



# Managing Inclusion Briefing 15

## The Resettlement of Ex-Offenders

The estimated cost of re-offending ex-prisoners is £11 billion per year. A recent report by the Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) found that settled and appropriate accommodation can reduce the likelihood of re-offending by nearly 20 per cent. Decent accommodation not only helps by preventing homelessness and increasing public protection, but it also provides a spring board for developing other areas in the prisoners life, such as relationships, employment and health.

### The Issues

Finding safe and decent accommodation is a fundamental factor that reduces the likelihood of ex-offenders re-offending. It is essential in addressing the issues that caused an individual to offend in the first place.

Unfortunately imprisonment commonly causes strain on or the break down of relationships. With these relationships often comes a foundation of support, but also frequently, accommodation. This can mean that if the individual was living with a partner/friend/family before imprisonment, the accommodation may not be available for them on their release.

A research project commissioned by Norfolk Offender Accommodation Forum (NOAF) found that the main barriers for offenders accessing suitable accommodation are:

- Substance Misuse
- Mental Health Issues
- Rent Arrears
- Accommodation policies that exclude ex-offenders
- A poor history with providers of accommodation
- The initial cost of renting in the private sector
- Accessibility of local authority/social housing

Shelter identifies that a prisoner may find themselves homeless for a number of reasons including:

- They may have been homeless before they went to prison
- They may have lost their accommodation as a result of being in prison
- They may not have organised accommodation for their release

If an individual is able to find suitable accommodation there are risks that they may be unable to sustain it and will increase the risk of them re-offending. Joseph Rowntree Foundation has identified three factors which are crucial for ex-offenders to sustain their accommodation. These are the

quality of family relationships, the availability of Housing Benefit and their financial status.

A third of offenders lose their home while in prison, a factor that can be reduced provided there is effective housing support available. While many prisons have specialised housing advice projects, usually run by voluntary agencies, the quality and quantity of housing advice can vary greatly between prisons. Many individuals find themselves slipping through the system with the most vulnerable often being prisoners serving shorter prison sentences. Prisoners serving a sentence of less than 12 months are not always entitled to advice. The logic behind this is questionable as prisoners serving shorter sentences are often in a better position to keep their accommodation provided that they are informed on their options.

While in the East of England there are a number of agencies offering housing advice to offenders both in prison and in the community, many services target a particular group i.e. offenders with drug and alcohol problems. While this is essential, it unfortunately means that offenders without specialist needs often receive less support. Due to the changing nature of the sector and temporary funding opportunities the future of these services is often unclear.

Reports by the Rough Sleepers Unit (RSU) and Social Exclusion Unit (SEU) found that one of the most common problems is tenancies not being properly closed down when a prisoner starts their sentence resulting in them accruing large rent arrears and debts. There is also the risk of losing possessions and ID and suffering from exclusion due to their failure to communicate or negotiate with landlords and a higher risk of re-offending.

If an individual is released from prison without having secured independent accommodation, they may find themselves seeking accommodation from agencies. However, when agencies are assessing homelessness applications they are required to establish the individuals 'local connection'. The Homelessness Code of Guidance states

This publication is intended to provide general information and advice for frontline housing and homelessness workers and agencies. This briefing could be beneficial to agencies that may be planning to potentially expand their services to include offenders, or agencies that may already be working with offenders in some capacity but want to further develop their resettlement services. Some case studies are included to show models of effective resettlement services already offered regionally and nationally.

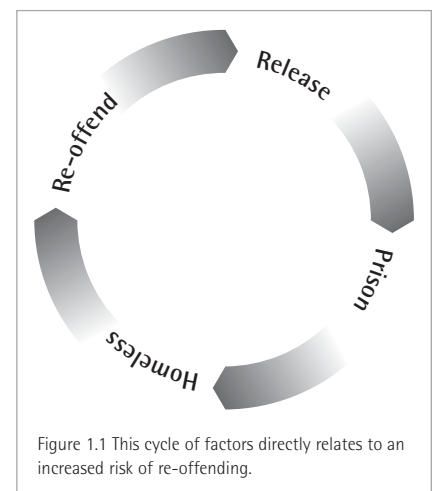


Figure 1.1 This cycle of factors directly relates to an increased risk of re-offending.

that residence in prison does not necessarily constitute a local connection with that particular area. This puts the offender at risk of being housed away from their support network or in an area where they do not want to live.

