

What housing does: education

April 2015

What housing does: education

Satty Rai

Introduction

Welcome to the Northern Housing Consortium's (NHC) third briefing for members outlining 'What housing does', looking at the work and activity carried out by NHC members with children and young people. This series of briefings will focus on and raise awareness of the different approaches adopted by housing providers on various themes when working with children and young people.

This briefing will focus on education, and how housing providers are working with different educational institutions from early years to further education to support children and young people. This can include anything from providing breakfast clubs, school holiday provision, careers advice and work experience, or anything else organisations are doing to support and work with local educational institutions to raise the aspirations of children and young people.

The paper will showcase a number of case studies setting out

the different approaches adopted by housing providers and wider partners.

The aim of these briefings is not only to share with NHC members the great work that is being done across the housing sector in the North and share the learning outcomes, it is also to make a plea to members to share this learning with wider local partners from across different sectors, to raise the awareness and profile of this work, and show how the housing sector and its partners are making a real difference to the lives of children and young people.

Housing providers understand the importance of young people being seen not as nuisances, and linked to negative behaviour, but as residents who are very much part of the community, as well as potential tenants who will require information and support throughout their childhood and transition into adulthood. Many across the sector realise the value of the views and voices of young people and encourage engagement and participation through various means, which can include youth forums, youth panels, and social media platforms, amongst others.

One of the main roles for housing providers is community investment, offering community and neighbourhood services to their tenants, residents and communities. This role has enhanced for many housing organisations over the years, part of which has been driven by government policy and part through their own social responsibility, and supporting their tenants and residents through challenging times.

Some housing providers are working and/or supporting their local schools, understanding the importance of the relationship between housing and education. Schools provide an important focus for neighbourhoods as more schools are offering wrap-around care out of the daily core hours. This is increasingly including school holiday periods.

The housing sector is continually building better and stronger links with various partners including educational establishments, through either offering to support school life through funding or sponsoring sports programmes and activities, including training kits. In addition some providers

are supporting schools through advice around careers and providing work experience opportunities, and also information around tenancies and raising housing and homelessness issues.

Housing providers are raising aspirations and creating opportunities amongst their children and young people, as research states young people are more likely to achieve positive outcomes when they develop ambitious, achievable aspirations combined with the self-esteem, self-efficacy, information and inspiration they need to persevere towards their goals (*Aspiration and attainment amongst young people in deprived communities, 2008, Department for Children, School and Families*).

A Shelter report published in 2006, titled *How registered social landlords can work with young people: A good practice guide*, highlighted some ways in which housing providers can support/work with schools:

- Asking young homeless people to support those in similar circumstances.
- Offering work experience placements.
- Sponsoring housing information packs making staff available for talks, or to facilitate discussion.
- Working with pupils on projects such as a housing-themed CD or video.

Educational establishments are often at the centre of community life, and there are many potential benefits for housing providers that work with them. These include:

- Access to their premises for meetings and or events.
- The opportunity to reach parents through school/college communications such as newsletters, and being 'in the loop' about current thinking around education.
- The opportunity to engage and involve young people and children.

Obviously schools/colleges differ as widely as the

neighbourhoods they serve, and housing providers will need to approach them with an open agenda and sensitivity to their needs and aspirations.

The following case studies show a number of interventions that housing providers and their wider partners have in place in working closely with educational establishments, supporting children and young people, providing opportunities, and raising aspirations.

South Liverpool Homes

School holiday provision

South Liverpool Homes (SLH) is a housing association currently managing around 3,700 homes based in the Speke and Garston areas of South Liverpool. These wards fall in to the most deprived 10% nationally and have a higher proportion of 0-15 year olds (22.3%) than the city average. It also has a large number of children who live in poverty.

For the last four years SLH has worked alongside a local academy, Enterprise South Liverpool (ESLA), to deliver an open access programme of free activities for young people over the age of eight. By making the activities free for all to attend regardless of tenure, children who live in lower income households do not miss out on activities designed to enrich their development and also lessen the financial strain that often burdens families in SLH communities during the half term breaks.

