

# Prospectus



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## PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS



Every year we undertake a wide range of work and 2021 will be no exception. The main areas of work that will be completed will include Painterwork and Electrical Testing.



We are planning to complete the external painting and roughcast repairs at the remaining properties at Barn Park Crescent. Work to this area was started a couple of years ago with the plan to undertake the work over several phases. We hope to start the latest phase of roughcast repairs and external painting in April. This is the last phase of the repainting works to Barn Park Crescent.

We are also externally painting the remaining properties at Clovenstone Park and plan to complete the externally painting to all of our properties at Dumbeg Park. All work will be completed by the end of October 2021.

The Electrical Testing programme will be a continuation of the work we have been undertaking for several years. By the end of the 2021 programme we anticipate that all our properties will have been tested within the last 5 years. This is a target that has been set by the Scottish Government and we are on track to meet this. Access

to remaining properties will be key for our contractors to ensure the success of this programme and we would ask tenants to keep an eye out for the letters looking to arrange a suitable and convenient date to undertake this. The work should last approximately 2 hours in each property and the contractor will ensure they are wearing appropriate PPE, in line with Government guidance.

We are planning to replace a number of Door Entry systems in 2021 and we will let you know if your stair door is due for renewal.

We plan to re-start our individual property surveys as these have been halted during the pandemic. This work will hopefully start later in the year.

Finally, we would also like to continue installations of over bath showers and to help this we would ask any tenant who would like a shower over their bath to get in contact with us at [repairs@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:repairs@prospectch.org.uk)



## EMBRACING 2021

● Whilst we had hoped to open the Prospect Office to the public again in January, the situation has not yet moved forward to allow this to happen. We now anticipate the office will remain closed to the public until at least March 2021.

However, you can still contact us via phone, email, text and our website. Our staff continue to work from home and meet on screen regularly but we're looking forward to seeing tenants and each other back in the office in the spring.

There are plenty of other things to look forward to this year

- 1 **Ongoing improvements** to Prospect's properties
- 2 **Energy advice** to keep you warmer and reduce your bills – see page 2
- 3 **Help with benefits and debts** – see page 3
- 4 **Projects to get involved with** that are local and safe – see page 4

- Web:** [www.prospectch.org.uk](http://www.prospectch.org.uk)
- Email:** [enquiries@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@prospectch.org.uk)
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Prospect Community Housing is a registered charity. No. SC029797



## Winter Energy Savings



### THE ENERGY SAVINGS TRUST

### AND CITIZENS ADVICE

The Energy Savings Trust and Citizens Advice have 3 ways to save this winter: Check, Switch, Save.

- Check if you're eligible for discounts, grants or support
- Switch your energy tariff or supplier and get the best deal
- Save money this winter while keeping your home warm

You will find more information on how to do all of this on their website: [www.bigenergysavingwinter.org.uk](http://www.bigenergysavingwinter.org.uk)

Or you can phone the Citizens Advice helpline for help to check, switch, save: Freephone on **0808 223 1133** to speak to a trusted adviser.

Or you can textphone **18001** followed by **0808 223 1133**.

### IS IT REALLY AN EMERGENCY

### OR CAN IT WAIT?

- If you request an emergency repair during the evening or at the weekend, if you or a member of the household has caused the issue, you may be recharged the cost of the call out.

This can be as much as around £180-£200. So, if you have one of the following issues at home, think about whether you can wait until the office opens again before contacting us:

- Blocked toilets, sinks or drains,
- Lights not working,
- A minor leak which could be contained.

### Top Tips

- ✓ Remember to check if you have credit in the gas or electric meter before calling,
- ✓ Try resetting the fuse board by resetting the trip switch on your electric meter if the power goes out,
- ✓ If your boiler isn't working due to no gas, you'll need to contact your gas supplier.

## ARE YOU AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Domestic abuse is a pattern of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and/or violent behaviour, including sexual violence, by a partner or ex-partner.

Domestic abuse is overwhelmingly experienced by women and perpetrated by men. It doesn't matter how old someone is, what race or ethnicity they are, what class they are, whether or not they are disabled, or whether they have children – anyone can be a victim of abuse.

Often when people think of domestic abuse they think of physical violence, but domestic abuse is very often so much more than that. For many women who live with domestic abuse there will be no scars, bruises or broken bones, but for some it can take their life. No one kind of abuse is more serious than any other.



Controlling and coercive behaviour was criminalised by the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 and the legislation came into force on 1st April 2019. It is a course of conduct offence, where ongoing harmful and abusive actions in a relationship, which in isolation might not seem as serious, are examined together – this is about behaviour over time.

### Help is available –

- ✓ Visit this website for more information and take a quiz to see if you are affected by domestic abuse - <https://womensaid.scot/information-support/>
- ✓ Contact the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline, which runs 24/7 x 365 days, and is a phone line, web chat and email service. **Phone 0800 027 1234** or visit [www.sdafmh.org.uk](http://www.sdafmh.org.uk) for more information.
- ✓ If you want to contact us, we're here to listen; phone us, email us or text us and we can offer you advice and support on your tenancy rights and staying safe in your home.

## Czy jesteś obywatelem Europejskiego Obszaru Gospodarczego?

● Are you an EEA National? All EU citizens need to apply to for EU Settled Status to continue to live, work and study in the UK after Brexit. If you haven't applied by the 1st January 2021, this might affect your benefits. You can apply for free at Gov.uk. If you need help to apply you can phone the local CAB office on 0131 510 5510, or call their **Support Helpline 0800 916 9847**.

IF YOU NEED SUPPORT TO APPLY TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME HELP IS AVAILABLE





## JOB UNCERTAINTY

**We recognise that the Coronavirus pandemic is affecting all of us in a huge number of ways with every day bringing new challenges.**

One concern is that people are either losing their jobs or working reduced hours, resulting in smaller incomes coming into the home.

