

Case Study 9: Howe Hill Young Person Hostel – Subject of site visit

Knowing our Communities

The numbers of young people accepted as homeless was significantly above the national average. When we compared this to the national position York had a significantly higher acceptance rate. Investigations into the potential reasons for this raised a number of issues; however the biggest was the lack of a suitable facility focused on young people. The table below shows our position compared to the national average prior to the opening of Howe Hill Hostel.

% No households accepted as being homeless and in priority need										
By Main Priority Need Category										
Area	Date	Total Number of Households Accepted	Dependent Children	Pregnant	Young Person	Old Age	Physical disability	Mental illness or disability	Domestic Violence	Other
York	2005/06	433	52%	15%	13%	1%	5%	9%	3%	2%
England	2005/06	93980	53%	12%	9%	2%	5%	8%	4%	6%
York	2006/07	214	50%	10%	21%	0%	6%	7%	3%	2%
England	2006/07	73360	55%	12%	9%	2%	5%	7%	4%	6%
York	2007/08	258	54%	13%	19% ¹	0%	5%	5%	2%	2%
England	2007/08	63170	59%	12%	8%	2%	5%	7%	3%	5%
York	2008/09	208	48%	13%	19% ²	0%	8%	8%	1%	2%
England	2008/09	53430	59%	11%	8%	2%	5%	7%	3%	5%
York	2009/10	130	45%	12%	25% ³	1%	7%	7%	2%	3%
England	2009/10	40020	57%	11%	7%	1%	6%	8%	4%	5%
York	30-Jun-10	37	39%	12%	36%	0%	12%	12%	0%	0%

¹ Actual number = 55 16/17 year olds.

² Actual number = 50 16/17 year olds.

³ Actual number = 34 16/17 year olds.

Leadership, Organisational and Partnership Commitment

The Homeless Strategy 2008 -2013 identified the need for a young person facility which had identified a gap in suitable housing provision for young homeless people .Young people themselves had also identified such a need.

A multi –agency group was established to research the best option for supporting young homeless people and to meet their specific needs to give them the skills to sustain a tenancy and gain employment.

Cabinet agreed that a Young Person Foyer be developed at the Howe Hill Hostel which would bring together all key service provision aimed at supporting Young People at risk of homelessness. The service would be staffed on a 24/7 basis providing structured focused support to young people.

Involving our Communities /Responsive Services

Young People who had experienced being in temporary accommodation working with a service called Night Stop organised an event for key partners to explore what could be done to tailor provision to the needs of young people. A site visit was undertaken to a stand alone young person's hostel at another authority. This led to the provision of Howe Hill a Young Peoples hostel.

Howe Hill Young People Resettlement Service opened in January 2012, providing intensive supported accommodation for young homeless people aged 16-21. Young People involved in a focus group identified support and facilities they would like to see in the hostel. In response this multi-agency service offers young people, who would normally find themselves homeless through the statutory homeless route, a staged approach to resettlement and tenancy sustainment alongside a youth education programme.

The service works closely with the Pathway care leaver team so that care leavers can be supported.

Previously 75% of young people would be evicted from their permanent tenancies but this service offers young people more targeted and appropriate support to develop skills to sustain a tenancy. Since opening a total of 63 young people have moved on to a more permanent accommodation. Of these, 25 young people have achieved their own permanent tenancy and currently 100% have sustained their tenancy. The number of young people accepted as homeless has reduced from 40 (2010/11) to 1(2013/14).