

SUPPORTED LODGINGS SHOWCASE EVENT

On 17 October Arch held its Supported Lodgings Showcase event at Hanley Community Fire Station. With over 40 delegates attending, this was a great opportunity for young people and their hosts to share their experiences of the service which has now been established for over a year.

Supported Lodgings, for those of you who have yet to hear (or have been asked to be a host!), is our alternative accommodation solution for young people who are, or risk becoming, homeless. Young people are provided accommodation with a 'host' who does not take parental responsibility for them but provides emotional and practical support so they can develop the skills they need to live independently. The concept itself is basic, but its impact can be massive.

"The Supported Lodgings concept has done more for me than I could ever have dreamed of. I never expected myself to ever be in a situation where I felt so positive about the future. With their rigorous matching process I was placed in exactly the right kind of environment that I needed to feel comfortable." [Young Person]

So far our service has successfully matched 10 young people with hosts and we have 2 more in the pipeline.

If you think that this service could help you or a young person you know, get in touch with the Arch Supported Lodgings Team

01782 683773

Supportedlodgings@archnorthstaffs.org.uk

And don't forget we are always looking for hosts who can make a difference in the life of a young person.



Customer Tells Her Story - Showcase Event

Investors in Diversity

We've just heard that we've been successful in achieving Stage 1 of the Investors in Diversity Award!

'The award is recognised as much more than just a highly prized and prestigious quality mark. It is an all-encompassing approach to managing equality, diversity and inclusion effectively'.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES FUND



Empowering young people was a key theme that ran through the Government's "Youth Matters" document. As part of this, the Government has introduced the **Youth Opportunities Fund**; an attempt to give young people the chance to influence provision and facilities in their area.

The money represents a real opportunity for young people themselves to change, improve and introduce new provision, facilities and activities that they will use and which will hopefully make a difference to both the young people and the neighbourhoods in which they live.

We were really proud to be asked to support an application by a group of young people who had used Arch services. We were even more proud when they successfully secured funding through a competitive process which included a panel interview!

Following their successful application the group met on a weekly basis to discuss and develop their ideas for the DVD "Vulnerability—How does it happen?" The following 8 weeks saw regular meetings where the young people got involved in team building exercises, interviewing members of the community, script writing, acting, artwork and filming whilst keeping within their project budget!

The Open Doors Project has now reached a successful outcome with the production of their film 'Vulnerability—How does it Happen?'. They are currently working to get the film professionally edited so it can be shown to our local communities and schools in Stoke and Newcastle as a tool to convey the messages that came from their work.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BEN TOMKINSON

SUPPORTING MALE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE IN CHESHIRE EAST

Arch was one of the first organisations in the area to recognise that domestic abuse also affects men, and have provided a dedicated service for male victims for the last 2 years. Our services in Cheshire East have been up and running since June.

What does your Job Involve?

There are so many myths and stereotypes around men being victims of abuse but whoever you are, being hurt by someone you love and trust can be devastating. Domestic Abuse is about the misuse of power by a person who is intent on controlling their partner whatever their strength, size, sexuality or gender.

My role is to support any man, who is or ever has been a victim of Domestic Abuse, to live safely and happily in their own home. I can also support their children and link them in to the specialist children's team at Arch. I provide a range of housing related support from emotional and practical advice for living independently and dealing with the affects of Domestic Abuse, to help getting settled into a new community or returning to work.

How would somebody make contact if they needed support?

Our message to all victims of domestic abuse is the same; **'don't suffer in silence'**, you're not alone, support is available.



Ben Tomkinson

Men and women can contact the Arch Domestic Abuse team in Cheshire East:

Email cedas@archnorthstaffs.org.uk

Telephone 01270 253957

Our website www.archnorthstaffs.org.uk also has some really useful information.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

As the summer comes to an end and winter sets in we've reflected on the work we've been doing. I personally had the opportunity to hear testimonials from young people who have been supported through our Supported Lodging scheme in Stoke and was inspired by their resilience. I saw a group of young people from South Staffordshire who were keen to get involved in our 'Real Man' campaign and I felt lifted by their drive, and I saw the books the children made from our refuge in Crewe about new positive experiences they have had with their mums at the seaside, and I felt humbled.

In a summer where young people and children have been vilified in the press my experience at Arch, as you can see, has been somewhat different. We are now seeing more young people and children with a demand for our service, and importantly we are seeing our service have real impact on those young lives, be they homeless, domestic violence survivors or even young offenders.

Thanks for your continued support.

CUSTOMER CONFERENCE 2011

This September saw the return of our Customer Conference, just one of the ways that customers can get involved in the planning, development and governance at Arch.

