




THE NATIONAL HOUSE PROJECT

“It’s not just a house, I found a home”


Peterborough corporate parent committee
Wednesday 17th July





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Our story


 **What young people told us?**
Isolated, scary, not prepared / choice, mates & ongoing support

 **What did we know?**
Housing / Statistics

 **Our commitment to young people**
Choice, mates, as long as you want, part of something forever /change the narrative and the systems that support them







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The context

- House Project approach 2012
- DFE -Innovation Programme – 1st LHP 2015
- NHP established as Charity – 2018
- 23 LAs/ 19 LHPs
 - Community of 765 young people
 - 461 living in their own homes
- No evictions or tenancy breakdowns

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What is a Local House Project?

- Each LHP - 3 staff – cohort of 10-12 per year – staff trained to understand the impact of trauma.
- Psychologically informed practice framework based on groupwork approach - safety planning.
- Skills, knowledge and confidence via HPP which is AQA certificated – all are EET.
- Access to a base and homes for as long as young people want them
- No cliff edge – continued support and community continues.

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Who is the House Project for?

- 10 young people, usually aged between 16 and 17 who are in care, and who have a plan to move into their own home when they turn 18.
- Referrals for the project will usually come from Social Workers/PAs, although young people can refer themselves.
- Young people apply to be part of the project –they make the choice!
- House Project provides another option/pathway for young people leaving care.
- Young people remain part of House Project for as long as they want.

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Our House Project Community

19 House Projects (23 Local Authorities)

- Stoke, Islington, Oxford, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Coventry, Lancashire, West Sussex, East Dunbartonshire, Fife, Midlothian, Bury/Rochdale/Oldham, Stockport/Tameside, Manchester/Trafford, Staffordshire, Sandwell, Surrey, Croydon & Peterborough


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Why does it work?

- Centrality of young people - expertise – lived experience
- Promotes value, worth, dignity - agency, belonging & aspiration ‘feel cared for’
- Whole system approach - NHP is a social movement
- Relational - young people, staff, partners, communities


“We are all equal and we all belong, and this feeling comes from being part of the House Project Community”



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Why does it work?


- Staff are the best parents they can be – psychology/social pedagogy
- Interdependence not independence
- Framework not a model - recognises uniqueness of young people, LHPs & settings
- Engages corporate parents - authorising environment



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Why does it work?

- Housing – up stream/good tenants/reduces demand on services
- Collaborative – Charities/stakeholders. Digital Poverty/Cost of living /Energy Champions
- Business partners – work opportunities/funding
- Evidence based approach – Evaluations – Peer Evaluation / DFE/Innovation Unit
- Improves outcomes and saves the LA money



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