



NHP

Living connected and fulfilling lives

Our Impact 2024-25



www.thehouseproject.org



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INTRODUCTION

At NHP, everything starts with young people. It was their voices - honest, powerful, and full of vision - that ignited our journey. Back in 2012, a small group of care-experienced young people (HP10) bravely shared what leaving care felt like - and more importantly, what it could look like. That moment became the foundation for the very first Local House Project (LHP) in 2015, built on the belief that young people leaving care deserve purpose, confidence, community, and a place to call home. Since then, we've grown intentionally and in partnership.

In 2018, we became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a mission to support Local Authorities in establishing Local House Projects. Together, we've worked to ensure young people leave care not only with a home but with the tools, support, and relationships they need to thrive. Fast forward to November 2024, and we proudly celebrated a huge milestone, **500 young people** had moved into their first home. That same month, over 200 young people, staff, partners, and friends of NHP came together in Manchester for the **CLNM Annual Conference** - a celebration of connection, joy, and shared purpose. It was a powerful reminder of how far we've come, and how much further we can go when we listen to, learn from, and lead with young people.

This past year has been one of growth, change, and recognition. We moved

into a vibrant new office space, welcomed new talent to our team, formed dynamic new partnerships, and continued to evolve as a learning organisation. Our work has been acknowledged nationally - but our greatest pride comes from the deep, authentic relationships we've nurtured and the sense of belonging that runs through everything we do.

At the heart of our work is what we call the House Project spirit - a steadfast belief in the strength and potential of young people and the power of community. We know that real, lasting change doesn't happen in isolation. It grows from connection, collaboration, and a shared vision.

The young people who once challenged the system are now leading it. As CLNM Champion and former Chair Kiyia said at our conference:

"Together, I believe we can be the driving force of inspiration, influence and positive change for all young people."

We couldn't agree more.

This Impact Statement is a celebration of that spirit. It shares the stories, insights, and lived experiences of both the young people who sit at the heart of NHP and the staff who work so tirelessly and with such commitment. As we look ahead, our purpose remains the same: to support young people leaving care to live connected, fulfilling lives—and to help shape a future where they truly belong.



"Together, I believe we can be the driving force of inspiration, influence and positive change for all young people."