We want to reassure our tenants that we are aware of this and want to work with our tenants affected in this way as follows:

**➤ If you currently receive housing benefit, tax credits or disability benefits and have a reduction in working hours or lose your job:**

Please contact our Welfare Rights Adviser, **Fiona McLuckie** and she can help you assess which benefit will be best for you. Email [fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:fiona.mcluckie@prospectch.org.uk) or phone **07908 951297**.

**➤ If you lose your job and you are NOT currently receiving any other benefits:**

- ✔ You should apply for Universal Credit (UC). This is a payment for working age people which will help with your living costs. If you're eligible, you'll receive a monthly or fortnightly payment into a bank account. You can apply for Universal Credit at [www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit](http://www.gov.uk/apply-universal-credit)
- ✔ Speak to your Housing Officer if you are applying for Universal Credit, they can offer you advice and guidance on how to apply and the implications for you. Email us on [housing@prospectch.org.uk](mailto:housing@prospectch.org.uk) or phone us on **0131 458 5480**.
- ✔ If you choose to take an advanced payment, please make sure you make a payment to your rent. Bear in mind, if you take an advance payment, this will need to be paid back over the next 12 months and so it will be taken off each of your monthly UC payments.
- ✔ We recommend that you ask for your UC housing costs (the contribution towards your rent) to be included in the payment you receive. You can then pay all of your rent due to us each month. There is an option for people in Scotland called the Scottish Choices where you can choose for your payments to come directly to Prospect. We do not recommend you chose this as this often results in significant arrears on your account. Please talk to us if you are thinking about this.



## CONTACT FIONA:

**You are claiming Universal Credit or Housing Benefit or are affected by the Benefit cap?**

Did you know that you can get an additional payment (a discretionary housing payment) from the Council to cover the cost of

- ✔ any spare rooms,
- ✔ if you have a larger family where there is nobody in the household working and your benefits have been reduced, or
- ✔ if you are struggling financially, to give you some more money towards your rent?

The Scottish Government has just announced 5m extra funding for this scheme. However you can only apply if Universal Credit is not already paying all your rent costs.

## Fuel Debt

If you are struggling with your energy bills, Fiona can help you with debt advice and make sure you are receiving all the support you are eligible for.

## Multiple Debts

If you have lots of debts and want to reduce them, we are partnering with CHAI to offer specialised debt advice to help. Contact Fiona who can talk you through how we can help you deal with debts, she can then refer you to the project.



## CHILD PAYMENT

The new Scottish Child Payment is now open for applications ahead of its introduction on Monday 15th February 2021. The new benefit will give eligible families on low incomes with children under 16 an extra £10 per week for each child. Families with a child under six are being prioritised. You can apply NOW either by phone **0800 182 2222** or online [www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/how-to-apply](http://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/how-to-apply)

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GETTING INVOLVED

[www.prospectch.org.uk](http://www.prospectch.org.uk)

@prospectch

## CATCH UP WITH PROSPECT

After a break we'll start these again with socially distanced measures in place.

Street	Date	Time
Barn Park Crescent	Thursday 4 February	2pm - 2.30pm
Dumbeg Park	Thursday 4 February	2.30pm - 3pm
Morvenside Close	Thursday 4 February	3pm - 3.30pm
Walkers	Tuesday 2 February	2pm - 3pm
Clovenstone Park (starting at No.12)	Wednesday 10 February	11am - 12.30pm
Clovenstone Drive (starting at No. 19)	Wednesday 10 February	11am - 12.30pm
Clovenstone Gardens (starting at No. 1)	Wednesday 10 February	11am - 12.30pm
Westburn Village & Morvenside (starting at Prospect's office)	Monday 15 February	10am-11.30am



GET CONFIDENT

WITH DATA AT

DATAKIRK



DataKirk

● The DataKirk is a data literacy and analytics club. We provide a hands-on environment for people to get curious, creative, and ultimately, confident with data.

The digital/technology revolution is changing the way we are living our lives as well as creating well paid job roles in digital/data. We created this club to empower people especially for under-represented communities;

- ✓ We provide free online data literacy training for young people aged 9 – 19 years.
- ✓ We provide free upskilling and reskilling for data enthusiastic adults, who want to move to well paid jobs in technical industries.

Please see our website: [www.thedatakirk.org.uk](http://www.thedatakirk.org.uk) and twitter: [twitter.com/tdatakirk?lang=en](https://twitter.com/tdatakirk?lang=en) for more information.



## WESTBURN WOODS

● It's been great to see people out and about in Westburn Woods despite the cold weather, helping out with our new project run by Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust.

There's been a chance to plant snowdrop bulbs, and local young people have helped cut back some of the paths to make access easier. They spotted Bullfinches, and there have also been local sightings of foxes and badgers! If you'd like to get involved, the sessions are running on Thursdays 11AM-12PM. Activities are seasonal, including planting, tree crown lifting, thinning, learning to identify trees and bushcraft. All tools and materials will be provided but please dress for the weather! Social distancing measures are in place so booking is essential. Please text/ call **Esperanza** on **07432121998**.



Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

## COVID-19 SYMPTOMS?

– TELL US

Please let us to know if a tenant or household member has Covid-19 symptoms or is self-isolating. This helps to keep everyone safe including our staff and contractors if they have to visit the property. It would also be very helpful if you could tell us when you have recovered or are no longer self-isolating. For the latest public information on the Coronavirus, please go to [www.nhsinform.scot](http://www.nhsinform.scot).

OUR VISION:

PROVIDING HOMES AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

OUR VALUES:

PIONEERING RELIABILITY LISTENING FAIRNESS PARTNERSHIP