

Annual Report for Tenants











Our year in review

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Elspeth MackenzieChief Executive

I'd like to start by thanking our Thrive Customer Voice members for their invaluable input, helping to shape this report each year. In 2022, 63% of survey respondents were unaware of this report, and now that has dropped to just 7%. We're thrilled with this progress as our Annual Report for Tenants is an important way for us to share our performance with you.

NELCOME

This year, Thrive Customer Voice members highlighted their interest in property improvements, customer satisfaction and complaints performance. We're pleased to provide more detailed information on complaints and performance under the Tenant Satisfaction Measures, which we now also report to our Regulator annually (page 20).

It's been an ambitious year at Thrive whilst we've been preparing for new regulations coming into force in April 2024. This has been particularly challenging alongside rising costs and an increase in the number of repairs logged.

We're continually seeking ways to enhance your experience, while keeping to our service standards outlined in the Thrive Deal. This year, we've changed the way we carry out HomePlan visits to reduce the number of appointments needed while ensuring your home's condition is monitored. More details can be found on page 4.

In this report, you'll also learn about how we've acted on your feedback, such as bringing forward plans to start upgrading some communal door entry systems after you expressed safety concerns.

Moving forward, we will continue to listen to your feedback and this year will focus on improving our repairs, cleaning and grounds maintenance services. Read on to find out more.

This report is for you, so we'd love to hear from you if you have any questions. Just reach out in your usual preferred way.

Have a say your way!

Become a
Thrive Customer Voice member at:
thrivehomes.org.uk/getinvolved

YOUR HOME

Regular checks help us to fix issues early to keep your home safe and well-maintained and stop things like damp and mould happening.

Now that most of our homes have received a HomePlan visit, we're moving away from yearly visits for every home. Instead, we'll check in with you during other routine appointments. This means fewer visits but more frequent monitoring, making our service more efficient and convenient for you.

Thrive

We'll be looking over the condition of your home and asking you a few more questions by means of:





SAFETY CHECKS

PHONE CALLS





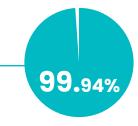
HOME VISITS

ROUTINE REPAIRS

If we don't touch base with you throughout the year, we may arrange a HomePlan visit to check everything is ok. Every five years we'll carry out a Stock Condition Survey so we can plan any upgrades that your home may need.



of Thrive tenants have received a HomePlan visit, Stock Condition Survey or new home inventory.



met Decent Homes Standard.

To ensure your safety and well-being, we monitor every customer account and will reach out if we haven't heard from you at least once a year.

261 customers contacted¹



Improving our homes

Each year we spend more on our homes to keep them in a safe, working order.



£4.3 million 2021-22



£5.1 million 2022-23



£6.82 million 2023-24

Here's what we replaced:

	2023-24	2022-23
Bathrooms	53	67
Boilers & heating systems	310	266
Kitchens	63	91
Roofs	98	165
Windows	147	161
Doors	206	111
Fire doors	44	117
Electrical works	232	115
Fire safety works	12	30
Door entry and lift works	4	5
Flooring	7	13
Environmental works	4	3
Major aids & adaptations	49	54
Works to building walls	5	8
Structural works	4	1
External wall insulation	55	24

Our replacement programmes change each year based on what our homes need.

By checking your home regularly, we can plan improvements to keep it in good shape. We'll replace things only when needed, which might be sooner or later depending on their condition.

We've heard your feedback and understand that you'd like to know when home improvements are due. We're developing technology to provide this information, so for now, just ask us.