Young person

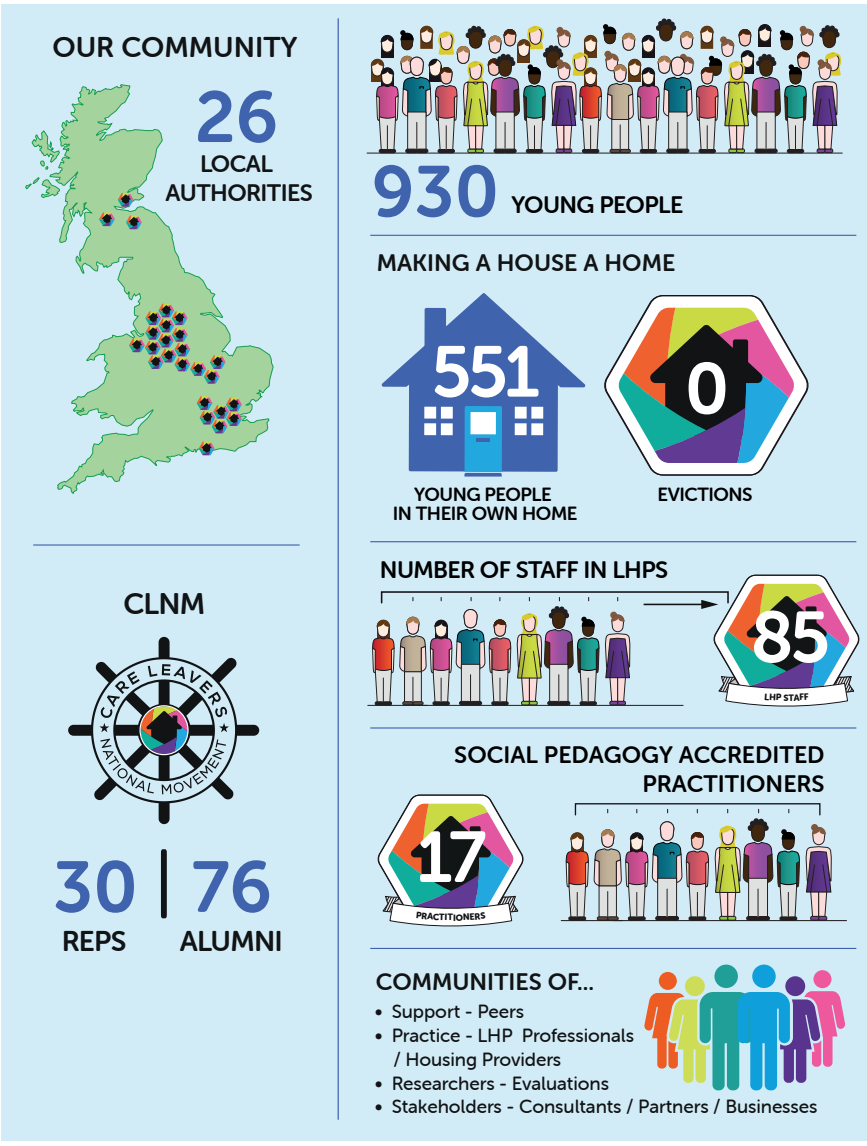
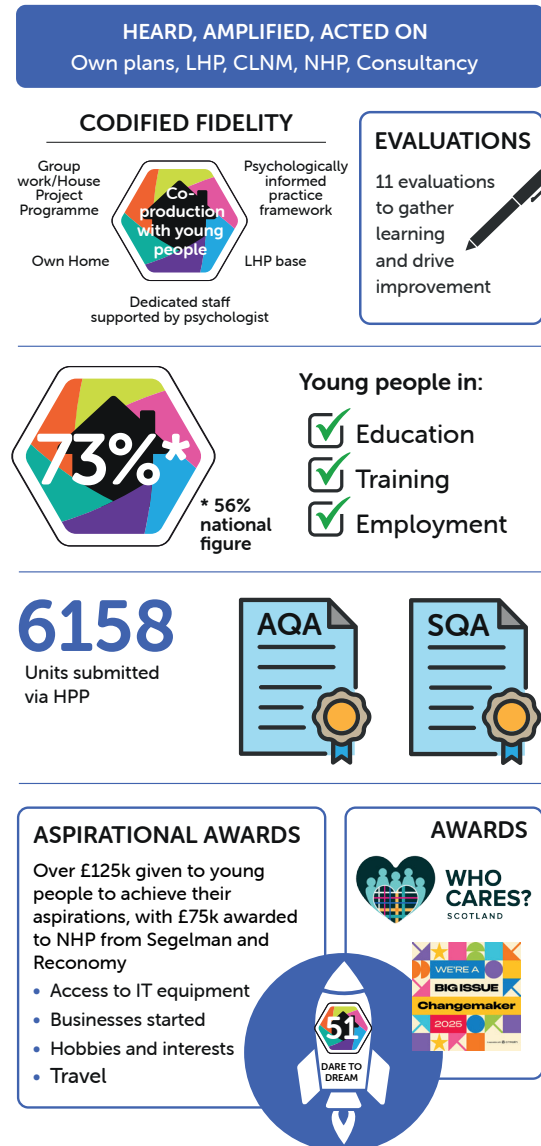


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Our Impact



YOUR SUPPORT



Empowering the workforce to make a difference

STAFF SURVEY

The findings from the Peer Evaluations of 2021 and 2023 reinforced the central role that LHP staff have to the success of both their LHP and young people's individual outcomes. NHP works hard with clinical psychologists to enable staff to be the best they can be.

Each year we survey both NHP and LHP staff to get feedback on how we are doing, the difference we are making and how we can improve.

Scored out of 10, NHP staff reported positively across all domains. They were satisfied with their role (8.25) which aligned with their values (9) and their career goals (8.5) and contributed to a healthy work life balance (8.5).

Staff reported that their contributions to decision making was respected and valued (8.25) and that they felt supported by colleagues (9) and line managers (9.25). They reported that their roles make a difference to young people (9) and would recommend working at NHP to their friends and family (9.1).

"Warmly welcomed into the charity and given space to do role and take up other opportunities which used my skills and knowledge."

NHP Staff

"I feel really supported and have a good work/life balance."

NHP Staff

"I feel valued as a staff member and colleague."

NHP Staff

Staff across LHPs were satisfied with their role (8) which aligned with their values (9.1) and their career goals (8) and allowed them to utilise their skills and abilities (8.7).

They reported being connected to (8.3) and supported by (8.5) NHP and reported that their CLNM representatives supported their LHP and young people (8.5). Most significantly staff reported that their job made a difference to young people (9.5) and that the approach supported their LA to change the way that services are delivered to young people (8.6).

Staff reported that they would welcome more opportunities to meet with other LHPs to share and celebrate achievements and to network and further develop the sense of community.

