

Our Impact 2023-24



www.thehouseproject.org







Introduction

NHP was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in August 2018, with its main purpose being to support local authorities (LA) to set up and manage Local House Projects (LHPs) to enable young people to leave care in a planned and supported way.

In June we celebrated our fifth birthday in Manchester and whilst much has been achieved by the charity the greatest success has been the relational approach that has developed a real sense of community. This was evident at the party as 200 young people, staff, partners, consultants and funders reflected on the many successes, caught up with friends, made new connections and made memories together. NHP is a community in which everyone belongs.

We look forward to the future and as we scale, we remain committed to ensuring that the 'house project spirit' drives what we do, and that each young person is given the opportunity to belong to something that supports and enables them to succeed.

This commitment to a value-based approach not only demands a constant drive to improve what we are doing currently but also develop both an approach to support young people as they establish themselves in the adult world and share our learning to drive systemic change across the sector. With a changed focus from independence to interdependence, there is a strengthened commitment to community and belonging, believing that this will provide the bedrock of delivering the vision of young people living 'connected and fulfilling lives.

This year we have provided this Impact Statement that should be read in conjunction with the annual report. Whilst it records the insights and feedback from young people it is important to recognise that none of the annual report has any value if it is not making a difference for young people.

"The best thing for me that NHP does is build that sense of community, not just in local authorities or local areas, but across the whole nation" Reconomy

5 Years of NHP

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our young people, staff, partners and wider stakeholders for their support, hard work and enthusiasm in all they do.









The most rewarding part of being actively involved in developing my House Project has been the opportunities I have had to meet new people and have relationships with them.

Young person

We absolutely love being part of the House Project and will continue advocating for every other authority we come into contact with to join!

Coventry City Council

I like knowing I am supporting positive change, I am not involved in CLNM for myself, I'm involved to try and make a difference to the lives of other care experienced young people.

CLNM Chair

The belief and purpose that you are instilling in the young people through your approach is nothing short of amazing. Saeed Atcha, CEO Youth Leads

I like using my voice and seeing the impact of this. I like to be involved in things that have longevity and I feel CLNM has that.

Our young people love being part of a wider community. The House Project for me is joy, complete joy in the work that we do ...everybody, my managers, everybody...it's so nice when you hear about the House Project and the work that they do...it's fabulous. We're really, really proud of it. I think it's a fantastic thing.

EXIT study - Strategic Lead, Children's Services, Islington Council

We have seen in Warwickshire that the House Project has enabled us to provide better outcomes for children.

John Coleman, Warwickshire County Council

This core ethos [coproduction] was striking at the national events and strategic meetings we observed, in how young people were quite literally 'centre-stage' and how professionals communicated and interacted with young people.

EXIT report

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"We studied several projects and innovations over four years to see what was happening and try to fix this. We have identified the key ingredients needed to make good ideas stick and actually help young people." Graeme Currie.

Professor of Public Management

The EXiT Study

The EXiT (Exploring Innovation in Transitions) Study highlighted how NHP supports the successful transition for young people from care into interdependent living.

The evaluation identified three outcome domains: young people, organisations and the innovation journey.

The study reported:

- House Project offers a positive contrast to the many challenges in accessing housing stability
- the positive outcomes identified within NHP offered a contrast to the difficulties young people can experience in accessing health services during transitions from care
- an integral and focused approach to ongoing adaption and learning featured as an active ingredient to House Project's successful innovation journey these are provided as options for inclusion

It also identified the key ingredients and fidelity elements as being integral to our approach and how these could be used to introduce and sustain innovation across local authorities.



Peer Evaluation

A **Peer Evaluation** of Local House Projects (LHPs) is one of the four CLNM objectives and a crucial part of developing the House Project approach based on the views and experiences of young people. We are incredibly proud of this evaluation and want to thank all those young people who have given their time to develop the House Project approach.





This year's evaluation focused on:

- OWNERSHIP
- HOME
- SENSE OF WELLBEING

13 young people trained as Peer Researchers "I have loved learning new things and travelling to new places. I have been actively involved in

evaluating House Projects through the CLNM peer evaluation, this means that I don't just know about the NHP practice framework, but I understand it and can appreciate what it means to me." Chloe, Young person

87% felt 'listened to'



said their property feels like a home with the rest selecting neither agree nor disagree



felt involved in decisions about them



said their House Project has had a positive impact on their mental or emotional health



86%

said HPP helped them prepare for their own home

76% sed on re said

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staff changed something based on what they have said

76%

CLNM

Central to NHP is the belief that young people are best placed to create solutions to the obstacles they face. **CLNM** was formed out of the desire to create an expert 'user voice' that informs and drives what we do.

