



# THE NATIONAL HOUSE PROJECT

## **Vision:**

Young people leaving care live independent and fulfilling lives

## **Mission:**

A social enterprise built with young people leaving care, providing sustainable homes and a community of support that enables young people to have confidence in themselves and their future

The National House Project (NHP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, established in August 2018 as part of phase two of the DfE Innovation Programme. It was established to support the development of six Local House Projects (LHP) and create the evidence base, resources and financial modelling to enable roll out to interested Local Authorities.

The NHP has already seen the next cohorts of young people (8-12 aged 16+) being identified within the current LHPs who have committed to running projects beyond the Innovation Programme. New projects have been initiated in Wolverhampton and Manchester and work is ongoing with the Life Changes Trust to use the framework with Local Authorities in Scotland, with a specific focus on reducing homelessness for care leavers.

## **Overview of Local House Projects**

- LHPs are co-created and co-designed with young people at the heart of the decision making.
- Staff are trained in trauma-informed practice and attachment styles in order to tailor support to young people as individuals.
- Young People engage in a House Project Programme that is psychologically informed. In being part of the project, young people are counted as in Education, Employment or Training (EET) and achieve accreditation through AQA certification. House Projects commit to ensuring that all young people are on a long-term EET pathway.
- Outcomes for young people are improved; they learn to take ownership and responsibility but also develop a greater sense of health and wellbeing. Young People join the House Project as a group and therefore have a community of support that is developed and continues beyond the move into their own homes.
- Young people engage with the Housing Provider to ensure that they have some choice in where they live and do up houses that became their homes. They can remain in these homes for as long as they want.
- The House Project is designed as an outcome model. House Projects deliver improved outcomes for young people at lower costs and reduce the demand on wider LA and partner agency budgets with fewer tenancy breakdowns, improved emotional, physical and mental health and less contact with criminal justice services.

## **Further context**

The House Project takes a ground-breaking approach through its commitment to young people's ownership to enable them to leave care together and achieve successful independence. We recognised their energy and creativity and the Project was co-designed with them from the start. Their potential was channelled into doing up properties which became their homes and building a community of support to overcome the loneliness and fear they had described. See our video - [The House Project Summary](#).

The House Project Programme is linked to the psychologically informed practice framework [ORCHIDS](#) (Ownership, Responsibility, Community, Home, Independence, Direction and Sense of wellbeing); this makes the project different to other leaving care and supported accommodation options as it provides a clear operating framework and safe base for young people to explore their world and build a positive future.

ORCHIDS is underpinned by the [psychological theory of self-determination](#) which says that psychological health requires three basic needs to be met – autonomy (the need to feel in control of what we do and how we do it), competence (the need to learn to do things and be good at something) and relatedness (the need to feel a sense of belonging and an attachment to other people). The framework enables young people to be the authors of their own futures and develop control and responsibility for their own lives. We know that pride in doing things for themselves is a key to unlocking young people's potential. They work closely with a staff group who know them well and who are supported by a psychologist to ensure that the projects are delivered safely.

Young people have been central to the development of this way of working and [their views](#) have been captured as part of the evaluation and by a documentary film maker with the videos being available on the [NHP YouTube channel](#).

### **Want to know more?**

Please also see links below:

- [www.thehouseproject.org](http://www.thehouseproject.org)
- Evaluation from the Stoke House Project Phase 1 - [Making a House a Home: The House Project Evaluation March 2017](#)
- The Care Leaver Strategy - [Keep On Caring - Supporting Young People from Care to Independence July 2016](#) (page 25)
- Editorial in CYPNow - [The House Project](#)
- [Pillars & Foundations: Next practice in children's services](#) (page 8)
- [National Implementation Adviser for Care Leavers' First Year Report](#) (page 18)

We can be contacted on the details below to discuss any element of HP.

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