"NHP is a brilliant charity and (Practice lead) has been incredibly supportive. The lives of young people are much better for the NHP."

LHP Staff

"NHP is brilliant and has the potential to support all Care Leavers in LA's."

LHP Staff

"I'm loving the HP – very happy to be part of it."

LHP Staff

SOCIAL PEDAGOGY PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Last year we reviewed the pilot phase of a joint venture with ThemPra to deliver a bespoke CPD programme accredited by the Social Pedagogy Professional Association (SPPA) which enables staff to call themselves 'Social Pedagogy Practitioners'.

The programme was a resounding success with **17 staff members achieving accreditation**.

We have rolled out the approach with two further cohorts beginning their 12-month journey to become accredited Social Pedagogy Practitioners.



Influencing the sector



Throughout 2024/25 we contributed to DFE commissioned work led by **Foundations** to develop Practice Guidance in Mentoring and Befriending. The guidance helps organisations commission and expand evidence-based programmes that support young people who are care-experienced or at risk of entering care.



In May 2025 the **EXIT (EXploring Innovation in Transition) study** (inter-disciplinary with researchers with expertise in social care, organisation science and public health from Warwick Business School (WBS) in conjunction with Bedfordshire University) was published. It identified what supports and hinders successful innovations for care leavers and shared learning to support the growth and sustainability of innovations and contribute towards positive impacts for young people who leave care. It identified fidelity design elements (6) of which coproduction was described as a best practice exemplar, outcome domains and key ingredients for success. We contributed to several webinars with the purpose of translating academic research in to practice for the sector and disseminated our learning to a number of national conferences.

Following our EXIT study, NHP supported WBS to develop and launch an Implementation Toolkit aimed at helping organisations to implement and sustain new ideas that improve services for care leavers and avoids the common issue of “pilotitis” - when promising projects stall after initial trials. It guides users through the self-assessment of five key “ingredients” essential for successful implementation which identifies strengths and weaknesses, develops policies and procedures, builds a shared understanding with partners and move ideas beyond the pilot stage.



Our work with a PhD student led to the publication of a doctoral thesis titled **The Experience of Staff Working in a Trauma-Informed Framework of Practice with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People Leaving Care**. With the available research limited to considering how to support young people, this research focused on how both to support staff and inform the wider sector on how to deliver psychologically informed practice to young people leaving care and moreover how this should be flexed to support with Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People Leaving Care. This was disseminated across LHPs and LAs and the learning has been both adopted into our core offer to all young people.

CHILD & FAMILY SOCIAL WORK

In December 2024, as a follow on to the 2023 Cambridge Evaluation, Dr Hannah Marshall published **‘Being Real’ and ‘Being Boundaried’: A Qualitative Study of Practitioners’ Provision of Authentic Care in a Service for Young Care Leavers** in Child and Family Social Work (a forum where researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and managers in the field exchange knowledge, increase understanding and develop notions of good practice to advance the wellbeing and welfare of young people and their families).



As a charity we are able to develop practice and ways of working that influence how the sector develops, and this is especially true when external organisations use NHP as a model of best practice. In February 2025, the Oversight Board which tracks Scotland’s progress towards keeping its promise to care-experienced children, young people, and families published **“Oversight Board Report THREE.”** It recognised the work done with Housing Providers to enable care leaver access to housing and said:

‘Corporate parents must work together to ensure the availability of high-quality supported housing. Projects like the Local House Project show this can be done.’



In March our Director, Sue Hammersley and Chloe, a CLNM Champion contributed to **The Relational Social Work** podcast. Sharing best practice about; coproduction, development and support of community and an intentional focus on interdependence contributes to the dialogue and changing narrative about young people and they ways in which young people can be supported to succeed.

In March Chloe and Kiyia were supported by Sue Hammersley, Director to deliver a seminar at the **‘Supporting the Transitions to Adulthood: learning across Boundaries’** conference hosted by Research In Practice. With a focus on the House Project Programme, they shared the ways in which the experiential approach to learning supports young people with the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed. With limited practice based evidence frameworks to support care leavers the seminar was well received and has led to several enquiries about how the approach could be developed across both children and adult social care services.

Partnerships

We greatly appreciate the work and contributions of all our partners and highlight two new relationships that were established in 2024/25.

GES

NHP partnered with GES EMEA, a Global Leader in Trade Shows and Exhibitions, to provide meaningful and practical support to young people transitioning out of care. The collaboration aims to empower these individuals to lead connected, fulfilling lives through employment opportunities, mentoring, and skills development.