- **3** regional meetings (North and South)
- 6 national meetings
 - **1** residential
- **3rd** Annual conference
- 2nd Peer Evaluation
 - **3** Consultations Action for Children, East Anglia University, MyBnk

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32 young people actively involved

"Working with CLNM is really positive, the environment and people are positive, and this is infectious, everything about CLNM is consistency - I love that- the positivity and the consistency."

CLNM Rep

"One of the things I have enjoyed the most has been attending the Board of Trustee meetings as an expert adviser. I like to understand the detail of how things are working and why. I like to be a part of the bigger picture conversations."

Jodie, young person

In October young people, colleagues, and partners from across the country came together for the CLNM Annual Conference. Young people planned, organised and delivered their third conference. This year's theme was Sense of Wellbeing.



186 attendees

6 partner stalls



14 LHP stalls showcasing their work



30 young people involved in planning, delivering and presenting



Trustee Advisory Board

- **1** Induction to board day
 - 4 Pre meetings
 - 4 Board meetings
- 1 Board development day

Delivered change at:

- Meeting with Fraser McKinlay, The Promise Scotland
- 15 young people met with Natalie Don, Minister for Children, Young People and Keeping the Promise
- Provided feedback to:
- LHPs, NHP, Community of Practice, conference, Trustees advisory Board

Delivered training to LHP staff



"One of my best memories of CLNM was delivering our conference, in particular the last one about Sense of Wellbeing. I was really proud of myself and others. I had a big script both years but the second year my script was a really personal one, I was keen to share with others how far I have come on my House Project journey. I wanted people to really believe in themselves regardless of barriers, like I now believe in myself."

Paris, young person

Des, Jodie, Sean and Louis contributed to a book that was published this year. 'Transitional Safeguarding'.

Dez Holmes, Director Research in Practice messaged:

"Absolutely 'blown away' by how insightful you all were. I feel incredibly privileged to be co-authoring this chapter with young people from @CLNMovement - lucky me! You folks understand #TransitionalSafeguarding better than most people I know."



Aspirational Awards

Young people who have moved into their own homes can apply for an aspirational award. They can use this money to do something that will have a lasting impact on their life. The awards were created with young people and the panel is co-chaired with a young person. The impact of the awards on young people has been immense and has supported transitions into education, employment and training.

Examples of the awards include:

- Acting classes
- A computer repair business
- Music production keyboard •
- Hairdressing business, tattoo • course
- Equipment to develop mix • tapes
- Visiting family in Jamaica •
- Eyelash business
- Makeup artistry business •



Awards granted since the launch in 2022





Local authorities represented

Awards to support education, employment & training

"Without the award I wouldn't have had the freedom to do what I needed to do. To be creative and do a thing I'm really interested in... lots of support schemes had criteria's this was the only one I saw that allowed me to choose"

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The awards would not happen without the support of the funders and panel volunteers. Thank you to Diane at Reconomy, Katy at Segelman Trust, Peter, Byron, Abby and Susan.

16 awards £14,180

of a total £60,000 since starting the awards in 2022

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DREAM

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Energy Champions

Young people told us they could not afford to eat and heat, and at times went days without electricity and gas. We received monies from the Energy Redress Trust to work with Energy Projects Plus to develop Care leavers as 'Energy Champions'. The aims of the project were to inform, educate and raise awareness of energy efficiencies by providing intensive support with lasting solutions to reduce fuel poverty and sustain tenancies.

- **37** staff and young people trained at level 3 City & Guilds in Energy Awareness
- **14** LHP staff and **13** young people trained to deliver energy advice in the home
- 25 energy awareness workshops delivered
- 57 young people completed new energy module
- **6** videos and **4** podcasts designed, produced and presented by care experienced young people
- 6,161 views and listens
- £38,100 worth of fuel vouchers distributed
- **18** iPads with data packages provided to LHPs
- **1342** households received energy advice

Link to resources



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YOUNG



Supporting Staff... ...to enable young people to achieve

Training and sharing learning across LHPs underpins everything we do. We want staff to be skilled and knowledgeable so that young people continue to receive the best support they can in order to live connected and fulfilling lives.

Staff need to be supported and equipped to do this work well.

"I love it at the House Project, my role is 100% supporting me to develop new skills and use existing skills. I am forever learning in this role and really enjoying it!"

LHP staff member

In December 2023 we conducted our first, of what is to be an annual, **satisfaction survey** of both NHP and LHP staff. Using scaling questions (with ratings of 1-10 with 10 being highly satisfied) the average score was 8.2 for NHP and 8.9 for LHPs. Responses identified that staff felt supported, the work aligned with their values and that they were making a difference for young people.