### The Law

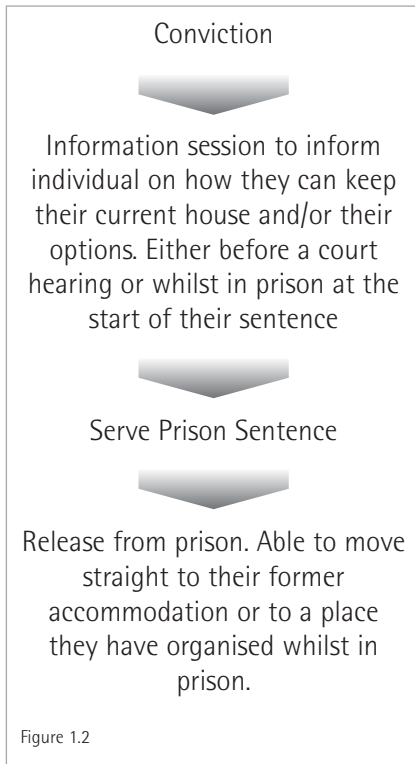
Under the Homelessness Act 2002, social housing providers have a statutory duty to accommodate people who are vulnerable due to having spent time in custody or prison. Not everyone who has spent time in prison is considered vulnerable and is therefore entitled to housing. Rather they are only entitled if they are considered vulnerable as a result of being in prison or if they meet a 'priority needs' test. Priority needs includes; people with children who live with them, people who were in care before they went to prison, individuals who are considered vulnerable i.e., people with disabilities, drug and alcohol problems, health problems, or people who were in the armed services before being convicted.

As of April 2005 prisons must complete a Housing Needs Initial Assessment (HNIA) for prisoners within four days of their arrival. This pilot based scheme ensures that accommodation issues such as sustaining a tenancy can be addressed immediately.

# Strategies and Advice- how your agency can effectively work with ex offenders

## Prevention:

Many resettlement workers have identified difficulties where prisoners are often unavailable for housing advice sessions because of their prison commitments. Prison regimes have been criticised for not being conducive to effective resettlement measures being taken while a prisoner is serving their sentence. This stresses the importance of equipping vulnerable prisoners with resettlement information before they go to prison. Issues such as homelessness, rent arrears and housing benefit issues should be discussed.



## Frontline workers - know the facts to inform ex-offenders of their rights:

The participation of agencies at the earliest stage is vital in preventing homelessness amongst ex-offenders. Therefore it is important for agencies working with ex-offenders or individuals who are facing a conviction, to accurately inform the individual of their rights and options to ensure smooth resettlement on their release. Remember that it is important to have access to a wide range of housing information as prisoners are not always imprisoned in their local area.



If a person is in prison they do not necessarily have to lose their home. People with shorter sentences are less likely to lose their homes however; the flip side of this is there is often little support for prisoners serving short term compared to long term sentences. A report by the Norfolk Offender Accommodation Forum (NOAF) found that currently in Norfolk the Norfolk Probation Area (NPA) has a statutory duty to provide support for all prisoners serving a sentence of 12 months or more and for all young offenders aged 18-21. However, prisoners over the age of 21 who are serving a sentence shorter than 12 months receive no support from NPA on their release, despite having the highest re-offending rate.

It important for support providers to stress to individuals who have accommodation but are facing a prison sentence that they must act quickly to ensure they can keep their accommodation. Clients should be advised to inform landlords or mortgage companies and ask them to write to the individual at the prison so they will not miss out on important information. Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit must be contacted of the 'change in circumstance'. Failure to do this could result in having to pay back the money at a later date. There are a number of possibilities available to prevent the loss of accommodation whilst in prison, provided your client knows the procedures. Contact your local CAB for further information.

If for some reason your client has lost their home whilst in prison in certain instances the council can assist them in finding accommodation. However, this is dependant on circumstances and whether the individual is considered a 'priority need'.

## A United Sector

It is generally agreed that effective communication and partnership working between different organisations, prisons and probation services is essential for successful service delivery. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS), which was introduced in 2004, is working to ensure that the scope of offenders housing and support needs are identified by prison and probation services working with housing providers.

In December 2006 NOMS drafted a document 'Reducing Re-offending Housing and Housing Support Framework' which provides an integrated approach to ex-offender support needs and outlines objectives for 2007/08. The framework is intended to support the development of local partnerships that work with ex-offenders and emphasises the importance of housing support providers to promote equality and understand the diverse needs of ex-offenders.

