3000**
- Email – customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk

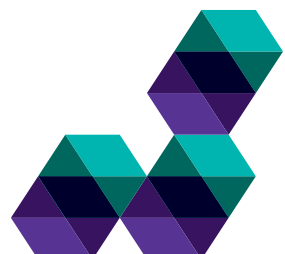
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