

Framework Housing Association

SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Framework Housing Association is a registered charity and registered provider of social housing, which aims to change and save lives across the East Midlands by preventing homelessness, stopping rough sleeping and providing new opportunities.

One of the charity's projects, working in partnership with Last Orders, is the **Nottingham City Alcohol Diversion Scheme**, which is offered to anyone arrested in Nottingham City for being drunk and disorderly.

Individuals are offered the opportunity for their fine to be reduced if they attend a three-hour alcohol awareness course, which, using evidence based techniques proven to effect behaviour change, covers a range of areas including the relationship between alcohol and offending and the dangers of mixing alcohol and cocaine. The course is delivered by a clinical nurse specialist, who aims to deliver information that is effective in achieving long term behaviour changes in people's drinking behaviour.

Following a successful six month pilot, the scheme, which is funded by the £40 reduced fine of the attendees at no cost to the police or the council, has recently been expanded into the Nottinghamshire Police Restorative Justice Programme. To date, over 100 individuals have attended the course with none of these going on to reoffend, saving the police and the health service the cost of dealing with their arrests and alcohol related emergency treatment.

Another of Framework Housing Association's projects is its **Healthy Eating**

scheme, which aims to replace drug and alcohol related criminal behaviour with social activities, healthy eating awareness and budget planning.

The project runs one day a week sessions over an eight week period, funded by the NHS at an estimated cost of £300 for 12 individuals, who learn to engage in alternative behaviour when they have cravings; discover how to buy fresh ingredients and make nutritious food on a budget; benefit from participating in healthy and worthwhile activities in order to sustain abstinence from drugs and alcohol; find encouragement and support by participation in self-help groups; and learn how to structure their free-time away from non-productive activities.

Framework Housing Association is also the lead agency, working alongside housing providers Stonham and Adullam, in the **SAFE** project, which began on 1 October 2012 to work with young Derbyshire residents who are at risk of losing their homes or who live independently but need some support, including young offenders, young people with substance misuse issues and young people at risk.

The project, which is open ended depending on continued funding, provides a range of support including access to supported accommodation; benefit claims; developing skills for independence; budgeting and financial awareness; education, training and employment opportunities; working with housing officials and private landlords; getting involved with the local community; contact with statutory services; and access to other specialist support. Through the provision of these services, the project aims to prevent homelessness and its associated issues, including crime.

Framework Housing Association

Covering Lincolnshire and Rutland, Framework Housing Association's **Street Outreach Team** aims to reduce the levels of rough sleeping across the two counties by coordinating and promoting best practice in working with rough sleepers. This includes planned reconnection and sourcing of appropriate accommodation and support and developing referral systems across all of the charity's accommodation systems in Lincolnshire and other housing providers.

Beginning in March 2012 at a cost of £250,000 over three years, with some additional funding in year one to help implement the project from the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy Group, the service works with a range of agencies, including the Police, UK Borders Agency and Victim Support, to focus on specific anti-social behaviour amongst rough sleepers, including street drinking.

A final example of a project within Framework Housing Association that aims to reduce criminal behaviour is its **Colville House Complex Needs Service**. Based in the Arboretum area of Nottingham, this is a supported housing service for women over the age of 18 with varying complex needs, including known sex workers.

Located in an area associated with prostitution and anti social behaviour, the ongoing project, which does not require external funding, has developed a joint working protocol agreement with Nottinghamshire police to address and reduce street prostitution and its associated negative issues.

When service users are seen prostituting in the area by the police, they are escorted back to Colville House, where the staff are made aware of the situation

and issue the service user with an anti-social behaviour warning. Within 14 days of this warning, a midway meeting will take place between the service user, a staff member of Colville House and the police to discuss initial concerns, offer support and discuss how to avoid further action, including eviction, which is always a last resort for the charity.

Further meetings will take place every time a service user is issued with a warning. In addition, monthly meetings take place between Colville House and the police, and the Police Community Support Officer regularly drops in to Colville House to encourage a positive police presence.

Service users who receive a warning for engaging in street prostitution are also expected to sign an Acceptable Behaviour Contract, issued by the police, stating that they will not loiter or solicit within Nottingham City or act in a manner likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to members of the public. In return the police agree to provide a confidential point of contact, assist in referrals to partnership agencies and offer other support where needed.

As well as reducing prostitution and anti social behaviour in the area, directly resulting in a saving of resources for Nottinghamshire Police and Nottingham City Council, the project has made women not involved in street prostitution feel safer and more confident walking through the residential area.

For further information on Framework Housing Association visit www.frameworkha.org.