1. NOMS will commission services to reduce re-offending and protect the public
2. NOMS providers will tailor their advice and support services to a commissioned specification
3. The housing needs of people in custody will

be managed in the same way as convicted prisoners

4. NOMS service providers will work to respond to minority groups
5. Local Probation Boards/Trusts will review and develop local homelessness strategies
6. NOMS will play an active role in policy development and the commissioning of Supporting People services
7. NOMS providers will ensure that services are offered at an early stage and are maintained throughout the housing process
8. NOMS will develop alliances and partnerships between service providers and the criminal justice system
9. Performance targets for Prison and Probation will be revised and priorities will be driven accordingly.
10. NOMS will continue to seek influence in reducing re-offending at a local, regional and national level.
11. A national review will be undertaken of training and support for housing advisors.

The national Accommodation Reducing Re-offending sub-board developed two specific targets for NOMS in 2006/07, which will be implemented over the year. These were:

1. Develop and implement a framework between

housing providers and the criminal justice system to facilitate the resettlement of returning prisoners and offenders on community sentences

2. Improve housing outcomes for Prolific and other Priority Offenders (PPOs) and Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangement (MAPPA) Offenders.

Shelter has developed five recommendations for local and central governments to develop services for offenders and reduce the likelihood of them re-offending:

- All prisons should be required to offer housing advice to prisoners at the reception stage
- Prison and Probation staff should be required to be trained in housing issues
- It should be possible for homelessness applications to be processed at the earliest stage through protocols with local authorities and prison resettlement services
- These requirements should also be in place for prisoners serving shorter sentences
- The Home Office and DWP should try to reduce rent arrears by reconsidering the terms of housing benefit for prisoners serving a shorter sentence.

### Case Study 1: Graham and NACRO

'When I came out of prison I was literally on the streets. I felt like the whole world was against me, like society wanted me to go back inside. What I like and respect about Nacro is that they treat you as an individual. They allow you to be you, and encourage you to realise and develop the skills you have.' Graham, ex-offender

Graham had an unstable family life and spent time in care and then in and out of prison. Facing homelessness on release from his last sentence, he was offered a place in one of Nacro's London housing projects. He has now been crime free for three years.



### Case Study 2: James and NOMS

James, 34, served two-and-a-half years for supplying drugs.

While in prison he was referred to the PEOPLE project (a charity in the South West of England) by Prison Service Plus, as he wanted to resettle in the Bath area but was homeless.

The charity visited James in custody to assess him for housing within their scheme. He appeared determined to succeed and motivated to remain drug free and in secure employment, so PEOPLE accepted his application.

Eight weeks later James was released on Home Detention Curfew and housed with them on a short-term tenancy agreement for six months. He took advantage of the mentoring support offered, and through this support has gained full-time employment. James also received relapse prevention support and assistance with welfare benefits and grants.

He continues to receive weekly support to ensure that no problems arise for him. James recently moved into his own independent accommodation.

## National Offender Management Service (NOMS) - Good Practise Models

### South West Accommodation Gateway (SWAG)

The South West Accommodation Gateway is a pilot project, the delivery of which is a Government commitment through the Reducing Re-Offending Action and Delivery Plans. SWAG is funded through the Home Office until March 2008 and is the focus for learning about the effectiveness of the Gateway model in meeting offender accommodation needs.

SWAG aims to reduce re-offending and crime in the South West by preventing and reducing the homelessness of offenders. The South West was selected to run this national pilot because of the affordable housing challenges it faces; the opportunities that well developed partnerships in the South West present, and the availability of data on offender housing needs from the SWing project. The three Gateway services planned for Bristol, Dorset and Plymouth were decided from the SWing data.

The project aims to:

- Establish multi-agency one stop shops (Gateways) which provide offenders with information and advice on accessing accommodation and support
- Establish strategic relationships with housing providers to influence access of offender housing
- Establish strategic and operational links between Gateways and statutory and voluntary health, advice and social care providers
- Establish mechanisms to monitor evidence of offender accommodation outcomes, and work to establish the link between accommodation outcomes and re-offending.
- Estimate financial savings through the introduction of Gateways
- Establish what works well with the Gateway model and identify success factors in the development of gateway services.

### Integrated Model for the Management of Offender Housing and Housing Support (IMMOHS)

This model identifies the needs of offenders in the community and in prison, and provides a good practise model for agencies working with offenders.