HOW WE ARRANGE UPGRADES



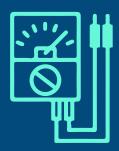


99.95%

homes had a **VALID GAS CERTIFICATE**

At the end of March 2023, two homes did not have a valid gas safety certificate due to access issues. If customers will not let us into their homes for gas and electrical checks, we take legal action to gain access in accordance with the tenancy agreement.

homes & 100% communal areas had **ELECTRICAL SAFETY TESTS**



All overdue are either booked in or legal action is being taken.

had a FIRE RIS
ASSESSMENT
carried out

flat blocks have had a **FIRE RISK**

see what actions we're taking at thrivehomes.org.uk/my-home-info 100%

of **RECOMMENDED FIRE SAFETY ACTIONS** and works completed within target



100%

of **FIRE SAFETY EQUIPMENT SERVICED** and fixed where needed within target



felt they have a **SAFE AND SECURE HOME**



Compared to 76.64% when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

100%

WATER HYGIENE CHECKS (communal)



100%

ASBESTOS CHECKS

(communal)







100%

checked to meet our legal obligations 44

FIRE DOORS
REPLACED



£48,960 lost

when customers were not at home for 1,632 safety checks



£107,392

spent on clearing

BULK RUBBISH



Ways we kept you safe in 2023-24

We work with a number of independent organisations to make sure we meet all safety rules as a social landlord, to give you extra peace of mind.

Learn more about the ways we keep you safe at **thrivehomes.org.uk/**

homesafety

ABOVE & BEYOND

Keeping you safe in your home is our priority. That's why our approach to health and safety goes above national standards.

5 yearly electrical safety check

instead of the legal requirement of every 10 years Annual servicing of unvented hot water cylinders*

Changing shower heads in sheltered schemes every three months to prevent legionella*

Inspect flat blocks every three months

Monthly for four storeys and above

We have a good working relationship with local fire and safety services, and we have passed all our audits over the past year. For more information about how we keep your home safe, head to: thrivehomes.org.uk/homesafety

^{*} There are no legal requirements to replace shower heads or undertake annual services, we do this to ensure our customers are safe.

These are some of the other ways we kept you safe in 2023-24:





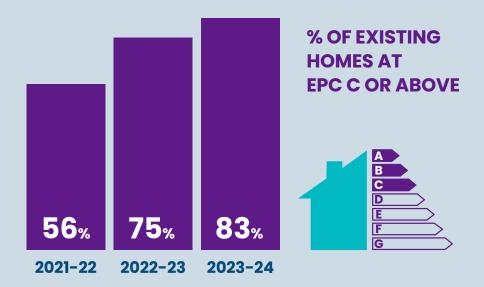


your building safe.

Carrying out extra inspections where fly-tipping is an issue

Warm and efficient homes

Year on year, we're making our homes more energy efficient.



Since April 2022, we've secured over **£2million** in funding for the installation of external wall insulation that will benefit **213 homes.**



"The house is retaining heat a lot better. Mentally I feel so much happier. I'm not having to wear my dressing gown all the time like I used to, as I always felt so cold.

In previous winters, I'd go around sellotaping gaps in the windows to stop the wind. Now the house is so toasty and warm. I feel like I have a brand new home."

Kelly, Thrive Customer



700 homes

have had Endotherm liquid added to their gas central heating system to help it heat the home with reduced energy use.



450 homes

checked to make sure their loft insulation met standards.

Please keep lofts clear! It's so important lofts aren't used for storage, so we can gain access for maintenance needs and to install more insulation in homes that need it.

Looking Forward

131

100%

100%

200+

Homes to receive

External Wall

Insulation

this year

of our homes
will meet the
Government's
energy
efficiency target
by 2030

Gas central
heating systems
to receive

Endotherm

by March 2025

Homes to receive **loft insulation**

11



Tackling anti-social behaviour

(ASB)

Adam and Louise were good neighbours for two years, often helping each other out. Trouble started when

Louise's partner would visit at odd hours causing a lot of noise, which sometimes involved the police attending. Adam felt upset and talked to Louise, but she didn't see a problem. The noise kept up, so Adam turned to Thrive.

We investigated the impact the issues were having on Adam and other

ASB can be disruptive and affect how you feel about living in your home.

Sometimes, neighbours might cause a nuisance without realising the impact on you.