The activities were first developed in response to issues raised by tenants about facilities for children and young people during the school holiday periods. The programme has been developed

to offer a varied activity programme which is delivered using various learning techniques and introduces the participants to a number of new opportunities and skills. The young people can get involved in activities such as arts and crafts, healthy cooking, multi-sports, and beauty and relaxation among others. There are also a number of day trips during the programme to zoos and parks at no cost.

SLH promote the activities through all local primary schools, children's centres, and community groups, and they are delivered in venues within Speke and Garston to ensure that all local young people have easy access. Through advertising the activities in this way, prospective future ESLA students are introduced to the academy in a positive way. ESLA is currently the only school in the area due to the closure of Parklands High School in Speke, however pupils can go further afield should they wish. SLH is keen to support ESLA and recognise the importance to the community of having a local high school.

SLH work alongside the Community Team within ESLA to develop the programme, using feedback gathered from previous activities and recommendations from young people within the local community. This is to ensure that the programme is fun for those involved while also achieving positive outcomes. SLH also work alongside youth workers from local children's centres who assist with the delivery of the programme. This helps the young people to build good relationships with SLA as a landlord and also promotes the other services available in the community for them to use, making them more likely to positively engage with local services in the long term knowing that continued support can be offered after the holiday programme ends.

In order to monitor the success of the activities, SLH asks for feedback from all participants, which is then used to plan future activities.

“Paul was very happy to attend each day. There was a good variety of things to do and he enjoyed the days out. He got plenty of exercise and stopped him being bored. I hope you can do this every summer, thank you very much.”

- Quote from parent

SLH has seen a reduction in antisocial behaviour within the community as a result of local young people being engaged in this way. SLH monitor the amount of ASB complaints received during the programme to ensure that there is a reduction in antisocial activities. There were only three youth nuisance reports received over the course of last year's holiday provision activities. In this way the programme supports improvements made to overall satisfaction with services and a reduction in youth nuisance reports within SLH communities.

There are a number of outcomes achieved through delivering this programme, including improving emotional and lifestyle health through sessions based around wellbeing, such as healthy cooking sessions, relaxation, beauty, and sports. These sessions also give young people the opportunity to learn transferrable skills and increase their confidence.

The young people are encouraged to develop positive relationships, focusing on sessions around issues such as bullying and staying safe, and making young people aware of different dangers. This has an impact on participants and encourages them to interact in a much more positive way with each other. This develops the young people's personal and social development, teaching them to enjoy recreation through mixing with new people of a variety of ages.

The programme does this in a fun way which builds healthy peer friendships in a secure environment.

SLH utilise the Junior Board and Youth Committee, which are two involvement groups made up of young people from the area. Their role is to ensure that young people have the opportunity to influence the services offered by SLH to young people. They do this through helping to develop a varied activity plan that will be appealing to other young people with older junior board members volunteering as well. Members of the Youth Committee have also been recruited through the diversionary activities, helping SLH to develop strong involvement amongst young people.

As a result of these activities SLH has started to work in partnership with ESLA on other projects, including working with a group of students to develop an app to better prepare

young people for managing their own home, which will help to prepare prospective future SLH tenants for sustaining a successful tenancy.

SLH is currently developing a refreshed and varied programme which attracts young people of all ages. The sessions will continue to be run through summer and half term breaks through ESLA. SLH is committed to supporting local organisations and to build youth provision in the area for young people during the holidays. It is an important way of ensuring the needs of local residents are met through positively engaging with local families with children.

For further information please contact Laura Murphy, Neighbourhood Engagement Officer (Youth), South Liverpool Homes, on laura.murphy@slhgroup.co.uk.