<b>Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Assessment of needs</li> <li>• Act on identified need</li> <li>• Review effectiveness</li> </ul>	Community
<b>Pre Custody</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Assessment of needs/Review</li> <li>• Information provided</li> <li>• Referral to housing advice/support service</li> <li>• Ensure record forwarded to receiving prison</li> </ul>	
<b>Reception</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial Housing assessment</li> <li>• Appropriate action taken to secure/terminate property</li> <li>• Change of circumstance reported to relevant provider/authority e.g. tenancy/benefit</li> </ul>	Custody
<b>During Custody</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full housing risk and options assessment and a review of the housing assessment to identify changes in circumstances</li> <li>• Early application to housing providers</li> <li>• Intervention to improve chances of housing</li> <li>• As an emergency measure, homelessness applications</li> <li>• Identify housing support needs</li> </ul>	OFFENDER MANAGER
<b>Discharge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support actual access to housing/finance</li> <li>• Connect to emergency provision</li> </ul>	
<b>Reintegration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing support</li> <li>• Case management/liaison with stakeholders</li> </ul>	Community

# Possible action implications for Stakeholders working with IMMOHS

## 1. Regional Offender Managers

- Engage Housing and Housing Support providers in the Regional Reducing Re-offending Accommodation Pathways Boards.
- Direct regional Accommodation Pathways to develop arrangements and protocols between NOMS and housing support providers
- Include recommended level of housing and housing service and targets in Service Level Agreements with Probation and prison services.
- Promote development of Reducing Re-offending/SP targets in LAA with Government Offices
- Promote development of pathways and support between housing and other areas to address complex needs
- Include the undertaking of diversity impact assessments in relation to commissioning plans for offender housing and support

## 2. Prison Services

- Improve training and support for housing advice staff
- Complete Initial Housing Needs Assessment and act on the outcome
- Full housing assessment for all prisoners with a housing need
- Encourage and support early housing options assessments/applications to housing providers
- Action plan developed in relation to response from provider
- Applications at 28 days prior to discharge or sooner for shorter sentences
- Develop housing support plan and make referral to appropriate agency
- Maintain effective arrangements with housing providers
- Ensure that housing need is linked to other areas of need and service within and outside the establishment
- Offer tenancy awareness course when appropriate for prisoners with housing need.
- Ensure offenders have the correct information and documents to claim benefits
- Arrangements made/confirmed for transport to probation/housing provider
- Monitor the outcomes of offender housing advice

## 3. Probation Service

- Improve training and support for housing advice staff
- All offenders have housing status assessed at entry and review points
- Offenders housing need assessed as part of the Pre-Sentence Report (PSR)
- Offender Manager takes responsibility for coordination and progress of housing need assessment, service and communication of information to prison.
- Approved premises need to be included in the integrated approach exploring how resources can best support the framework
- Offender Manager liaises with housing/support providers to ensure a coordinated approach to offenders housing/support need
- Action taken to sustain/prevent housing loss or terminate tenancy correctly.
- Offender Manager determines discharge address
- Maintain effective arrangements with housing providers
- Maximise the use of Discretionary Housing Benefit payments in widening access to provision
- Senior manager engages fully with SP commissioning body, representing needs of wider offender groups
- Area ensures engagement with local housing and homelessness strategies and crime reduction/community safety strategies

- Engage in development of LAA's and LSPs
- Develop partnerships with larger private landlords/letting agencies
- Explore benefits of rent deposit schemes including those for lower risk offenders and dependants on bail

## 4. Housing Advice/Providers (LAs, RSLs, specialist hostels, selected private sector)

- Engage with regional Reducing Re-offending Accommodation Pathways in developing regional/local ways of working and developing information sharing protocols
- Explore ways in which Housing Options approach can best be developed for offenders
- Collaborate with NOMS in developing local services to prevent unnecessary loss of housing
- Receive and consider applications for housing at an early stage
- Receive and consider NOMS housing and risk assessment as part of the application process
- Local Authorities to receive and consider applications for homelessness assessment at least 28 days prior to discharge
- Local Housing Providers to undertake visits to prisons for interviews to progress and promote Housing Options assessments
- Liaise with criminal justice services to ensure that housing management/support progresses
- Local Authorities engage with NOMS in review of SP, housing/homelessness strategies, crime reduction/community safety strategies and development of LAAs/LSPs

## 5. Housing Support providers i.e. Supporting People activity

- Engage with NOMS in development of integrated model and housing support services
- Explore ways in which services can reflect 'end to end' management of offender experience i.e. services which work both within and outside prisons
- To focus energy on development of schemes which prevent housing loss including maintaining positive family links, particularly for young offenders.



