



**Date** Friday 16 February 2024

Dear Resident,

## **Barton House residents' update – Friday 16 February**

### **Survey reports:**

We have received the draft survey reports for the building, and these are now being finalised. We hope to share the published reports with you next week. The documents we intend to publish will cover all reports received from our contractors Ridge and Partners LLP and Arup. I hope that once you've had the opportunity to consider the information in these documents you will better understand the detail behind our confidence in the safety of Barton House.

### **Essential works:**

I am pleased to share that the essential works of installing a central fire alarm and applying padding to the steel goal posts in 42 flats at Barton House are very nearly complete. We've worked closely with our contractors to press ahead with these works to prepare the building for your safe return. This has been a major piece of work that's faced challenges such as needing to negotiate with a small number of households about access, the theft of some communal fire alarms by a resident and police intervention to resolve that issue, and working with a complex arrangement of tradespeople, all working together at pace. Despite these challenges, and thanks to the cooperation of many of you, we're very much on course to finish these works on time.

### **HomeChoice Bristol applications:**

If you already have a HomeChoice application or if you attended a drop-in session and would like an update, please email [barton.house@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:barton.house@bristol.gov.uk) or speak to your Housing Officer. Your request will be prioritised for contact by HomeChoice Bristol. If you haven't started your HomeChoice application yet, or if you are struggling to complete an online application and would like help, please contact the We Are Bristol helpline on 0800 694 0184.

### **Process for referring children for mental health support:**

We understand that the last few months have been stressful and disruptive for residents and families of Barton House, and we want to make sure we support you as best we can. If your child needs some support around their mental health and wellbeing, you can access this either through education mental health practitioners (EMHPs) or through the school nurse.

Most schools have an EMHP. If your child's school has an EMHP ask the mental health or safeguarding lead to make a referral to them for support. If your child's

school does not have an EMHP, they will be able to see the school nurse for support.

All schools have a school nurse and you can request support for your child by completing this form [BNSSG-School-Nursing-Request-for-Support-form-Bristol-Dec-23.docx \(live.com\)](#). Please speak to a member of staff in the school if you need support with filling out this form.

### Looking after your mental health:

Three local organisations, the Nilaari Agency, Black Carers Network and the Somali Resource Centre (SRC), can provide excellent support for your mental health. Representatives will be at the Holiday Inn for three hours each day:

- Monday: 9.30am to 12:30pm
- Tuesday: 9.30am to 12:30pm
- Wednesday: 12pm to 3pm
- Thursday: 12pm to 3pm
- Friday: 9.30am to 12:30pm

If you are not staying at the Holiday Inn or if you can't make these times, please do not hesitate to contact them directly if you need support:

- Nilaari Agency: 0117 952 5742 [www.nilaari.co.uk](http://www.nilaari.co.uk)
- Somali Resource Centre: 0117 907 7994 [www.somalicentre.org.uk](http://www.somalicentre.org.uk)

The Wellspring Settlement are also offering free counselling sessions for Barton House residents. This is available to anyone over the age of 18 to talk through your feelings about recent events. Book by contacting the Wellspring Settlement on 0117 304 4000 or emailing [reception@wsb.org.uk](mailto:reception@wsb.org.uk)

**Communications:** Residents' questions, concerns, and feedback can be sent directly to us by emailing [barton.house@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:barton.house@bristol.gov.uk), calling 0800 694 0184, or by speaking to a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,



**John Smith, Interim Executive Director, Growth and Regeneration**

### Additional support

If you have a HomeChoice application and would like advice and support please book an appointment by emailing [barton.house@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:barton.house@bristol.gov.uk), or speak to your Housing Officer.

If you haven't started your HomeChoice application yet, or are struggling to complete an online application, and would like help to apply, please contact the We Are Bristol helpline on **0800 694 0184** so we can arrange support.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time for you and your family, and we are working to put in place the support you need. If you feel you need some mental health and emotional wellbeing support, there are services available to help you:

- **Samaritans** offer support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call 116 123 for free.
- **AWP (Avon and Wiltshire mental health partnership):** AWP can offer support, advice and guidance to anyone involved or affected by the evacuation of Barton House. AWP is offering the following advice and guidance. Find out more here: <https://www.awp.nhs.uk/about-us/emergency-preparedness-resilience-and-response/508>
- **Shout 85258:** offers confidential text support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Text **SHOUT** to 85258.
- If you need advice or have any concerns around any form of **domestic abuse**, please contact the **Next Link Domestic Abuse Service** on 0117 925 0680. For 24 hours a day, seven days a week advice, as well as out of hours refuge options, call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247. In an emergency, please contact 999.
- **Family Hubs:** During the week, your local Family Hub can give information and support about anything relating to you and your family. This includes activity groups, health and wellbeing services as well as parenting support. The nearest Family Hub to Barton House is the Wellspring Settlement Hub, 43 Ducie Road, Bristol, BS5 0AX. Groups taking place this week:
  - Barton Hill High-Rise Homes Group on Wednesdays – 10am until 11.30am
  - Baby hub with Infant Feeding Support on Thursdays – 1pm until 2.30pm

**Welcoming Spaces network:** Welcoming Spaces are still open across the city. These are free to use and open to anyone. You can use your local Welcoming Space to meet with other people, take part in activities or access support. Find your nearest on our website: [www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/costofliving)