Centrepoint

Preventative services

Centrepoint's Preventative Service consists of a group of projects offered all with the common aim of preventing homelessness, reducing instances of young people becoming homeless, and raising awareness of the associated issues. This work is vital in supporting Centrepoint's vision to end youth homelessness. Young people need to be provided with the skills, knowledge and support to enable them to live independently in the future. It's particularly important that this provision is offered to those identified at risk of homelessness.

What do the services offer?

Three services are offered by the prevention team, all of which work in differing areas to reduce homelessness occurrences across the North East.

The three projects work together to ensure those at risk of homelessness receives support in one or more of the following areas:

Family mediation

Working with young people aged 14-25 and their families to prevent relationship breakdown, our family mediation team works across Sunderland and County Durham. The family mediation team work with those at risk of relationship breakdown in addition to those who may be beyond this point.

Vital links are in place with local colleges, schools and pupil referral units to ensure that young people are identified early on and are referred accordingly. The mediation worker will provide support for both the young person and family members to rebuild relationships while ensuring that all other needs are met. Ensuring that all needs are met will include working with education establishments to see what support can be offered.

Lifewise

Lifewise is the provision of AQA-accredited independent living skills workshops. Lifewise works with young people preparing to enter their own tenancies, those deemed at risk of becoming homeless, or those in existing tenancies who are struggling to maintain their housing. Young people working with the Lifewise team complete a learning assessment to determine which of the 17 core units will benefit them. On completion of the identified units, young people are offered an additional six months of low level support to further assist them in maintaining their accommodation and sourcing EET opportunities.

Lifewise have, over the last three years, developed and maintained excellent working relationships with East Durham College, Derwentside College, and the National Citizen Service, and are currently working with the City of Sunderland College. Work with Sunderland College is taking place with groups most at risk of homelessness to ensure that they have the appropriate skills to live independently.

Youth Educators

Working with young people who have previously experienced homelessness or had involvement in the criminal justice system, the youth educators project trains young people to deliver awareness sessions to their peers, other young people and

professionals. Those eligible for training to become a

Youth Educators are between the ages of 16-25 whereas awareness sessions are delivered to those from as young as 14. Young people taking part in the training gain a minimum of one AQA qualification in an Introduction to youth work and peer education.

Centrepoint's youth educators deliver awareness sessions in a wide number of education establishments working to raise awareness and remove stereotypes of homelessness. Sessions are delivered in assemblies, classrooms, and throughout challenge days. These deliveries have proved invaluable to schools trying to raise awareness and to Centrepoint in highlighting the issues surrounding homelessness. Youth educators carry our regular sessions in the following education establishments/programmes; NCS Sunderland, Durham and Newcastle, Sunderland University, Farrington Academy, Castlview School, and Belmont School.

Client group

Understanding that the key to prevention is early intervention, Centrepoint's preventative services work with young people from as young as 14 up to 25. Identifying children and young people from aged 14 will ensure that those at risk of homelessness will be able to seek support and reduce the risk of becoming homeless.

Why we got involved

Centrepoint have been delivering these services for between three and six years and are noticing an increasing need for prevention work across the North East. Centrepoint's main aims are to ensure that young people secure a home and a job to enable them to achieve and have a successful, stable future. The delivery of preventative services increases the life chances of young people.

Quotes from young people:

"Thank you for all of the support from yourself last year, I start university on a paramedic course in just over two weeks, and to say

that still doesn't feel real, you were the one to even suggest it in the first place, and now I'm here. It's a massive step I never thought I would manage, but you gave me the nudge in this direction and I can't find the words to explain how appreciative I am. Again, thank you." **YP accessing family mediation**

"This session is something that can affect all young people even when you don't think; it's an important subject that all students can learn from, if not for themselves but for those around them." **Sunderland College tutor**

"This definitely fits with the needs of some of our most vulnerable students and the lack of knowledge they have (reference to Lifewise and independent living skills)." **College Tutor**

Future Plans

Centrepoin't's preventative services are constantly sourcing new opportunities to work with young people in schools and colleges across the North East. Reaching young people within education establishments not only ensures children and young people have an increased awareness of homelessness but also ensures that teaching and support staff are better informed. Having knowledge of the problems young people face when homeless or dealing with issues in the family home will support teaching staff in understanding the barriers to education young people may be experiencing.