## Local and Regional Projects

### **Axiom Housing Association, Peterborough**

Axiom Housing Associations project 'The New Haven' involves agencies such as Probation to deal with the risk assessment for admission of ex-offenders. Ideally they will work in partnership to carry out a needs assessment and support plan for an eight week stay. In most cases this leads on to settled accommodation. The New Haven also provides support in gaining life skills, education, and employment. Currently their move on rate is 73%.

### **Colchester Emergency Night shelter, Essex**

Residents are expected to engage with services so that the long term goal of independence can be reached. They offer flexible support including help with benefits, housing, dealing with the police and emotional support. Attached to their Night Shelter they offer a resettlement project where they try and secure permanent accommodation for residents.

### **Langley House Trust, Bedford**

A resettlement project offering temporary accommodation for male ex-offenders over the age of 18. The project aims to help ex-offenders live a fuller life and addresses any drug or crime issues while remaining in an atmosphere of security and support. Residents stay on average for 3-4 months and live in three bed-roomed homes and one-bedroom flats which they are expected to run and clean. There are a number of rules that residents must agree to on their acceptance into the programme. These include all houses must be alcohol and drug free, guests are not allowed in bedrooms or to spend the night and behaviour must be kept at a good standard where other residents are treated with respect.

### **The Move on Trust (formally Norfolk ACRO)**

The Move on Trust works in Norfolk to support the resettlement and reintegration of ex-offenders into the community, reduce crime and improve the prospects of ex-offenders and other disadvantaged individuals.

Working in partnership with Norfolk Probation Area, The Move on Trust runs 'Project 91' which provides advice, accommodation, employment training and support to ex-offenders. In addition to this, the Move on Trust has a Learning and Activity Centre that provides courses from NCC Adult Education Service and The Workers Education Authority. They run successful Literacy, Language and Numeracy skills programme for offenders referred by the Norfolk Probation Area.

Ex-offenders employment opportunities are also addressed through the introduction of 'Employment Service PS', which puts

individuals through programme intervention and a pro-active, face-to-face approach to employers.

### **National Offender Management Service (NOMS)**

NOMS was created as part of the governments 'Reducing Re-offending National Action Plan' which was developed in response to address the issues raised in the Social Exclusion Units report on 'Reducing re-offending by ex-prisoners' (To read the report in its entirety go to <http://www.socialexclusionunit.gov.uk/>).

In November 2006, NOMS drafted their Regional Commissioning Plan (RCP), a proposal that has been developed from the NOMS National Commissioning Framework (NCF) to outline the commissioning of services for offenders and reduce re-offending in the East of England. The aim is to identify specific priorities and outcomes for the East of England and then to establish Service Level Agreements with public sector providers in the region to tackle these identified issues. NOMS aims to address offender accommodation needs by assessing the individuals need at the earliest opportunity, develop partnership working, ensuring that offender accommodation needs are incorporated in national, regional and local strategies and to ensure that the wider support needs of offenders are also addressed. NOMS has identified that effective partnership working and joint commissioning are essential in the success of their plan.

### **Norfolk Offender Accommodation Forum (NOAF)**

NOAF is a multi agency forum that works to address the housing and support needs of ex-offenders in Norfolk. NOAF collaborates with local agencies and organisations to promote the rehabilitation of ex-offenders, decrease homelessness, increase public protection and reduce re-offending. Current members include: Norfolk Probation Area, the Prison Service, Supporting People, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT), Norfolk Youth Offending Team (YOT), local housing authority representatives, advice agencies and supported housing providers.

As part of The Norfolk Housing and Support Strategy for Offenders 2006-2009, NOAF has listed eight objectives to address the housing needs of offenders in Norfolk, achieve positive outcomes for offenders and to reduce homelessness.

1. Secure adequate accommodation that will be accessible to ex-offenders
2. Develop securely funded support services, that address current gaps in the provision for offenders in prison and in the community
3. Ensure offenders receive assessment of their needs in a timely fashion

4. Ensure all providers have access to and participate in training.
5. Introduce information sharing procedures
6. Explore all funding opportunities
7. Raise awareness over the link unsuitable accommodation and support and re-offending.
8. Deliver, implement and review the Norfolk Housing and Support Strategy and Action Plan for Offenders.

