



OUR NEWSLETTER FOR THOSE WHO RENT PRIVATELY IN SOUTHWARK OR WORK WITH PEOPLE WHO DO

GREETINGS!

Welcome to the second instalment of Southwark Private Renters Support Organisation Newsletter.

As the Cost of Living crisis, rising bills and rent increases have challenged many private tenants, we believe that it is now more crucial than ever to equip private renters with the tools and knowledge to deal with these testing hardships.

In this newsletter we will provide a round up of the work that was done during our initial project and tell you about what's in store for the next coming months.



A RECAP ON OUR PILOT PROJECT

KNOW YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

In 2022/23, we delivered 11 Know Your Housing Rights workshops, partnering with community organisations, with over 150 attendees. Thank you to Southwark Law Centre and Anthony Gold Solicitors for helping us host the workshops.

PRIVATE RENTERS SURVEY

We gathered over 240 responses to our private renters' survey which gave a better insight into the challenges faced by private tenants in Southwark and the help needed to address these issues.

SOUTHWARK PRIVATE RENTERS CONFERENCE

In October 2022, over 30 people from local voluntary and community sector organizations, Southwark Council, and private renters met to discuss the issues facing PRS tenants in Southwark, and how they could be supported.

PROPOSAL TO SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

Following the conference, presented a business case to Southwark Council. The proposal was based on observations and engagement activities undertaken during the initial project, including the round-table feedback from the conference. Southwark Council has pledged funding for a period of 3 years for the permanent Southwark Private Renters' Support Project.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

UPDATE OF SOUTHWARK PRIVATE RENTERS' WEBSITE

We are pleased to introduce our recently updated website, which aims to provide private renters in Southwark with a wealth of information of locally available support, answers to frequently asked questions and relevant news.

You can visit our website by clicking [here](#).

SOUTHWARK PRIVATE RENTERS FORUM

We have re-established Southwark Private Renters Forum which will meet quarterly. The forum brings together partners to raise awareness of tenants' rights, and to understand the issues facing tenants, and how these might be addressed.

If you would like to attend the forum, please contact us via email (see end of newsletter) or our [website](#).

KNOW YOUR HOUSING RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Since December we have hosted 3 Know Your Housing Rights workshops; in December we hosted an online workshop with Anthony Gold on Disrepair, in February we hosted a in person workshop for refugees and asylum seekers at Southwark Refugee Community Forum in partnership with Kineara and Southwark Law Centre, and in March we hosted a session at the LGBT community centre in Blackfriars in partnership with Southwark Law Centre.

If you wish to attend a workshop, or would like us to host a session for your organisation, you can contact us via our [website](#).

WHAT IS COMING SOON?

SOUTHWARK PRIVATE RENTERS CONFERENCE 2024

We will be hosting our second private renters conference on Thursday 27th June 2024 from 1pm til 4pm at The Crypt at St Peters Church. We are keen for as many community organisations to attend as possible. This conference will focus on property licensing in Southwark amongst other issues.

If you would like to come along to our next conference, please contact us via email (see end of newsletter) or our [website](#).

COST OF LIVING ROADSHOWS

We are aware that private renters are being impacted by the Cost of Living Crisis, just as social tenants are. We offer support on a wide range of issues to social and private tenants at our Cost of Living Roadshows.

Our next event will take place on Thursday 16th May from 10am-1pm at Kingswood Arts at Kingswood House, Seeley Drive, SE21 8QN.

CAMPAIGNS AND PETITIONS

In addition to our own awareness campaign's, we believe it is crucial to support campaigns that may bring meaningful changes to private rented sector as a whole.

We will be supporting various campaigns that advocate for renters rights. Keep your eye out for our regular campaign spotlight.

If you find a campaign you think we should support, please do share it with us via our [website](#).

LATEST NEWS IN THE PRIVATE RENTED SECTOR

RENTERS REFORM BILL GETS SIGN OFF - BUT DELAY TO NO-FAULT EVICTIONS BAN REMAINS

24TH APRIL 2024 - SKY NEWS

MPs have voted in favour of the government's Renters' Reform Bill - despite it including an indefinite delay to the end of no-fault evictions.

Regardless of outrage from charities, campaigners and opposition parties around the measure, the Bill got the backing of the majority of MPs and passed its final stage in the Commons shortly on Wednesday 24th April .

[Read the Full Article Here.](#)

WHAT DOES THE INCREASE IN LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE MEANS FOR RENTERS?

29TH MARCH 2024 - BIG ISSUE

Local housing allowance (LHA) will finally rise from 1 April after rates were frozen for four years giving low-income tenants more support to keep up with rising rents. But it remains to be seen whether the move will be a short-term sticking plaster or long-term fix.

[Read the Full Article Here.](#)

UK PRIVATE RENTAL STATISTICS 2024

3RD MARCH 2024 - USWITCH

Just like the housing market, the UK private rental market has been volatile in 2024. With everything from Covid-19 to the cost of living crisis affecting costs in recent years, rent has been one of the many aspects of day-to-day life that has accelerated for many people.

USwitch research collates the latest UK rental statistics for 2024, to analyse trends, assess how rents have changed over time, and make predictions about the coming years.

[Read the Full Article Here.](#)



COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT MARKS OUT OF TENANCY

Marks Out of Tenancy is a website which enables private renters to review their current or previous landlord or letting agency. Private renters are also able to search for reviews for any properties they are looking to rent or landlords they are looking to rent from in the same style as travel websites such as Trip Advisor.

The site aims to help tenants to make better decisions about the places they rent, before parting with their deposit. You can read reviews for properties you are looking to rent, or write your own review [here](#).



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Please contact the project co-ordinator at echarlton@citizensadviceSouthwark.org.uk if you have any questions about the content of this newsletter, or would like to make a submission for further newsletters.

[SOUTHWARKPRIVATERENTERS.ORG.UK](https://www.southwarkprivaterenters.org.uk)