



Wates



Anna and Lakin, Aspire to Buy customers at Erith Park

Anna and Lakin moved into a new two bedroom apartment at Erith Park under our Aspire to Buy scheme, meaning they're able to rent their home at an affordable rent for up to five years before buying it, either outright or through shared ownership.

Lakin works as a customer service advisor on the London Underground while Anna combines drama teaching with working in a local coffee shop. Anna is a trained theatre director and her small theatre company is her real passion but, like most theatre directors, she needs to do other work to bring in an income.

Before moving to Erith Park, the couple rented a one bedroom flat in a converted house in nearby Sidcup. The neighbours were friendly but the elderly landlady let the property fall into disrepair. It was cold and the walls ran damp with condensation in winter. Mould grew on the walls and mushrooms on the bathroom windowsill. When the landlady died the tenants were given notice.

Anna said:

“ We did look at other privately rented flats but Aspire to Buy was our first choice because of the additional security of the five year tenancy. We're saving hard and want to be in a position to buy our home in a few years.

I love the fact that my home is warm and bright. I have a huge balcony, which I call my garden! I've already got planters with my favourite herbs and evening-scented plants.

I've met a few of my neighbours and they've helped me with deliveries and been very friendly. I'd like to get to know more people and feel part of the new community.

The rooms are a good size, including the second bedroom. Lakin and I are beginning to talk about starting a family, and we now know we've got the space and security for a baby, when the time is right. ”