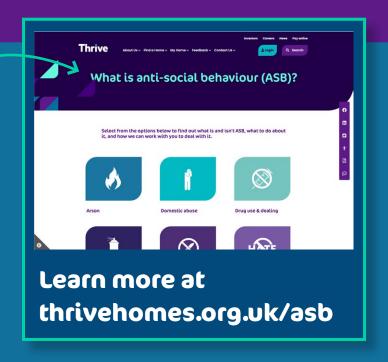
neighbours and put together an action plan to address it. This included making Louise aware of her tenancy conditions and giving Adam access to a noise recording app to gather evidence.

After gathering noise evidence, Thrive met with Louise, who recognised the impact of the noise and agreed to apologise to Adam and ensure her visitors would no longer be disruptive.

Thrive monitored the situation, and Adam later confirmed the noise issues had stopped and he is mending their neighbourly relationship.

To help, we've created a new page on our website to show what is and isn't ASB and the best way to deal with it.

This handy tool also advises when we need to involve partners like the police, who have different powers to manage ASB and need to be involved before any action can be taken.



Handling ASB in 2023-24

	2023-24	2022-23
Total cases	276	
Open cases worked on each month	82	69
Number of new cases per month	14	8
Days to resolve a case	193 days	185 days
Total closed cases	201	95
Satisfaction with our ASB handling approach	60.10% ¹	57.1%

¹Compared to 56% when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

The top three types of ASB cases relate to:



We also worked on a number of other cases to support our customers...

- 53 sustainment cases
 - 7 hate crime cases
- domestic abuse



See how our partnerships go beyond housing and supports lives.

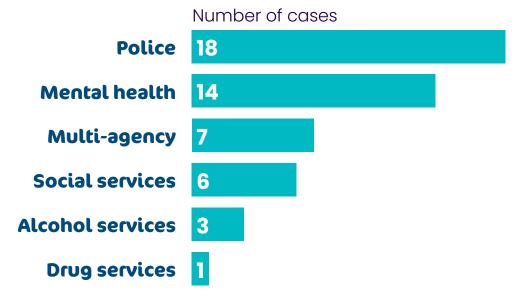
Read on...

thrivehomes.org.uk/case-studies/wellbeing-support

keeping customers in their home

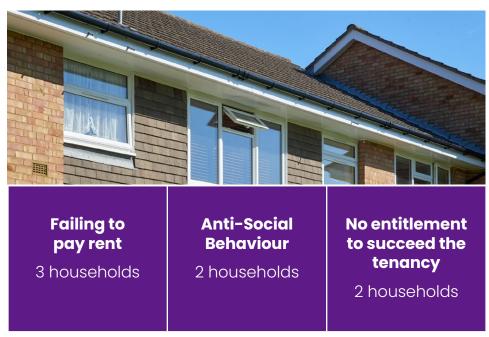
As a social landlord, we must work with our partners to help tenants keep their homes where possible.

Who we worked with to support our customers last year...



Eviction is a last option

The route to eviction involves many steps and is a challenging and lengthy process, where the court has final say. It can take anywhere from twelve months to three years to evict a household. Last year, we evicted:



REPAIRS SERVICE

Over the past two years, we've seen more repairs being logged. This is partly due to our new approach to proactively handling damp and mould, the age of our homes, and increased rainfall throughout the year.

To help us with this increase, we've had to rely more on external contractors. We know you prefer our own Thrive Homes Services (THS) engineers, so we have been growing the team to keep up with the number of repairs whilst improving your experience.

Good working order



17,744 repairs completed

compared to 16,825 previous year

71.7% satisfaction

with the repairs service1

78.35%

repairs completed

right first time

20.3 days to complete a repair

on average (our target is 20 days for routine repairs)

67_% satisfied

with the time taken to complete a repair²

96.5_% emergency repairs

completed on time

¹Compared to 73.7% when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

 2 Compared to 66.38% when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

Keeping you informed is important



Last year, we worked with Thrive Customer Voice to set fair repair times, including adjustments for those with needs and vulnerabilities.