The Conference theme *'Stepping Stone, Where I want to be in 12 months time'* was chosen by Customers.

The day involved a specialist speaker and a range of Customers sharing their experiences of Arch services, where they want to be in 12 months time and how Arch services need to develop to achieve this.

Customer, Lynn Colclough said *'We had worked hard arranging the conference. When the day finally came I was so excited, the ice breaker was fun. Tony Matusz, Barbara*

Bowden and myself spoke about our personal experience over the last twelve months. It was inspirational to hear and a credit to all three of us; for myself it was a very emotional experience indeed.

Having never seen the workshops before, I was surprised. There is so much to choose from; activities, life skills, outward bound plus many more with

helpful and friendly reps to talk to. In all, the day was fantastic.



Customers: Lynn Colclough & Callum King

VOICES OF EXPERIENCE - MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Voices of Experience are a group of women and children who have experienced Domestic Violence and have been helped and supported by the Arch Domestic Violence Service to form our a 'Self Help/Community Group', run by, and for, Domestic Violence victim/survivors.

We want to make a difference for women and children who suffer abuse and because we are victim/survivors, we consider ourselves experts in helping identify the numerous and massive problems we are faced with when trying to escape abuse and move forward after it.

So we were very pleased, and quite scared, to be invited to produce and provide a workshop to Social Work students at Nottingham University last week. We believe that for professionals to be able to help and support victim/survivors they need to, as much as possible, see through our eyes, feel what we feel and really appreciate and understand our experiences.

Voices of Experience worked hard to develop a programme for the day, and we were quite anxious that the tables were being turned if you like – we were in control of the session; instead of Social Workers talking at us, we talked to them and with them.



The day was a great success and what was so amazing was that every student went away with a very different view and opinion on the massive problems and barriers faced by both women and children experiencing Domestic Violence. Together we were able to suggest new ideas for improved good practice for Social Workers.

Sharon—Founding Member

ARE YOU A REAL MAN?

In September, Arch joined forces with Staffordshire Women's Aid and the Pathway Project to promote the national 'Real Man Campaign' led by Women's Aid. Our aim was to raise the profile of Domestic Abuse across Staffordshire by getting men to sign up to the 'Pledge' as a Real Man. Women also signed up to declare 'I'm a Fan of a Real Man'!

The Arch event, hosted by Sandon Business and Enterprise College kicked off the journey with a speech by Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Deputy Lord Mayor, followed by an open top bus tour to Stafford town centre - the next stop for the campaign before visiting Rugeley and finally, Lichfield.



In the run up to the event, at each venue, and throughout the journey by open top bus, we collected photographs and signatures for the 'Real Man Pledge'. This will now be put together and presented to our local MPs.

Thank you to everyone who got involved to show that, in Staffordshire, we are willing to make a stand against domestic abuse.



Perry & Louise - Signal 1 Breakfast Show

BEDS 11 Appeal

Arch Women's Refuge Stoke-on-Trent

In April 2012, Arch will be opening a refuge for women and children who are fleeing domestic abuse. The purpose-built accommodation will provide a range of 1-3 bed, self-contained units to provide women and their families with a safe space to start their process of recovery and look at their plans for the future.

At Arch, our customers always come first and we like a challenge! So, rather than using a proportion of the funds available from Stoke-on-Trent City Council to furnish the accommodation, we put all the funding into the frontline staffing of the service and instead raise the money for furnishing the accommodation ourselves.

We need to raise £45k to make sure that families can live happily and safely whilst they recover from their experiences.

Our **BEDS11 Appeal** (the name comes from our TextGiving code!) launched at the beginning of November, **we need your help!**...

...be part of a future where everyone can live happily and safely in their own home

Sponsor an entire self-contained room for a family for £4K. We will name your sponsored area after you, your organisation or your family, so that every family living in our refuge knows that their community supports them.

Donate or buy an item from our shopping list. We have a range of items that we need to find for each room from bedding, curtains, sofas, cots for babies, floor covering etc.

Make a direct donation, no matter how big or small, by visiting www.justgiving.com/archns/donate or using Vodafone's JustTEXTGiving service text **BEDS11** and the amount you want to donate to **70070**. (Remember £10 will buy a set of pots and pans or a toaster; £250 will buy a bed and bedding set for a family).

Hold your own Fundraising Event (for ideas on what to do visit our website and look at our Fundraising Pack)

Help us to make a difference

For more information contact Ray Elks,
Community & Corporate Partnerships Manager
07990 588639, or email fundraising@archnorthstaffs.org.uk