



**Date** 4 January 2024

Dear resident

### **Barton House residents' update – Thursday 4 January update**

Thank you to those of you in the Holiday Inn for your cooperation and patience during last night's evacuation of the hotel. I know this may have been upsetting and disruptive for you, particularly as it happened late into the evening.

I have been made aware that the fire alarm was activated due to vandalism in the car park below the hotel. I understand many of you were outside for a considerable time during the evacuation, and I want to reassure you that we are speaking to the hotel to ensure any future incidents are managed appropriately and quickly and that the fire brigade will be contacted swiftly if required.

**Works at Barton House:** Earlier this week I shared news that works on Barton House are starting to take place. This includes further fireproofing works in some flats, legionella testing, and the installation of a communal fire alarm system. Contractors will soon need to access some flats in the building to carry out these works. Housing Officers will get in touch with residents of these flats from this week. The sooner contractors can access the flats to carry out the works, the sooner you will be able to return to your homes. I will be sharing further details of these works in next week's residents' meeting. Works will begin on three vacant properties tomorrow. These three properties were vacant before the evacuation and therefore you, and your possessions, will not be affected.

**Reminder - next Barton House residents' meeting:** We are planning to have another meeting once the full structural report is available. This meeting is currently planned for **Wednesday, 10 January 2024 at City Hall, please arrive from 9.30am for a 10am start**. We encourage you to join us if you can, so you can hear from us and have an opportunity to discuss the findings from the survey report, what further work is needed on the building, and what this means for you.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to update you on some of the ongoing activities and facilities on offer to Barton House residents, including:

**Support for parents or carers with babies and infants:** If you would like to speak to members of the health visiting team and meet other parents you can drop into any of the Baby Hubs across Bristol. Staff will be able to offer support with feeding your baby and baby scales are available for you to use.

The council's Central Family Support Team will be running "Stay and Play" baby groups at the Holiday Inn. Details about these sessions, and how to book a free taxi

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to the Holiday Inn when needed, can be found on the Barton House website.

**Docklands Full Circle Project:** A wide range of activities are being run through the Full Circle Project, these include breakdancing and fitness classes, coffee mornings, basketball, and table tennis. Sessions are free for Barton House residents. All activities take place at the Docklands Community Centre, 29 Brigstocke Road, St Paul's. This is only a 10-minute walk away from the Holiday Inn. Please book a place in advance by emailing [services@fullcircleproject.org.uk](mailto:services@fullcircleproject.org.uk) and remember to make it clear that you are a Barton House resident.

**Free events and activities:** With thanks to the generosity of organisations across the city, a number of activities and events are on offer including complimentary tickets to Arabian Nights at the Old Vic, Bristol Aerospace air and space museum, and Spike Island art exhibits and events.

A full list of activities can be found on the activities list attached to this email and on our Barton House web pages at [www.bristol.gov.uk/barton-house](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/barton-house).

**Bus passes:** We are arranging new bus passes for all school-age children – and one for a parent or a guardian in each family – staying at the Holiday Inn. Passes can be collected from a Housing Officer at the Holiday Inn from today. If you or your child haven't received a pass yet, or if you are staying elsewhere with friends or family and need a bus pass to help your children get to school, please speak to a Housing Officer.

**Communications:** We will continue to provide you with updates by text and email. [Visit the council website for all essential information regarding the situation at Barton House and the support available.](#) Please also direct any questions or concerns 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**

We appreciate that this is a stressful time for you and your families, 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.
- Shout 85258 offers confidential text support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Text SHOUT to 85258.

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- 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 Fridays – 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)