

Northern Voice

From Cinderella to centre stage

60 events crown first ever Supported Housing Month North

Did you know that Housing associations care for nearly two hundred thousand vulnerable or challenging individuals in the North? That's more people than live in cities like York, Chester or Durham.

Yet far too often, we overlook the valuable and life-changing work associations' staff provide for individuals, families and communities. We take our caring services for granted.

The National Housing Federation, with our members and key partners, wanted to put that right. So, as a first step in November, we coordinated the North's first Supported Housing Month. The aim of the month was to highlight the difference associations are making to people's lives.

This special edition of Northern Voice showcases just a few of the over sixty great activities which helped make the first Supported Housing Month North such a success.

Across the North, associations' staff and clients shone the light on care and support work through coffee mornings, fun runs, Christmas markets and open days. In January, Home Group's staff

should conclude events with a (postponed) bungee jump from Middlesbrough's iconic Transporter bridge. Now that's profile raising!

In Calderdale, Transpennine Housing, Horton Housing and other partner associations organised a conference and exhibition addressed by clients, local Council and provider forum representatives, Domini Gunn, the Audit Commission's National Lead for Vulnerable Communities and the Federation's Northern Head - Derek Long.

As this edition shows, these too often Cinderella services, make enormous contributions - helping individuals to be more independent and enjoy a better quality of life, as well as also helping regional agencies meet their targets.

With the end of SP ringfencing and the retendering of services there is still much to do so look out for Supported Housing Month 2010.

In the meantime, if you want to link with our regional Care and Support Practitioner Groups please contact north@housing.org.uk



'Promoting Health & Well-Being - Creating Thriving Communities' was held by Nomad E5 including a performance by Twisting Ducks Theatre Company looking at the issues faced by people with learning disabilities when using health services.

Cheshire art attack

Weaver Vale paints the town red, and blue, and yellow...

A special piece of artwork was made to celebrate the great work done by Cotswold House is a unique property run by Weaver Vale Housing Trust, offering accommodation, training, and support, to young homeless women in West Cheshire.

The event was held at The Edge centre, at Cheviot Square, thanks to the support of the Winsford Community Action Project (WINCAP). During the day Trust staff and residents contributed to a 'Proud to be' mural all about Cotswold House.

The event was officially opened by Cheshire West and Chester Councillor Charlie Parkinson.



Spot the difference

Doncaster Action Housing show what a difference supported housing makes

Action Housing and Support were out on the streets of Sheffield and Doncaster as part of the month.

They set up a marquee which had two beds to symbolise the feelings and outcomes of their clients before and after accessing support.

The before and after display got the public thinking about what options they would take or do if in a situation where they may find themselves in need of support.

Budget planners were also distributed highlighting that basic budgeting can be a key to self sufficiency.



The Dignity Challenge

Grove House show their commitment

Grove House in Wakefield, part of St Anne's Community services, have signed up to the 'The Dignity Challenge' which is a clear statement of what people can expect from a service that respects dignity.

The Dignity in Care Campaign, launched in November 2006, aims to eliminate tolerance of services that don't respect dignity.

Karen Newsome, Assistant Director of St Anne's Community Services visited Grove House to present the team with their well deserved Top Team Award.



Heartbeat Star - Trek support

'Johnnie Johnson' fundraising has celebrity endorsement

Tricia Penrose from Heartbeat popped by to help "Johnnie" Johnson Housing Trust staff support resident, and Fundraising Ambassador, Linda Roberts as she treks round India to raise money for charity!

Tricia, who plays well known barmaid Gina, took her turn on a treadmill, donated for a week by Sports Service, so staff can mirror the number of hours Linda will spend walking in India during the Homeless International trek 2009.

Staff in the Trust's Head office, based in Poynton, took it in turns on their very own treadmill trek by walking in half hour slots to match the hours spent walking by Linda. Each member of staff who uses the treadmill will donate £1.25, which is the equivalent amount of money 77% of people India have to live off per day.



A run away success

Contour fundraising activity with extra sparkle

Contour Housing took part in a fun run to raise funds to furnish a new refuge in Preston.

The new facility is due to open early in 2010 and in November Contour staff joined refuge staff to take part in the 5K run.

Currently Preston has places for only nine families who may need temporary emergency accommodation and the current schemes are very tired and in need of updating and repair. However this new modern facility will include 15 self-contained flats, communal facilities and outdoor space and will replace two existing schemes which currently operate in the city but are no longer fit for purpose.



A huge thanks you...

to all our members and partners who got involved, including...

4NW	Incommunities	Shoreline
Action Housing & Support	“Johnnie” Johnson Housing Trust	South Yorkshire Housing Association
Age Concern	Liverpool City Council	St Anne’s Housing Association
Chester & District Housing Trust	Liverpool Housing Trust	St Vincent’s Housing Association
Chevin Housing Group	New Charter	Stockport Council
City of Bradford Council	New Fylde Housing	Weaver Vale Housing Trust
Connect Housing	NomadE5	And many more!
Contour Housing	One Vision Housing	
Foundation UK	Pennine Housing	
Green Vale Homes	Progress Housing Group	
Home Group	Salford City Council	

Supported Housing Month will be back in 2010!