This information, along with up-to-date monthly wait times are available on our website at thrivehomes.org.uk/repairs Here's how we kept to these timescales last year...

Repair timescale

achieved %

24 hours: emergencies

20 working days: routine repairs

60 working days: planned works

99.8%

Performance

71.2%

85.9%

Listening to your feedback, we are focusing on improving by:

Fixing things first time

Employing more skilled engineers

Keeping you better informed

These changes are underway and we have started to see an improvement, with 90.3% of customers who received a repair in February 2024 satisfied with their experience.

AROUND YOUR HOME

Last year 5.2% more customers were satisfied with the condition of their communal area.

In 2023, you voted to extend the cleaning service for 12 months to avoid cost increases. We're pleased to see your satisfaction has improved despite no major changes.

With plans to review both the cleaning and grounds maintenance contracts in 2025, we have been focusing on:



ROUTINE INSPECTIONS



MONITORING RECURRING PROBLEMS



SPOT CHECKS



REARRANGING MISSED VISITS



REGULAR
CONTRACTOR
MEETINGS



REVIEWING AND RESPONDING TO YOUR FEEDBACK

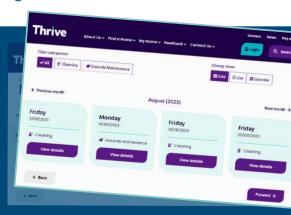
We also created a new way to view your schedules and give feedback on visits.

Stay in the know!

Visit our website to access helpful dates, times and safety information.

- View your cleaning or ground maintenance schedules
- Easily give feedback on visits
- Read safety information about your building

Alot of this information is available to download and print at home, too!



For more information visit thrivehomes.org.uk/my-home-info

219

gave feedback on cleaning and grounds maintenance
(148 in 2022-23)

61.7%

feel we keep communal areas clean and well maintained¹
(54% in 2022-23)

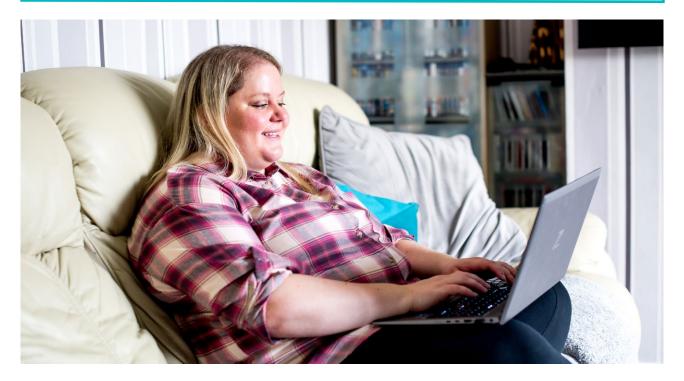
Looking ahead

We've started working with customers to shape the future of our cleaning and grounds maintenance services.

With inflation high, we are expecting to see a rise in costs and will be carefully reviewing the requirements of the contract to secure the best value for money.

Already, we know it's important to you that we make sure our service is consistent with clearer communication and regular spot checks from both Thrive Homes and our contractor.

Stay tuned to hear about the changes to these services at **thrivehomes.org.uk/getinvolved**



¹Compared to 73.7% when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

OUR SERVICES, YOUR EXPERIENCE

This year we have been preparing for the new Consumer Standards. These have been set out by our Regulator to make sure your home and experience of our services meet a certain standard. We have:

- Made repair timescales clearer on our website
- Outlined accessible help for our services
- Trained colleagues to better understand your needs
- Increased checks to make sure colleagues are responding in a helpful way
- Added cleaning and maintenance schedules to our website



We meet the requirements, as checked by an independent agency, Altair.



How do we measure up?

Based on the Tenant Satisfaction Measures, we're pleased to see an improvement in overall satisfaction last year!



