

A woman in a brown coat is shown in profile, holding a large cardboard box. The background is a warehouse with other boxes and equipment. A teal banner is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'ORCHARDS SUPPORTED HOUSING'. At the bottom, there is a logo for 'Orchards' featuring a stylized flame or leaf shape.

ORCHARDS SUPPORTED HOUSING



Who are we?



At Orchards our vision is to see women free from sexual exploitation. We are a Christian charity working specifically with women who have been involved in prostitution and those who have been trafficked for sexual purposes. We come alongside women as they overcome multiple barriers in their journey from exit through to independent living. One of the ways we do this is through providing supported housing.

What to expect

We understand that for some women, not having affordable housing means that they may feel working in the sex industry is their only option to be able to pay their rent. For others, they may have been in longer term shared accommodation such as a hostel or safe house but they may be craving their own space and the chance to rest and recover from the trauma of sexual exploitation.

Orchards aims to provide safe housing and tailored support to women who have exited sexual exploitation and want to take steps forward. Orchards accommodation provides a secure base from which women can access relevant support such as counselling, job training, debt advice and have the opportunity to explore future aspirations through volunteering or routes into work. Whilst living in safe accommodation for 9-12 months, women receive tailored 1-1 support from a Support Worker.

Does this sound like something you'd be interested in? Read on for more details!

Our properties



We have a small cluster of one-bed and studio flats located around London. We have furnished the flats to make them cosy and a space that you would want to call home.

Orchards provides basic kitchen equipment, new bedding and towels. Each flat is kitted out with a security system, TV and Wi-Fi.

Our hope is that you would feel safe and secure and that the flat provides a place of sanctuary and rest for between 9-12 months. You will have your own key and visits by Orchards staff will be pre-arranged. We ask that you look after the flat and keep it clean and tidy. You will contact us to let us know about any maintenance issues and pay us a small service charge each week to cover bills. The rest of the rent is covered by Housing Benefit and Orchards directly.

As our priority is to provide you and women who live there in the future with a place of safety, we ask that you don't let anyone else know the location of the flat. No visitors are allowed to the property to make sure that it remains your safe space.



The support we offer

We don't make assumptions about what support you might need. Before you move into the flat, we want to get to know you and make sure that we're the right place for you and that you feel the same.



With the help of your current Support Worker, we'll meet you in person to ask you some questions to better understand your situation and hear from you about what you want and need.

We'll support you with moving in and in your first few weeks we'll help you to get to know the local area. You and your Support Worker will build a Support Plan together, identifying what your goals are and beginning to link you with services that might help you reach these goals.

We know that it can be really challenging to move to a totally new area. Where we can, we'll go with you to initial appointments and help you to get registered with a GP and dentist. We'll provide support with your benefits and help you to apply for Housing Benefit after your move.

The support we offer

We'll offer you a weekly appointment with your Support Worker throughout your time with us and connect you locally.

Our aim is to help you move into longer term accommodation when you leave us and feel more equipped to live independently. Your Support Worker can continue to provide support after you leave, for as long as you and us feel it is beneficial.

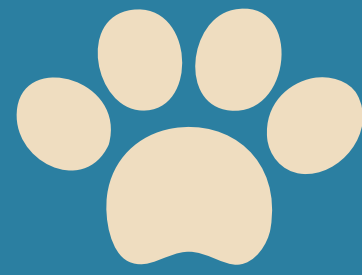


While you are here, you will have the opportunity to meet regularly with a Befriender from a local church. This will be a space where you can go for coffee, a walk or do something you enjoy together. If you choose, you can also explore faith, receive prayer and connect into a supportive local church together.

One of our core values is empowering you to choose- we work with women of all faiths and none and are committed to respecting your freedom of choice in this area.

Common questions

Can I have a pet?



This will depend on the flat you are offered and the specific rules in the property as some buildings don't allow pets. Feel free to ask us more about this.

Can I move with my children?



Orchards flats are either one-bedroom or studios. We can consider women with one child, but this will depend on the flats that are available when you apply to us. Please do talk to us about this if you have any questions.

Will I have support on site?



No, you will be living on your own in your flat, with Orchards staff contactable by phone on weekdays during the daytime. You will also have weekly in-person meetings with your support worker.

Who will my neighbours be?

The flats are located in residential buildings across London. Some of your neighbours will be homeowners, some will be renting. They won't know that the flat is safe housing provided by Orchards.

Common questions

Why can't I have visitors?



We want to provide a place of safety for you and any future residents. To make sure that the flat remains a safe space, we don't share the location of the flat with others.

How much will I have to pay?



You will pay a weekly service charge which is between £15 - 20. Wifi, council tax, water, electricity, heating and TV licence fee are all included in the rent, which is mostly covered by Housing Benefit and Orchards. The service charge is your contribution towards these costs.

What happens when I move out?

From early on in your time at Orchards, you will be working towards finding move-on accommodation with your Support Worker. Where you move after Orchards will depend on your preferences and needs.

Some women move on to privately rented accommodation, others find housing through the local authority or move on to other supported accommodation. Your Support Worker will continue to support you after you move out if this is something that you want.



Next steps



With the help of your current Support Worker, please fill out our Housing Referral Form.



We'll ask you to send us proof of your ID and get back to you if we have any other questions.



We'll review your Referral and if we think it's a good fit, we'll arrange a time for an initial call with you to introduce ourselves and get to know you better.



Once you have been accepted, we'll complete a Needs Assessment with you and make a formal offer of housing. You'll sign a Licence Agreement which is the legal bit detailing what we are offering and what you're signing up to.

For further information please scan  or email info@orchardsuk.org for any enquiries.