The partnership launched in October at the CLNM Annual Conference. Beyond logistics, delivering stands and providing signage, GES staff helped build the event and experienced firsthand how their involvement can make a real difference.

"Our partnership with NHP involves so much more than just a charitable donation," said **Kate Holliday**, Head of ESG at GES EMEA. "It allows our staff to truly engage with the programme - whether through mentorships, skills training, or fundraising. It's about providing real support that helps young people build the foundations they need to tackle adulthood with confidence and the tools many of us often take for granted."

The initiative reflects GES's principles and lays the groundwork for a brighter future - one built on connection, opportunity, and shared purpose.

"Sustainability isn't just about being 'green'; it's about the full ESG picture," explained **Katrina Rowbury**, Human Resources Director at GES EMEA.

"Our 'social' agenda is focused on building partnerships that create a tangible, lasting impact within our communities. NHP's mission of 'connecting people' is a natural fit for us. Our employees are always eager to give back, and this partnership offers them real opportunities to do so - whether by using their professional skills to support a great cause or simply getting involved in hands-on ways. It's initiatives like these that not only make a difference but also inspire and retain great talent."

WIENERBERGER

NHP and Wienerberger joined forces to support young people in to work. Wienerberger UK & Ireland, a provider of high-quality building products, systems, and solutions to the construction industry formed a partnership with NHP to support care leavers to access careers within the construction industry.

The funding became available in January and already we have supported four young people to purchase work clothes, equipment to support someone who is setting himself up as a self-employed painter and decorator, two CSCS cards and resources to support a young person to complete a self-funded Level 3 electrical installation course.

"This partnership aligns with our social impact purpose of tackling homelessness whilst also nurturing the skills to help our industry thrive." She adds; "Alongside the bursary our teams have undertaken volunteering opportunities with Local House Projects and we have plans to run insight into industry sessions later this year. We're excited to see how this partnership will develop and positively impact young care leavers".

Sarah Nurton, Social Impact Manager Wienerberger

PARTNERS



Donald Insall Associates



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Spotlight on Best Practice

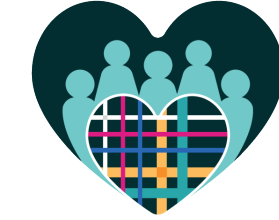


Islington LHP was recognised (March 2025) by the **London Innovation and Improvement Alliance (LiiA)** for its dedication and impressive work to transform the lives of young people in London with the practice highlighted as 'inspirational'.

The impact of your work and ability to implement creative solutions in complex environments, sets a high standard for services provided to London's children. Sharing your work not only highlights your achievements but also serves as a powerful source of learning for other teams.

Members reflected that LHPs tackle one of the most challenging issues for care leavers – not only how to secure housing but how to sustain and flourish within it. What stood out was:

- The approach offers so much more than housing – a sense of community, a network to check in with and Emotional health and wellbeing support.
- Support is ongoing, it is not short-term then closed.
- The partnership aspect is really impressive, (LA, LHP and CAMHS).
- The whole council approach. Islington can back up its outcomes with hard data, including very strong housing outcomes (no tenancy breakdowns!) and cost savings.



WHO CARES?
SCOTLAND

WHO CARES Scotland

In August LHPs in Midlothian and East Dunbartonshire were recognised by 'Who Cares? Scotland' at their 10-Year Anniversary of Children and Young People (Scotland) Act with their Inaugural Corporate Parenting Awards.

The Excellence in Innovation award was proudly claimed by the East Dunbartonshire Health and Social Care Partnership for their transformative House Project. Within the nomination, young people expressed feeling "supported and safe," praising the "transparency and honesty" of the staff.

Midlothian Council were a double winner, taking home the Outstanding Corporate Parent and Stable Foundations awards for the development of their House Project. One young person reflected on their journey saying:

"All of the opportunities I have been given have helped me to become the person that I am today. I am responsible for my own tenancy, I am learning to budget better, I have my own cats."

The success of the project has led to it becoming fully integrated into Midlothian's Children's Services and being part of their permanent offer. The Project's success has been highlighted by both Crisis and the Scottish Throughcare and Aftercare Forum (STAF).

CLNM Best Practice

CLNM was established to provide the supporting framework so that young people's voices can be heard, amplified and acted on.

Young people representing the 26 local authorities who have a Local House Project (LHP) are actively seeking to change practice and policy at a local, regional and national level and in doing so are changing the narrative about, and for, young people.

They deliver their own annual conference, undertake a bi-annual peer evaluation and provide consultations with organisations who are looking to redesign services. They have shared their insights with Ministers in England and Scotland.

