

HousingNorthwest

EXHIBITORS INITIATIVE

BOLTON AT HOME

Mark Turnball (Head of Neighbourhood Services)

Glenys Campbell (Deputy Director, Housing Regeneration Services)

Shauna Morton (Neighbourhood Manager)

Debbie Selby

Transforming Estates and how it supports our approach to tackling worklessness

Bolton's Transforming Estates initiative is a co-ordinated programme of actions aimed at generating improvements in housing, the environment and, importantly, improving the social and economic opportunities for Bolton's residents.

Bolton at Home, in partnership with Bolton Council, Bolton Primary Care Trust, local RSL partners and the voluntary sector, is developing a number of initiatives which support and encourage local tenants to raise their aspirations and take advantage of enhanced training and job opportunities.

We have an action plan in place which contains a mixture of quick wins and longer term initiatives.

In addition, Bolton at Home is developing a range of activities as it aims to further develop its reputation as an exemplar employer

www.housingnorthwest.co.uk

Housing NW is a partnership between Government Office for the North West, North West Housing Forum, 4NW, National Housing Federation (North) and Chartered Institute of Housing (North West Branch).

FUSION 21

Phil Douglas (Skills Employment Manager)
Cathy Powell (Head of Skills & Training)
Geoff Williams (Skills Development Manager)

Fusion21 is a social economy business which promotes collaboration to save money and create jobs.

Operating nationally, Fusion21's supply chains help to deliver our Clients' capital and cyclical works programmes, create sustainable jobs for local people and generate cashable savings to reinvest in further frontline service improvements.

Originally created with the aim of structuring major planned improvement programmes to deliver efficiency savings and community benefits, Fusion21 has achieved national recognition for many of its achievements since 2002, including:

- Delivering c£13m of cashable efficiency savings over 3 years, as well as many non-cashable benefits
- Creating 576 permanent jobs in construction
- Providing vocational training to over 700 Merseyside residents, many of whom have gained NVQs in key construction skills
- Generating an estimated financial benefit to Merseyside boroughs in excess of £18.5m, through regular paid work and reductions in benefit claims
- Winning the first ever Housing Corporation Gold Award for 'Innovation In Procurement' 2006
- Winner of Women in Construction Awards 2008 'Best Training Scheme'
- Launching the 'National Procurement Solution'

GREATER MANCHESTER PROCURE

Errol Stewart – Director
Deborah Elgar – Development Manager

GM Procure is a regeneration company limited by guarantee i.e. not for profit. It is a consortia of social housing providers with stock in the North West. GM Procure was one of the first consortia to utilise the Efficiency Challenge Fund which was established by the Government to encourage social housing providers to work collaboratively. We aim to generate efficiencies and impact the local labour market by working collaboratively to procure construction materials and contractors for their planned maintenance and investment programmes. As a consortia, the members of GM Procure will leverage their volume and expenditure in order to

achieve this. GM Procure is committed to re-investing volume cost savings directly back into local businesses, employment and training.

Specifically:

- Employees per £m labour value and 30% from a non-traditional background
- Every year GM Procure will support 3 micro non-traditional contractors
- Every year GM Procure will help create and support 1 community enterprise
- Every year GM Procure will allocate a significant portion of cost savings to a 'Sense of Place' fund

By better procurement processes GM Procure deliver financial savings to clients and generate a trust fund for reinvesting in regeneration. This is not simply about money and cost savings – it's about investment in skills and local communities. GM Procure is a vehicle for regeneration and a unique interventionist approach to force changes. There is Board commitment to use the procurement capacity to make a difference, and by joining us as clients Social Housing Providers must also share that commitment. ***Generating local jobs for local people with local businesses.***

GES Contractors is a painting and decorating and maintenance company that works on a variety of projects for public and private sector organisations offering commercial, industrial and domestic services. It strongly supports projects that help to give back to the community - encouraging the empowerment of ex-offenders and the long term unemployed. Presently they are involved with several agencies on a social enterprise initiative with the aim being to integrate ex-offenders back in to the work place.

Over the next 2 to 3 years they plan to employ a number of ex-offenders for a fixed term providing them with skills and opportunities, training and experience leading to the completion of an NVQ in Painting and Decorating. This education and practical experience provides them with the opportunity to find further occupational experience while simultaneously removing much of the stigma that comes with having served a prison sentence and being unemployed.

