

# HOUSE PROJECT

## **The House Project Stoke-on-Trent**

*'I feel like I am not going out there alone now. That is different to how I felt before the House Project started.'*

### **What is the House Project?**

The House Project is a company run by young people in and leaving care that puts them in charge of their own homes, with the holistic support they need to achieve successful independence.

In its pilot phase, ten young people aged 16+ will be managing the refurbishment of void properties in Stoke-on-Trent, which will be their homes for as long as they want to stay there.

Funding from the DfE Innovation Unit has enabled the development of an infrastructure that will enable our radical approach to be scaled up and replicated in Stoke on Trent and beyond.

### **Why are we doing this?**

Against all the key indicators in education, employment, health, offending and accommodation, outcomes for care leavers are unacceptable. Moving to independence from 16 and living alone from 18 as a care leaver, does not work for many young people, who have described to us their loneliness, fear and the feeling that they have been 'dropped off a cliff.'

### **We can and must do better, locally and nationally.**

The House Project gets to the heart of the issues that lie behind poor outcomes. It provides a structure through the co-operative to help young people manage the challenges of independent living. It gives them the experience of control, ownership and pride in doing things for themselves that have been missing from their lives. It provides comprehensive and co-ordinated support to enable them to be safe and succeed as co-owners and managers of their housing.

As with all innovation there is risk. In the House Project we work with young people to manage this risk directly.

### **What have we been doing?**

- Developing legal agreements with our City Council to provide the House Project with ten void units from the HRA, which will be managed entirely within the project.
- Supporting ten young people to identify a home they want to live in.
- Project managing the refurbishment of the first properties, ready to move in.
- Supporting ten young people to develop their own housing co-operative solution.
- Developing a new facilitator role focused entirely on supporting young people, who say they want long term, consistent support rather than multiple short term interventions from a range of adults.

### **We have been documenting the journey so far:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuF2ok1aGiIWwKSV1ZZ0vtg>

### **Contact us**

[thehouseproject@stoke.gov.uk](mailto:thehouseproject@stoke.gov.uk) 01782 237054