### **Solo Housing, Diss**

Solo Housings 'Victoria House Project' is for single homeless men including ex-offenders, who have high support needs or who are unable to sustain a tenancy without regular support sessions. The project aims to work with service users to enable them to sustain their tenancy, to develop skills for independent living and to assist service users in obtaining move-on accommodation. Victoria House has seven single rooms with shared bathrooms, kitchen and lounge area. Residents receive assistance in claiming benefits, regular individual meetings to discuss issues and work towards greater independence. Clients are self referred or referred from Probation, Social Services, or Prisons.

### **Supporting People (SP) Programme in the East of England**

Offender support is a reoccurring priority seen throughout Supporting People Annual Plans (2005-2010) across the East of England. While the level of services available varies across different counties, the issues surrounding offenders are receiving increased attention. As of February 2007, the following are listed on the Supporting People website as SP providers.

#### **Norfolk**

Three SP funded organisations that have identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: St Edmunds Society, Orbit Housing Association, The House of Genesis.

Five SP funded providers identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: Norfolk YMCS, Solo Housing, the Purfleet Trust, Julian Housing Support and The Dawe Charitable Trust.

Accommodation support is also offered by Probation Accommodation Grant (PAG), Stonham (Home Group Ltd), Herring House Trust and St Martin's Housing Trust.

#### **Suffolk**

Two SP funded organisations have identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: Anglia Care Trust Accommodation based services and Shechem House Trust

Eight SP funded providers identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: St Matthew Housing, Stonham (Britannia House), Salvation Army Social Services Supported Housing, Tayfen House, St Johns Housing Trust, Havebury Housing

Partnership, English Churches Housing Group and Suffolk Heritage Housing Association (Morley Avenue).

#### **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**

One SP funded organisation has identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: Stonham.

One SP funded provider identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: Richmond Fellowship

#### **Hertfordshire**

One SP funded organisation has identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: Stonham.

Two SP funded providers identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: Hightown Praetorian Et Churches Housing Association and Nacro Community Enterprises Ltd

#### **Essex, Thurrock and Southend-on-sea**

One SP funded organisation has identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: Stonham.

Three SP funded providers identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: Chelmsford CHESS, Southend on Sea YMCA, and Nacro Community Enterprises Ltd

#### **Bedfordshire and Luton**

Three SP funded organisations have identified ex-offenders as their prime target group: Signposts (Stanley House), Langley House Trust and Bedford Housing Link.

Two SP funded providers identified ex-offenders as their secondary target group: Housing Trust and West Hill Housing Trust

Go to <http://www.spdirectory.org.uk> for further contact details

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## **National Projects**

### **Depaul Trust, London**

Depaul Trust started working with prisons in 1998 when it became apparent that many of the people using their hostels had become homeless after being in prison. By providing support, advice and training to offenders while they are still in prison and securing a safe place to live on their release, Depaul Trust aims to break the cycle.

### **Housing and Returning Prisoners (HARP) Protocol, Tyne and Wear**

This scheme has been developed to bridge the gap between voluntary and statutory housing providers with prison and probation services. The aim is to create a common approach to the resettlement of ex-offenders by addressing: statutory duties towards preventing homelessness, prison and probations commitment to resettlement, the promotion of community safety and maximising the contribution of Registered Social Landlords and the voluntary sector to housing.

### **NACRO**

Nacro Community Enterprises currently house over 1,300 ex offenders and other vulnerable homeless people. They are housed in self-contained flats, hostels and shared houses across the country. Nacro aims to enable ex offenders to find their own accommodation and to develop valuable life skills such as budgeting, finding employment, cooking etc through their Resettlement Support Programme. This includes Nacros specialist housing projects for ex-offenders who have just left prison or who have committed serious crimes. They also offer a range of housing-related services such as advice services and rent deposit schemes.

### **Revolving Doors, London**

Revolving Doors aims to build lasting networks and alliances between the fields of mental health, social and housing support and criminal justice. Revolving Doors has developed two Link Worker Schemes which aim to offer a comprehensive package of support to people with complex needs using a multi-disciplinary approach that works

alongside other services. The scheme works with and on behalf of young people, helping them to gain access to the services that they need through ongoing consultation. The desired outcome is for the young person to feel empowered and achieve autonomy.

