

FAST FACTS

Development: Chandler Court

Market value of apartment:
£210,000

Share bought: 40%

Monthly mortgage
repayments: £850



FEMI AGORO, CROYDON



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When Femi Agoro and his wife began to plan a family, they knew they needed to get on the property ladder. "It was important to us to be secure," he says. "We'd been renting in different parts of London for years, and we just wanted to have somewhere of our own."

Escalating house prices, however, meant that the young couple's dream of owning a property was looking increasingly out of reach. For Femi, shared ownership offered a practical, long-term solution.

Femi had heard about Tower Homes from his days as a supported housing officer for the YMCA. Today, he works as an income officer for another housing association. He says his knowledge of the industry has helped him to understand the process of shared ownership, but that it is actually extremely straightforward.

Femi was sent an invitation to view new properties by Tower Homes and was immediately interested.

He called the sales team and was sent a list of relevant properties close to his new flat in Sutton. "At that time Chandler Court (in Croydon) was still being

built," says Femi. "We had originally been looking only at 2-bedroom flats, but I saw there was one opening left for a 3-bedroom place, and we went for it. Thankfully, we got it."

Femi's daughter was born in June 2005. Nine months later, the young family moved into their large, purpose-built home in Croydon. They are all delighted with their new surroundings.

"We have a 3-bedroom apartment on the top floor," beams Femi. "You wouldn't believe the size. Every room is just huge; we have an amazing amount of space."

The development, he adds, is very friendly and also incredibly convenient for his work in Clapham. As for buying through a shared ownership scheme, there were no major hitches, and he has big ambitions for the future.

"I set myself a goal to buy another 40 per cent of the property in March 2007," he says. "This is a great opportunity for us to own a property outright. I'm definitely one step better off than anyone who is still renting." ■