

# Housing Plus

## Young Persons Housing Pathway

### What we did

With the aim of eliminating the use of bed & breakfast accommodation for 16 & 17 year olds during 2010 and increasing the accommodation options for all young people, we worked with our partners to develop a young persons housing pathway.

### How we did it

Firstly, we held a multi partner pathway planning event during September 2009 to map out existing housing and services available to young people, to identify gaps in available housing for young people and to design the way that we and our partners would like a housing pathway to look.

Since designing the pathway we have gone on to progress the following work:

- Work with Stonham (Home Group) and Social Services to introduce 3 bedspace emergency accommodation
- Provided a 3 bedroom move on housing unit at Bybrook Road to provide shared housing
- Brought 3 units of unused housing above shops back into use as a shared housing scheme to be run by YMCA which will provide low support, move on accommodation for those nearing independence.
- Reviewed our existing mediation contract to make it link more closely with social services contract including running drop ins at local schools
- Ran a youth homelessness conference for all schools in the borough
- Worked with 9 other Local Authorities across Kent and Porchlight to develop a Youth Homelessness Education Programme to be run in all secondary schools in the borough.

### Who was involved?

All partners involved in working with young people and in particular: Stonham (Home Group), Social Services, Porchlight, YMCA, Stepahead, Kent Youth Offending Service, Catch-22, KCC, other Kent Local Authorities



## Resources

Some existing housing resources were brought back into use in an innovative way and better use has been made of other housing. The above was implemented with no increase in revenue funding commitment from Ashford Borough Council.

We used our existing resources to reconfigure services to provide a more effective structure for a housing pathway. The accommodation above the shops was in Council ownership but we secured it to be moved back into the Housing Revenue Account which funded the necessary refurbishment works.

## Time taken

Getting all of the initiatives in place and running the pathway in a smooth and managed way will have taken approximately 1 year from the date of running the initial multi partner pathway planning event.

## Lessons learned

Running the pathway planning event was a really useful way to engage with partners and look at ways that existing resources could be used in a more useful or innovative way.

Not having provision to increase revenue funding should not be a barrier to thinking about doing things differently with the same resources

## Cost

We delivered the pathway with no increase of revenue funding but reconfigured our approach. Existing budgets were utilised more effectively.

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