Customer satisfaction	Thrive Homes
2023-24	73.04%
2022-23	69.8%
2021-22	71.4%
2020-21	74.92%

Other landlords
66.45%
67.5%
74.98%
80.96%

The Institute of Customer Service (January)
76%
77.7%
78.4%
76.8%

What's behind these changes¹?



act on your feedback
+5% more than last year

feel we listen and

79.6% feel respected by our team +3.9% more than last year





of communal areas
+5.2% more than last year.

are happy with the condition

Signed, sealed, delivered!

As sent to our Regulator, you can read about our full performance and what we're doing to improve under the Tenant Satisfaction Measures on our website: thrivehomes.org.uk/TSM-23-24

On average, feedback from non-Thrive tenants shows 57.9% feel their landlord listens and acts on their feedback, 74.5% feel respected by their landlord's colleagues and 73.7% are satisfied with the condition of their communal area. This data is when compared to other social landlords that use IFF, our market research company.

It's important that we work closely with our colleagues to improve your experience.

98%
of colleagues completed
mandatory learning
modules

members of our team have completed our Allyship training to support diversity and inclusion

Our colleagues are becoming more aware of your needs, and we're checking to make sure they are helping you in the right way and meeting our service standards as set out in the **Thrive Deal.**

Already, we're seeing an improvement...



67%

of actions being responded to within timeframes

+14% from 2022-23



63%

of customers agreeing their query was resolved at first point of contact

+8% from 2022-23



65.5%

of customers saying they 'trust Thrive to do what we say we will'

+10.4% from 2022-23



of customers felt we kept them informed throughout the complaints process after adding a mid-point check-in