For further information please contact: Laura Athey, Development Worker - Lifewise, Centrepoin't, L.Athey@centrepoin't.org.

Places for People individual support

Educating against domestic violence and abuse

In 2012 the Places for People domestic violence and abuse service approached two local colleges with a view to working in partnership. As a domestic abuse service they wanted to raise awareness with young people and hard to reach groups about the issues surrounding domestic violence and abuse. This was following an increase in calls and referrals for support and advice to their service for young women from the age of 16.

At this time the government's definition of domestic abuse was only applicable to women and girls 18 years and over, and Places for People's individual support were one of the few agencies that worked with women from the age of 16. Because of this the organisation felt it extremely important to use this to create awareness within this age range of domestic violence and abuse. They felt that facilitating sessions with students around healthy relationships was a way of providing preventative work through early intervention.

Both colleges were extremely keen to work with Places for

People and worked together with the colleges to design a one hour session to meet their students' needs. The session is interactive and covers healthy relationships and domestic violence and abuse. It has been specifically designed to be delivered to both male and female students aged between 16 and 18 years.

The sessions started at Tyne Metropolitan College in 2012 and the sessions took place over a four week period. During this time the team were able to deliver the session to 91 students. All students were asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the session, and feedback showed that the students found the sessions beneficial and had shown them something new. Some comments received from Tyne Met students included:

"The session was full of information and I learnt things that I didn't know."

"I found out a lot about domestic abuse and the different types that I didn't know about."

"Domestic abuse is not acceptable and there is help available."

"I learnt that domestic abuse is not just violence."

"I know where to go if I need help."

"I will definitely recommend your service to my friends."

During the sessions and afterwards, it became apparent through individual disclosures that several of the students had already been affected by domestic abuse in some way. Some had experienced it themselves directly in relationships of their own and others disclosed that they had grown up in abusive households. These young people received immediate emotional support from staff and were signposted to local specialist services where appropriate. They also received a pack of information with online resources and helplines.

The service then started to work with Newcastle College over a six week period between January and March 2013. They again delivered sessions to students both male and female primarily aged between 16 and 18. The sessions were in high demand and

over this period Places for People were able to work with 121 students. Students were asked again to complete an evaluation form at the end of each session and Places for People continued to receive excellent feedback which mirrored Tyne Met college as follows:

"I learnt a lot of facts about abuse and how to support and help someone."

"The session was really helpful. I feel that I now know the signs of abuse."

"I now know what my girlfriend has gone through."

"I learnt a lot."

"Thanks for a great day - it was very informative."

It became evident that many of the students from Newcastle College had also been affected by domestic abuse in some way and because of the popularity and high demand for these sessions Places for People have been attending Newcastle College on a regular basis since March 2013. The team have worked with over 300 students. Part of the work completed within the colleges involved the team attending fresher's week events, and this has also enabled the team to provide their service leaflet and information about domestic abuse and support available to a further 600 students. The team have been contacted again by tutors from the college to look at arranging further sessions for the new term 2014/15.

One of their objectives for 2014/15 was to complete sessions with younger age groups and are currently working in partnership with other agencies to take this forward. The team have strong links with some primary schools within Newcastle, and in particular work closely with Beechill Primary School.

The domestic violence and abuse service have completed work with some of the mothers of the children within the school and support the school managers and staff with any issues around domestic abuse. The team have also been approached by Thomas Walling Primary School and as a result displayed an information stand at their parents' evening. The team are

continuing to build these partnerships and develop new ways of working with younger children.

The team have also worked in partnership with other agencies within Newcastle that work directly with children and young people, including Teenage Kicks. They have been in talks to develop an awareness session and attend some of the sessions they offer to young people and have also held a partnership meeting with the youth offending team with a view to delivering similar sessions.

