



News Release

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High housing costs in Warrington trap unhappy couples, warns solicitors

QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway

Crippling rents and the high cost of home ownership are forcing many unhappy couples to remain under the same roof, warns Warrington-based QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway.

A recent report, from the housing charity Shelter, has found that 3.6 million people, just over 5% of the population, have been forced to stay together in the same home because they cannot afford to move out.

With the average house in Warrington costing £174,902 and average monthly rents set at around £640, Audrey Venables, the firm's head of family law, believes many local couples and families are becoming trapped in unhappy homes.

She said: "Many people are stuck in unhappy relationships but are unable to do anything about it because it's too costly to split up. If you compound this with the fact that from 1st April, the Government is abolishing legal aid for anyone seeking separation or divorce (apart from domestic violence or forced marriage) then we are storing up problems for an awful lot of people.

"There is likely to be a great deal of misery and discontent which could lead to an increase in mental health issues and even potentially a rise in domestic violence. As a society we should be very worried.

"In this climate, it's even more important that couples embark on marriage or shared home ownership with their eyes open. The best way to ensure a good outcome, if things go wrong, is to set out your stall right at the beginning with a pre-nuptial or co-habitation/ living together agreement."

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Audrey Venables on 01925 230000 or consult the website www.qualitysolicitors.com/fdr. Follow us on Twitter: @QSFDR

EDITOR'S NOTES:

About Forshaws Davies Ridgway

- Forshaws Davies Ridgway is a full service legal practice with offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham, divided into QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway, providing individual legal services and **fdr**, a specialist commercial practice, at 21 Bold Street, Warrington.
- 18 Partners
- Over 100 staff
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate.

About QualitySolicitors:

- Launched in 2010, QualitySolicitors is a group of law firms across the country working as part of the QualitySolicitors brand. Only one firm per local area is selected to become a QS partner. Customer feedback forms an integral part of the selection process.
- QualitySolicitors' national network of lawyers consists of over 400 branches across England and Wales, including 150 Legal Access Points in WHSmith stores.
- QualitySolicitors lawyers are experts in their fields dealing with both consumer and SME legal matters. QualitySolicitors offer a personal, local service but with the assurance of a recognised national brand.
- In 2011 QS secured equity investment from Palamon Capital Partners, a private equity house with a £700m fund.
- QualitySolicitors has recently announced an exclusive partnership with US firm LegalZoom. QS firms will operate as panel members for all consumer and business LegalZoom work following their launch in the UK.
- QualitySolicitors launched a multi-million pound, national campaign in 2012, designed to shake up the legal world and help make solicitors' services more accessible to everyone. The campaign is the largest in the history of the legal profession. Running across multiple outlets it includes peak terrestrial television adverts, posters and billboards, press advertising, a social media campaign, and live stunts around the country to showcase the local expertise of each QualitySolicitors firm. In addition, QualitySolicitors is encouraging all local solicitors, whether they are part of the group or not, to rally together against 'supermarket law' with a call to arms of, 'Be vocal. Keep solicitors local'.

Issued by

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On behalf of Quality Solicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway