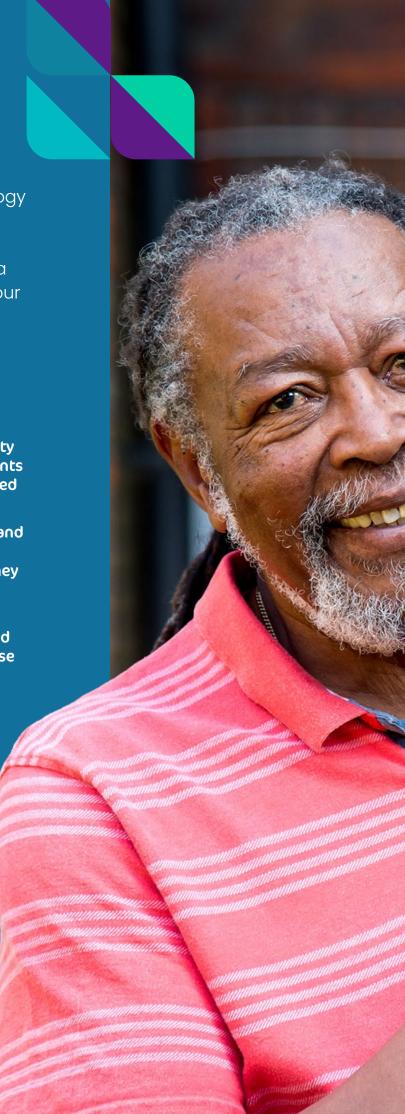
+7% from 2022-23

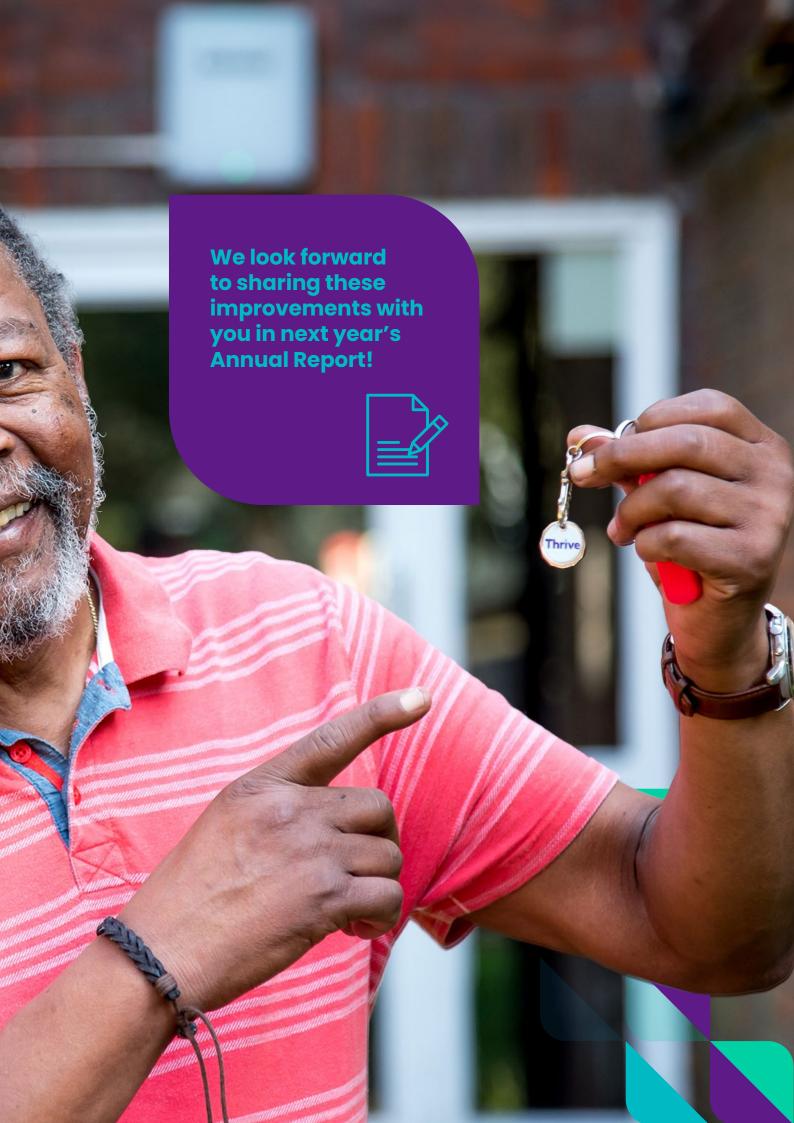
mproving your experience

We're also working on upgrading our technology to better provide our services to you. In 2025, you can expect to see a new way to manage your account online.

This year we will be focusing on:

- Improving the availability of our repair appointments and keeping you informed along the way
- Renewing our cleaning and grounds maintenance services to make sure they meet our standards
- Looking into the root causes of complaints and how we can prevent these
- Improving safety, such as upgrading door entry systems





COMPLAINTS

In line with the sector, we received 13% more complaints than last year. This is likely because:

- · We regularly reminded you to tell us when things go wrong
- The new Housing Ombudsman Complaints Code has changed the way we must record complaints
- · High-profile government campaigns and media attention have promoted tenants' rights across the nation.

More complaints, but we're keeping up!

Even though we received more complaints, we've managed to meet the response times set by the Housing Ombudsman's Complaints Handling Code.



cases referred to

awaiting determination

of tenants have made a complaint

the Housing Ombudsman,

satisfied with

our approach to complaint handling¹



Turning complaints into positive change

Listening to your feedback, we made the following changes:

- Employed more engineers and colleagues in our repairs planning team to increase appointment availability
- Dedicated a group of engineers to respond to complaint disrepair cases more quickly
- Brought forward plans to renew and upgrade some of our communal door entry systems
- Increased inspections around bin stores where there is a higher risk (weekly where we have identified issues)
- Created a dedicated complaints team to improve quality of responses, customer experience and value for money
- Updated our complaints policy.



"I would like to thank you for the time you have taken to look into this further and for a fair outcome."

Thrive Customer

We meet the Housing Ombudsman's Complaint Handling Code!