They have also completed an awareness session and domestic abuse training with youth mentors within the NCAC (Northumbria Coalition Against Crime) and are currently arranging a date to complete another session. In addition the team have attended the family fun day that the NCAC run for the last two years, displaying an information stand at this event and talking to lots of children and young people who attend to get them involved in learning about domestic abuse through our “What is love?” theme.

The team also have a session arranged with Youth Link Children North East which is a mentoring project for children and young people and will be facilitating sessions later in the year.

The team are in the process of producing a magazine style publication, part funded by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner’s office which will enhance the appeal to younger people.

Through their awareness sessions and publication, they aim to provide an effective way of learning and identifying domestic abuse and unhealthy relationships to children and young people. The overall aim is to stop abuse but most importantly prevent it in the first place by ensuring children and young people know this behaviour is wrong and not acceptable, and allowing them an opportunity to know who to speak to if they need help and support. The team are advocating for a shift in the current culture from late to early intervention and acting now to ensure zero tolerance to violence and abuse is instilled in children and young people from the outset. This pre-emptive approach not only has the potential to improve the lives of children and young people but may also address the huge costs

associated with domestic violence in society with the possibility of long term savings as a result.

For further information please contact: Claire Bailey, Services Manager, Places for People, claire.bailey@placesforpeople.co.uk.

New Charter Homes

Raising aspirations and providing opportunities

In 2012 New Charter Group started a three-year partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester to help raise aspirations and give new opportunities to young people at its sponsor school New Charter Academy and residents in the surrounding community.

After meeting the right people at the theatre New Charter Homes set off on a three-year journey with New Charter Academy and the surrounding Smallshaw neighbourhood (Ashton, Tameside) to bring a world of theatre and the arts to people's doorsteps.

New Charter Homes chose to work with this community specifically because it is one of their most deprived areas where people generally have low expectations from issues like long-term unemployment, limited social opportunities and generational attitudes.

A number of projects were delivered including:

- “Welcome to our Space”: a visitor experience where New Charter Academy students stepped into the shoes of Blue Badge tourist guides to design and perform an exclusive tour of the Royal Exchange Theatre for family and teachers.
- “Our Pals”: residents and students created their own performances inspired by the real-life stories of a play called ‘The Accrington Pals’ – about the lives of young soldiers from the Lancashire town and the women they left behind during WW1. Students interviewed residents and armed forces to capture the theme ‘What community means to me’.
- Gardening projects.
- Behind the scenes work experience week.
- Poignant play at the academy titled ‘Black Roses’.

Role of housing:

New Charter has invested a substantial amount of money in its properties and for several years it has been developing social and economic regeneration projects in their neighbourhoods - starting a partnership with the Royal Exchange is another way of doing this. A lot of children from the Smallshaw community also attend the New Charter Academy and they wanted a vehicle other than sport to help inspire them.

Good schools are an incredibly important part of the community and through New Charter’s Great Academies Education Trust, it wants to support the growth of schools so they are attractive places to learn and achieve. A popular area with sought after schools will also increase demand and therefore lower costs.

Impact:

The project has clearly demonstrated an appetite for change from the community and New Charter Homes has started a journey to try and make generational change, raise aspirations and attitudes in neighbourhoods. This has led to improvements in people’s skills and self-confidence which has a positive impact on their overall health and wellbeing. The academy

has seen positive results for those involved with partnership projects, with direct links to increased self-esteem, confidence and a reduction in behaviour logs for identified students.

Testimonial:

One of New Charter's tenants, Emma Rabinska - a single mum of four, got involved in the project to help build her confidence and help her get back into work.

She said: "I've suffered from depression in the past and having a go at acting made me more confident and taught me not to hold back, I've even joined a gym since the project which is not something I'd usually do but I feel a lot better about myself now."

Emma's nine-year-old daughter also now attends children's workshops at the Royal Exchange, something that she's never had the opportunity to do before.

