

# Community Gateway Association





## Background

Community Gateway Association is Preston's largest social landlord employing 170 staff and having responsibility for 6,500 properties in and around the city. It is a truly community centred organisation with residents actively involved in running the business, at board level, in Head office and working out on the estates.

Community Gateway Association was formed in 2005, following a transfer of housing stock from the local authority. At the time the new team inherited largely paper-based systems for communicating with staff and managing documentation. They knew they wanted a more effective way for employees to access the organisation's resources and began considering an Intranet solution.

## The wish list

*Top of Community Gateway Association's wish list was a solution which could:*

-  Be deployed and utilised quickly by all the new members of staff
-  Give access to policies and procedures at the touch of a button
-  Share news and announcements with staff wherever they are
-  Offer scope to develop and extend as the organisation's needs change

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## The Trisoft solution

When Community Gateway Association met Trisoft and heard about their work with Microsoft SharePoint it soon became apparent that Trisoft's knowledge and the SharePoint platform ticked all the right boxes. In no time at all work began to plan, implement and support a new Intranet solution called PurpleNet. Deploying PurpleNet quickly was paramount, as at the time a new committed team of staff had very little in the way of access to resources.

Working closely with Community Gateway Association, Trisoft designed and implemented the PurpleNet Intranet in just twelve weeks and we continue to develop the solution today.

### *PurpleNet is now a vital tool for all staff and consists of a:*

- ✓ **Document search facility:** used for a range of business letters, forms and content such as policies and procedures.
- ✓ **Board members area:** with minutes, announcements and a forum for questions.
- ✓ **News section:** for the latest announcements and newsletters
- ✓ **Survey creator:** to encourage feedback and responses on key points from staff.
- ✓ **Holiday booking system:** allowing requests and online authorisation of holidays.
- ✓ **Department level mini-intranet:** for inter-department knowledge and document sharing.
- ✓ **Reporting and notifications tool:** to provide business continuity and facilities management with a complete record of activities.

## The client's view...

Talking about Trisoft and the Microsoft SharePoint solution we developed, Robin Ridgley, Communications Manager for Community Gateway Association comments...

*"Trisoft understand SharePoint inside-out, which proved invaluable when creating our Intranet, PurpleNet. As a result of their work all our staff can access critical news and documentation at the touch of a button. The system has been a huge benefit from a communications point of view too. Allowing our board members to access meeting documentation online has removed the need for printed hand-outs: not only reducing our impact on the environment, but as one board member said to me, it has removed his need for two filing cabinets too!"*

Robin continues; *"I like the fact that we can consistently develop the system with Trisoft and adding on services such as the holiday bookings system has again removed so much paper and manual processing. Trisoft regularly contact me to say 'we think this might be good for you' and they are always willing to share new ideas, matching our needs, with the latest product developments, to ensure the Intranet grows and develops to give maximum benefit to our association."*

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