Learn more about our complaints handling performance, how we plan to improve, our Board's response and our selfassessment against the Complaint Handling Code on our website!

thrivehomes.org.uk/complaints

COUNTING COMPLIMENTS

Your positive feedback in numbers

185

compliments

136

in 2022-23



We are incredibly proud of our repair engineers! It's heartening to know that 40% of your compliments were about them. You told us:

- Their quality of work is great
- They treat you with respect
- You feel they are easy to deal with

"I would like to express my complete gratitude to the gentleman who attended. He was extremely polite, courteous and explained the process along the way and went above and beyond to ensure the process went as smoothly as possible."

Thrive Customer

77%

feel they have a safe and secure home

79.6%

feel they are treated fairly and with respect



SARA HENDERSON

ASB and

Sustainment Officer

"Sara has made me and my children feel so safe and welcome. She understood how I felt and respected every inch of my insecurities and worries and has always gone above and beyond to make me feel safe and listened too. She is a great credit to Thrive!"

Thrive customer

THRIVE CUSTOMER VOICE

We're proud to partner with members to shape our services. Last year, 1,259 households influenced our services by:

- Telling us what topics to include in our Annual Report for Tenants
- Helping to set our repairs timescales, including adjustments for those with needs or vulnerabilities
- Shaping the guidance we share for dealing with damp and mould

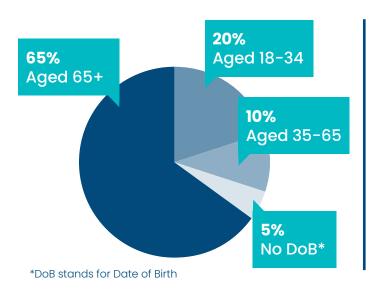


And it didn't stop there...

From January to March 2023, our surveys showed a slight drop in home safety satisfaction. We followed up with a detailed survey, focusing on fire safety, security and more. Your feedback highlighted concerns about door entry systems and antisocial behaviour (ASB). In response, we:

- Worked with members to update our Anti-Social Behaviour policy and create Good Neighbour Guidance
- Invested over £350k to upgrade some door entry systems.

Who are our members?



45% of households are a member

43 members with no internet access

rating of our updates summarising how we're acting on member's feedback

Find out more at thrivehomes.org.uk/getinvolved

Last year, the average rent for a Thrive property was about £144 per week. Even though our costs went up, we kept providing the service we promised in the Thrive Deal.

Last year we spent...

Repairs	24%	£6,993,000
Making Homes safe	6%	£1,922,000
Investing in existing homes (MW)	17%	£5,071,000
Building New Homes	13%	£3,800,608
Energy Efficiency upgrades (MW)	7%	£1,998,000
Other	33%	£9,922,00

Overall average cost per home¹
Our highest paid director's salary, shown as an average cost per home²

Our total directors' salary costs, shown as an average cost per home³

Per year

£4,976

£28.75

£160.34

Want more detail? Read our full Annual Financial Accounts here.

Supporting customers

197

referrals made to Citizens
Advice Service

П

referrals to local authorities for homeless support when at risk of eviction

"Whilst experiencing financial difficulties, our rent account fell into arrears. Your colleague was very understanding and patient whilst we worked to find a solution. We are so grateful."

Thrive Tenant



¹This is known as cost per unit, which includes factors like operating cost, maintenance and management expenses.

² Salary excludes pension and national insurance contributions.

³ Includes 15 board members and five members of Thrive's Executive Team. Costs include pension and national insurance contributions.

WELCOMING NEW CUSTOMERS

Last year, 539 new customers joined Thrive. We're proud to support customers with a range of housing options to support their needs.

77
new homes built

81.7%
satisfied with their experience becoming a customer

0.8%

of our homes refurbished for shared ownership¹

3

customers bought their home through Right to Buy or Right to Acquire

54

mutual exchanges took place

5

customers downsized

"Thank you from me and my dog Rufus for helping us to move to a safe, peaceful and happy home life."

Thrive Customer

Who lives in our homes?

Getting to know you better helps us understand your needs and tailor our services. Last year, we updated 6% of our customer records. We're using this information to:

- identify and address any dissatisfaction related to specific locations or characteristics
- make adjustments for customers with vulnerabilities and disabilities.

Can you take a moment to update your information?

We promise to keep it private and won't use it to change your tenancy now or in the future. Update your details at **thrivehomes.org.uk/my-info** or get in touch with us as you usually do!

Find out more about how we handle your data at thrivehomes.org.uk/privacy-policy

¹ We convert some homes to shared ownership so we can fix up properties that are too costly to rent out. This way, we keep them as affordable housing and still earn rental income. This programme helps us invest in our current homes and fund the building of new ones.

Who lives in our homes

Total customers

11,882*

in 2024

12,230*

in 2023



9.45% of data held

Buddhist 8 in 2023

878 104

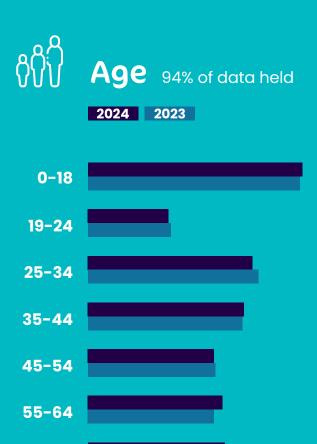
 Christian
 Muslim

 670 in 2023
 56 in 2023

10,759 No Information11,383 in 2023

130 Other

Other 95 in 2023



65+

No info

53.03%

Female 53.03% in 2023 45.96%

Male

46.84% in 2023

0.23%

Transgender 0.13% in 2023

0.0% No Information 0.0% in 2023



	2024	2023
Asian	1.99%	1.57%
Black	2.39%	2.01%
Chinese	0.08%	0.06%
Mixed	1.04%	0.91%
White	45.17%	43.46%
No information	48.11%	51.77%
Other**	1.24%	0.22%

Disability 17.3% of data held

	2024	2023
Hearing Disability	13	18
Learning Disability	4	3
Mobility Disability	17	19
Vision Disability	30	26
Mental Disability	145	92
Physical Disability	157	90
Other Disability	475	377
No Disability	1273	834
No information	10465	10771



	2024	2023
Gay or Lesbian	30	12
Heterosexual or Straight	1974	1,470
No information	9460	10,726
Other	418	22

^{*} This total number of customers includes primary and joint tenants as well as household members. Gender doesn't add up to 100% as commercial properties are included.
** Other means prefer not to say.





GIVING BACK



Delivering money advice and budgeting support.



Providing domestic abuse and community support caseworkers.



Provides affordable, pre-loved furniture and trains people with learning difficulties. Our grant supports expanding their training courses and hiring a tutor.



Offers transformational experiences for children and young people. Our grant funds crisis support at The Junction in High Wycombe for disadvantaged youth.



Provides employment and training for adults with disabilities. Our grant helps cover general operating costs to improve their prospects and living standards.



Supports high-risk individuals with mental health services. Our grant helps them continue offering free community support.



Promotes mental health through music production for young adults. Our grant supports the 'Own Your Sound' project, helping over 30 young people.



A pay-as-you-feel café with a community garden. Our grant funds the construction of a new café and supplies essential items.



Stay in touch

Be heard! Become a Thrive Customer Voice member at: **portal.thrivehomes.org.uk/get-involved**

Access our latest updates on Facebook facebook.com/ThriveHomesUK

Learn about our service standards at thrivehomes.org.uk/thrivedeal

Give feedback all year round at: thrivehomes.org.uk/feedback

Contact us in your usual way:

enquiries@thrivehomes.org.uk

live chat on our website at: thrivehomes.org.uk/talktous the myThrive hub at: thrivehomes.org.uk/mythrivehub