What next:

Due to the success of the project to date, New Charter will be setting up another three-year arts partnership with the academy. It will also be recruiting a graduate with an arts and theatre background to work on more activities across neighbourhoods which will be mentored by the theatre.

There's also been lots of interest from the community to set up an arts/drama club and New Charter is looking into how this can be developed with partners.

'Jobs for the future' project

In addition to the partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre, New Charter Homes also runs a 'Jobs for the future' project which aims to encourage year six students (age 10 and 11) to think about the world of work and to express the importance of English and Maths for most career.

80 pupils from Silver Springs Primary Academy and Broadoak Primary School in Tameside attended an event at New Charter Academy, Ashton to inspire them to think about their future careers. There were lots of hands on activities to keep them

occupied and opportunities to speak to experts and gain valuable knowledge and information about tomorrow's job opportunities.

A very popular stall was provided by Manchester Metropolitan University who inspired the children by informing them how to programme a robot to dance to the hit-song 'Gangnam Style', providing an exciting interactive experience.

Many other companies set up stalls at the academy including Manchester's Royal Exchange Theatre to teach script writing to the young people. Tameside Arts and Events, Manchester United Foundation, and Quest Media also talked about the various careers available in their industries.

New Charter's building company was also on hand to show the children various trades and on other stalls, children were shown design, manufacturing and engineering with Tameside-based companies Elcometer and Hyde Group.

Jag Virdie, Head of R & D at Hyde Group said: *"One key area of interest is that there is a distinct lack of well-established female engineers in our industry. Out of the eighty, two female students stood out; they had a very unique perspective of design and engineering; how the aircraft is used as opposed to what it can do. This is hugely important during conceptual design where diversity enhances the creative process."*

The drama-based company Stone Soup provided key messages for the day and helped the event run smoothly. The event hoped to inspire primary school leavers and provided a platform to encourage them to think about different careers before they reach high school and sit their GCSEs.

This event is the first stage of encouraging primary school children to think about the importance of school and the subject choices they will make in high school which will shape the career paths they choose.

The next stage will be a mentoring programme with representatives from the various organisations to work with the pupils in school to help them achieve their future aspirations and goals.

Tony Powell, New Charter's Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, said: *"We spotted a gap in the level of careers advice for young children and chose to run this event to help raise aspirations among this age group and get them thinking about their future job before starting secondary school."*

"This pilot event was the first stage in a process of assisting young people into the world of work. We hope to mentor and coach these young people into a career or industry that they are interested in."

For further information please contact: Tony Powell, Executive Director Neighbourhoods, New Charter Group, tony.powell@newcharter.co.uk.

The Gateshead Housing Company

The Gateshead Housing Company (TGHC) has delivered a number of initiatives with partners for young people through the education setting; primarily this has been supporting a programme run by Newcastle Eagles Basketball team in a number of Gateshead Primary Schools called Hoops for Health. The organisation have also worked with The Prince's Trust to support a twelve week programme delivered to groups of young people not in education, employment, or training (NEET) on having a tenancy and running a home, and have supported our contractor Mears in delivering the LEAF project (Local Employment Advisory Forum), bringing in young people from a range of secondary schools in Gateshead.

The Hoops for Health Programme was developed by Newcastle Eagles Basketball Club and takes a road show to primary schools, primarily children in years five and six to cover different stations including physical activity, eating healthily, and citizenship issues.

In Gateshead, TGHC have teamed up with the Eagles to deliver this programme in 10 to 15 primary schools annually, and have included community sessions relevant to the Gateshead area.

This has previously included issues such as safety on their estates, what activities or facilities they would like in their communities, and smoking awareness. In the last year the programme has included a session on stereotyping and hate crime. Through using simple picture quiz type exercises the young people explore issues of discrimination and the impact of hate crime on individuals. This was in direct response to an awareness of increasing issues in particular areas.