In January they were identified as a 2025 Big Issue Changemaker in the category of 'Politics and Activism'. The award is a recognition of not only their hard work but the impact they are having on the sector.

YOUNG PERSON INSIGHTS

Partnership for Young London

With the support of Partnership for Young London CLNM undertook Peer Research into the impact of CLNM on young people, the House Project approach and the wider system. The findings were positive and highlighted that through structured and supported access to new activities and experiences, young people

- became more confident,
- contributed to and benefitted from a wider community, and
- developed skills and knowledge that made them more employable
- contributed to the development of the House Project approach and had worked with both LAs to develop their care leaver offer, and with sector experts to further refine the system.

A series of recommendations were developed which included the development of an alumni offer.



Case Studies

ALAN'S STORY

I joined my Local House Project in Islington in 2018. We were one of the pilot projects and I was one of the first young people to experience leaving care in this way. We called ourselves the OJ's – the Originals – and that's what we were. We didn't know what to expect, we didn't know what it would be like but it's one of the best things I've ever done. I had opportunities to try new things, learn new things, make new friends and then, when we all agreed that it was the right time, I moved into my own home – which I still live in now and which I love. I have a photograph of all of us taken just after we joined – and I keep that photograph in my wallet.

As well as making friends with other young people I made brilliant relationships with the facilitators. Some of the staff are still here but I get on just as well and get just as much support from those who joined the team later on.

I am now 24 and approaching the age where support for most care experienced young people ends.

That won't happen to me though as I will be part of the House Project community for as long as I want. We are included in activities and trips, and I know that I can call in at the base whenever I want to – and that there will always be a warm welcome and a 'cuppa'. Staff check in with me and are interested in me and what I'm doing.

I can see that my confidence has grown since being part of the project and staff have encouraged me to explore my interests and to believe in myself. They supported me to apply for an Aspirational Award in 2022 which enabled me to visit Peru and buy a good camera to record my trip. I realised that I was good at photography, and I loved creating images that told a story. I went on to set up my own business and now earn my living doing something that I love.

2024 was a key year for me. I had my first exhibition, which focused on highlighting the strengths of other care leavers. The messaging in this exhibition was really important for me – to show that care experienced young people are far more than the label of being care experienced.

I love being part of my Local House Project. I know that I matter to staff, and they matter to me. I know that they think about me and contact me because I'm important to them, not because they have to. I try and help out there whenever I can. I like to share my experiences with young people and staff who work in the local authority and other organisations. Being part of a House Project means that you're part of something bigger and you're part of something that matters. It's important to feel like you belong and I know that I'll always belong at my House Project.



PRI'S STORY

Joining the House Project was a massive thing for me. My social worker and foster carer had talked to me about it and encouraged me to go to the information session to find out more. I went but felt very nervous and didn't really want to speak. I kept my head down the whole time as I was so worried that someone would speak to me and I would have to speak back to them. Meeting new people made me feel apprehensive and nervous but there was something about what the House Project staff were saying and how they were that made me feel that I could give it a go.

We meet every week at our base. The first few weeks were really awkward for me, and I know I was very quiet, but soon enough people started making friends. Staff were good at helping us quieter ones to find ways to speak and they helped us to make friends with each other.

As the House Project has developed, I have enjoyed learning new things like managing my money and how to open a savings account. We have also had guest speakers come in to talk about CPR and how to use a defibrillator. We have also had conversations about the

safety of drugs and alcohol and how to be healthy both physically and emotionally. I have learnt all sorts of skills but in a way that has been fun and interesting. At the House Project we actually do stuff rather than talk about how to do it.

Before the House Project I felt like I was completely reliant on my foster carer and lacked motivation and confidence. I didn't really enjoy group settings, talking with others and speaking publicly. I really struggled with college and the education environment.

Since being a part of the project, I have received AQA certificates for the work I've done in the groups, done two weeks of work experience at a local nursery, built a CV, and received support around getting my settled status in the UK. For me, the biggest improvement and change has been my increase in confidence. Speaking to people for the first time used to make me really anxious, but as each session progressed it has become easier to speak on a one to one and group basis. I am friends with everyone and speak to everyone in the group each week. I feel relaxed and confident being around them all.

Recently, I was interviewed speaking on camera talking about some of my achievements at House Project and what I am enjoying. I have also been chosen to speak about the House Project to businesses who are supporting us. I would never have believed that I could do this. But I am, and I'm looking forward to it. Being part of the House Project means that I am no longer scared of life – I have confidence, friends and the support I need to try new things and find what I want to do.





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