We have delivered: 6 introduction to House Project days **18** Community of Practices for LHP staff **5** days training with psychologists **8** social pedagogy days **171** days of psychology into LHPs

enabling staff to work in a psychologically informed way



Created a **Social Pedagogy Practitioners Award** with ThemPra - an accredited certification for staff with the Social Pedagogy Professional Association (SPPA)

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Byron's story

I've been involved with House Project and CLNM since the start and have been involved in everything possible. I've interviewed staff, planned and delivered four conferences, been part of two peer evaluations, delivered training to new House Project staff, developed a peer mentoring program, consulted with Psychologists, spoken with the Childrens Minister, and supported the launch of new LHPs. I also co-chair the Aspirational Awards Panel.

"I love the CLNM conference, but I also think...thank goodness its over.... On a serious note, I am always amazed by what we achieve by working together. When I listen to others on the stage, I am reminded about what we have achieved time and time again. I am always excited to feel the atmosphere and be swept up in the emotion of the day. It's an opportunity to share House Project messages. I feel hopeful after conference, hopeful because I believe people have heard our voices"

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Byron, young person

The most important thing for me is building relationships and friendships with staff and other young people. Some of these relationships are the most important relationships I have in my life and have been some of the most consistent. Being care experienced makes it hard to form trusting relationships that last. Being part of House Project has helped me trust people and has allowed opportunities for relationships to form. That has allowed my confidence to grow and has enabled me to deal with some of my mental health challenges, apply for jobs and approach situations with more ownership of who I am.

When I first started meeting other young people, I was really anxious and uncomfortable, but I continued to do it and now love meeting other young people and getting to know them. I could see my own personal growth and it felt good, so this spurred me on to keep doing it and I also saw the positive impact sharing my experiences of House Project and CLNM was having on other young people.

I don't get anything personally from developing House Project other than the feeling of huge accomplishment when I do things with others. I am ambitious for House Project. I am ambitious for others and hopeful that the encouragement I can give to others will help them succeed. It's the voices of people like me that have enabled NHP to grow whilst keeping young people at the heart. This is what makes me happy.

I have had so many opportunities which I otherwise wouldn't have had. I know my life would be very different without House Project in it and this reminds me everyday day that there are other young people who could but aren't part of a House Project and are likely to have a less fulfilling life because of that.

House Project is the start I should have had at life.... Its where my life started and where my life continues to grow from. House Project gives me solid foundations that are helping me build a better life for myself.

Helping other people is one of the most important things to me. My ambition is that every young person has the opportunity to join a House Project as I really believe it is the best way to leave care.





NHP

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I have been part of the House Project for 3 years and a member of CLNM for 2 years. I have been involved with the Energy Champions project, peer evaluation, peer mentoring, two conferences, staff training, and I completed my first Half Marathon.

When I started, I was nervous and awkward about meeting new people, but I knew that to achieve the things I wanted I needed to push myself. Overcoming these barriers has changed my life - I know I can do things even when I feel nervous, because I've now done it time and time again. I joined to help others understand the House Project journey and stayed because I felt like I belonged. I have used my experiences to help others. I feel like I really am making a difference. Relationships with staff and CLNM is the thing that has helped me grow the most. They feel natural, mutual and everyone respects each other. It's having the right people around me providing consistent encouragement that has been significant Even if there are differences it doesn't affect the relationships- we acknowledge that this is ok and respect each other for the differences

One of my best memories is delivering our conferences. I had a big part both years but the second year I spoke about more personal things. I didn't talk about my past but was keen to share with others how far I have come on my House Project journey. I wanted people to really believe in themselves regardless of barriers, like I now believe in myself. To deliver a conference and see how impressed people are with it is an amazing feeling. It makes me feel really proud of myself and my friends in CLNM.

This year has been incredible. Seeing myself grow personally is an incredible feeling. I am comfortable with myself and situations that occur in my life. I now have my own home and an apprenticeship within the health service.

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I have been in my House Project for two years and a CLNM rep for one year. I have met new people and developed new relationships. These people are important to me.

Being involved in the peer evaluation means that I don't just know about the ORCHIDS practice framework, but I understand it, and can appreciate what it means to me. What I am most proud of is the ownership and how I own the decisions about my life. I believe in myself and that I will make the right decisions without relying on others and I am so proud of the home I have built for myself. Meeting new people and creating friendships is important for my sense of wellbeing and I have learnt that what helps my sense of wellbeing isn't always what helps other people's sense of wellbeing, I like to learn about others and how I can support them.

I got involved with CLNM as I wanted to use my experiences to help improve things for others. I have stayed involved because I have seen the positive impact it has had on my life. I have seen my own personal growth, it feels good, and I want to continue growing. Being valued is important to me. I feel valued in CLNM.

I am really passionate about CLNM. Relationships can be an emotional roller-coaster but its 100% worth it. Working with CLNM is really positive and this is infectious, everything about CLNM is consistency. I love that- the positivity and the consistency.

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