The Hoops for Health programme is led by Eagles players and supported by officers from TGHC so that there is a clear link for the children of the role the two organisations are playing. As part of the programme the young people take part in a basketball tournament with other Gateshead schools.

The programme culminates in a celebration night at a basketball game where the winning teams play each other in a play off and their families are invited to attend. Overall this programme addresses some key issues for young people living in Gateshead, including obesity from poor diets and lack of physical activity, and uses peer pressure for them in encouraging their parents to heed their advice. This includes them all creating an eat-well plate which they are encouraged to take home. In addition some key issues affecting antisocial behaviour and hate crime are explored and the children are able to discuss these in a safe and informal environment and respond particularly effectively to the message coming from sports personalities who they aspire to be like.

While it is difficult with a project like this to measure specific outcomes, over 800 children were engaged in the programme for 2013/14 and this is expected to be similar for 2014/15. All children are given information about local basketball clubs to encourage them to take up the sport informally and each year the clubs are set a target to increase their numbers as a result of the programme. In addition, the children are asked for feedback from the sessions, in particular from the healthy eating session. This helped them understand what should be on their plates at mealtimes, what should be in their diet, and what can happen if they eat too much of the wrong foods. Teachers reported that there was great interaction between the players and children which made it a powerful way to get across important messages.

Due to the success of the programme Gateshead Housing Company will continue to support it in 2015/16 building on the success of last year. The organisation has also looked at other funding streams available to see if we can roll this out to more schools in the area.

The organisation has also, in the last six months, supported the Prince's Trust in the delivery of their team programme. This is a 12 week personal development course which includes work experience, practical skills, community projects, and a residential week. TGHC was approached by the Prince's Trust to deliver a session around having a tenancy, running a home, and basic budgeting information.

This was done through interactive exercises including branding taste tests, recipe comparisons, and exercises to work out weekly budgets. TGHC have delivered this on two programmes to date with others planned in the forthcoming year. This session has proved to be an eye-opening experience for the young people with a number of them stating that they have realised they could not afford to move out until they secure employment. This is particularly significant as within TGHC there is currently still a high rate of failure of tenancies for under 25s in the first year, primarily due to affordability.

In 2014, TGHC worked with Mears, their repairs contractor on their LEAF event. The purpose of this event was to showcase a number of employers and organisations and raise awareness of different career opportunities available to people and what route they would need to take.

The event was held in Gateshead College and targeted both students at the college who had not made all their course selections and young people from local secondary schools who were making choices about GCSE/A-level options. Over 300 young people attended the event to talk to a range of organisations from the Armed Forces, construction, solicitors and the careers service. Overall the event was well received and both the young people and the organisations gained from being able to talk to each other directly about the opportunities available.

These are just a few examples of the different ways TGHC

has worked with partners and young people in education. The organisation plans to build on these activities and carry out more targeted activities in the future.

For further information please contact: Louise Taylor, Involvement and Diversity Manager, louisetaylor@gatesheadhousing.co.uk.

Conclusion

The case studies in this briefing showcase some of the different approaches and initiatives adopted by Northern Housing Consortium members around the work they are doing with children and young people, and the different opportunities and support that they are providing through their work with educational establishments.

There are so many great examples of the different ways the housing sector across the North is working with children and young people. The NHC would like to thank all the organisations who have submitted case studies for this briefing and supporting our work.

The fourth in the 'What housing does' series will focus on housing, employment, and training. We would like to hear from members around the different programmes of work and examples around:

- The role of housing providers in supporting young people in obtaining skills and training.
- Apprenticeship opportunities.

- Preparing them for the world of work.
- Support young entrepreneurs, improving aspiration and confidence.

If you would like to share the great work your organisation is doing for the next briefing or would like to learn more about this programme of work please contact satty.rai@northern-consortium.org.uk.

Copyright © 2015 Northern Housing Consortium

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law.

www.northern-consortium.org.uk

Northern Housing Consortium
Webster's Ropery
Ropery Road
Sunderland
Tyne and Wear
SR4 6DJ