Clean Start is a social enterprise that was set up by GM Procure and Trafford Housing Trust in August 2008 to employ ex-offenders to undertake void clearance work. The business model has been developed in conjunction with Exit to Work, Greater Manchester Police and Probation Service to ensure that the employees are selected from the areas Prolific Offenders List - ensuring a real community impact. Each employee enters

into a 6 month scheme during which time experience the disciplines of regular work, team working and develop a number of work based skills. Clean Start aims for their employees to achieve permanent employment, offer an excellent service to their customers and reduce crime in their community.

HALTON HOUSING

Christine McLoughlin

Jayne Adamson - HR Manager

Mark Harvey – Area Manager, Housing Management

Halton Housing Trust has a number of initiatives seeking to tackle workless including working with partner agencies in relation to employment such as the Education and Business Partnership supporting the development of young people within Halton and raising awareness of a career path within Housing.

Also, working with Halton People into Jobs for the recruitment of a diverse apprentice programme. The Trust has developed a Financial Inclusion Strategy to support customers to move away from a reliance on welfare benefits. The Trust is also developing other initiatives such as a recruitment open day, pre employment training and social enterprise opportunities linked to affordable furniture provision, DIY services and gardening.

HOME HOUSING

John Cass (Community Regeneration Manager)

Home group have been active in relation to training and job creation in West Cumbria for over 10 years. The workshop will demonstrate how we have maintained momentum and how we have had to re-invent our approach to ensure sustainable services to deprived neighbourhoods. Contemporary and future delivery will also be highlighted.

PLUS DANE GROUP

Joe Feeley (Head of Environmental Services)

Sonia Bassey-Williams (Head of Enterprise Development)

IN Environmental Services was established seven years ago by **IN**clude Neighbourhood Regeneration Ltd (INclude) in response to residents' requests for a clean, safe and well managed neighbourhood. INclude was established in 2001 by Plus Dane Group in partnership with Liverpool City Council (one of five national neighbourhood management pilots) to provide neighbourhood solutions that empowered agencies and residents to address things for themselves.

Since its inception INES has accessed over 150 people into employment and currently employs circa 50 staff and manages over 7 hectares of banked land and a range of commercial contracts. INES is recognised as an effective employment generator, creating local training and employment opportunities for unemployed people at risk of permanent exclusion from the labour market, and people demonstrating anti-social and criminal behaviours. INES's team of Environmental Operatives provide a range of grounds maintenance services and provide solutions to environmental problems such as house clearance, fly-tipping and graffiti. Working with tenants, residents and partners to create environmental forums/problem solving groups that raise expectations of service quality, pool resources to improve standards, and engage people in shaping neighbourhoods and changing their behaviours is key to INES's successful approach.

REGENDA GROUP

Emily Mathias (Neighbourhood Renewal Manager)

Paul Dickson (Director of Neighbourhood Regeneration)

Our initiative is to raise awareness of some of our neighbourhood regeneration projects. Youth Voice is aimed at promoting enterprise with young people, promoting project ideas and providing support to the youth groups. Regenda Landscapes is a gardening project which helps local people back into work and provides an inexpensive gardening service for the local community.

ROCHDALE HOUSING INITIATIVE & GUINNESS NORTHERN COUNTIES

Lisa Duffy (Community Regeneration Manager)

Darryl Lawrence (Director of Rochdale Housing Initiative)

- A locally delivered course offers low-key learning outside traditional educational establishment
- Learning through practical and creative projects is accessible for participants put off by academic system
- Minimum written assignments and not necessary to use a computer – emphasis is on creative skills
- Tuition by qualified and experienced trainer is tailored to participants' needs and adds value to standard course
- Course from the National Design Academy is a recognised qualification (National Diploma Level 3 (A level standard) with 48 Credits meets Government's educational and employment agenda.
- Support and commitment from client organisation / sponsor completes the 'tripod' of support.

STOCKPORT HOMES

Tanya King (Service Improvement Manager)

Joanne Claridge (Housing Options Manager)

Fiona Carr (Housing Advice Officer)

Stockport Homes 'Transient Learners' Programme' was established as a set of pilot courses in partnership with Stockport Adult Education for residents in Stockport Homes homeless temporary accommodation schemes. The aim of the pilot was to build residents' confidence and introduce customers to education and training through a series of taster sessions. The courses enabled practical learning whilst allowing for transferable skills that they can build upon either whilst still in temporary accommodation or when they move into their own home - all at their own pace.

These pilot sessions were very successful and have now been added to Stockport Homes' main customer training programme enabling us to reach a much wider customer base. The showcase gives an overview of not only the content of these sessions, but also some of the techniques Stockport Homes successfully uses to engage transient learners in education, training and consultation processes.