The Islington Link Worker Scheme which since its establishment in 1997 has supported over 1000 people. There are three elements to the scheme;

- the original criminal justice outreach team which works into the local police station and courts supporting a community case load
- a prison in-reach scheme working into HMP Pentonville and
- a housing project, operated in conjunction with St. Mungo's which provides resettlement support to men upon their release from prison.

Revolving Doors also runs the Haringey Young Person's Link Worker Scheme which was developed to support young people aged between 15 and 22 years of age who have been in contact with the criminal justice system. It offers both emotional and practical support to young people in the community, courts, prisons and police stations.

### **Stepping Stone Trust**

Stepping Stone Trust provide a hostel for male ex-offenders to help them find a home, job and a church to belong to. They run a programme 2 days a week to treat drug, alcohol and life-controlling issues (such as crime). Clients are required to contribute financially to rent, food, heat and light but will receive help on how to receive Housing Benefit. Most referrals come directly from prisons or who are serving community sentences. They have a specialist hostel for sex offenders. It is a Christian organisation where residents are strongly encouraged to participate in prayer and bible studies. There is a no drug or alcohol policy, curfews and residents are encouraged to find employment.



Formerly VHG, is made up of more than sixty member organisations, the majority being registered charities. Most provide accommodation for single homeless people, people recovering from mental illness, women needing emergency accommodation, ex-offenders, people abusing drugs and alcohol and young people leaving care. Some provide temporary or emergency accommodation while others provide long-term supported housing. Others provide services such as housing aid, resettlement, day centre facilities or practical help for vulnerable people needing support.

The voluntary sector attempts to fill gaps left by statutory provision in the accommodation and resettlement fields and this input is recognised as essential by Probation, Social Services, and Health Services as well as Housing Authorities.

Space-East is a regional membership body for organisations providing support services and accommodation working in East Anglia.

We work with members to: Influence policy at a local and national level, provide up to date information, training, advice and advocacy, disseminate good practice, facilitate networking/ partnerships, Assist to identify and access sources of funding, Co-ordinate programmes of research and development & Promote Equality

[www.space-east.org](http://www.space-east.org)

Citizens Advice Bureau: [www.advice.guide.org.uk](http://www.advice.guide.org.uk)

DCLG: Rough Sleepers Unit (RSU) Report, June 2002: <http://www.communities.gov.uk>

Homelessness Act 2002: <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Nacro <http://www.nacro.org.uk>

NOAF The Norfolk Housing and Support Strategy for Offenders 2006-2009

NOMS-Reducing re-offenders by ex-prisoners: Social Exclusion Unit (July 2002): <http://www.noms.homeoffice.gov.uk>

Norfolk Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010: March 2005: <http://www.spkweb.org.uk/>

Resettlement Info: <http://www.resettlement.info>

Shelter: <http://england.shelter.org.uk>

## The benefits of Space East membership...

### **Associate with a close-knit supported housing & social care sector across the region**

Benchmark your services and experiences with peer not-for-profit organisations and affiliates advocating for the role of non-statutory supported housing and homelessness services across the East of England.

### **Influence local, regional & national government**

Join a 'regional assembly' of not-for-profit supported housing and homelessness interests and lobby Government and other policy makers on behalf of its members. Currently, Space East has a place on the Regional Housing Delivery Group, Supporting People Eastern Region Group, the Regional Homelessness Forum Executive and has association with a range of sub-regional decision making bodies and forums.

### **Increased services development opportunities**

Get involved in specialist forums, share knowledge and experience with other organisations and increase the potential for partnership development opportunities.

### **Obtain valuable information**

Our email briefings and publications offer news from the supported housing sector in the region, policy updates and information on key contacts at local, regional and national levels.

### **Access tailored support**

We provide structured support in assessing and developing your services and your organisation - as well as access to workforce development opportunities.

### **Make savings**

Receive member discounts on events, publications and other products and services. Also take advantage of our priority booking system for members.

### **Promote your organisation and services**

Advertise and make links to your organisation's website by appearing on our list of existing members on the Space East website.

### **Shape our services and activities**

Exercise your voting rights at our Annual General Meeting and through the 'regional assembly'. As the only supported housing and homelessness umbrella organisation in the region influence the work we do and the direction our services take.