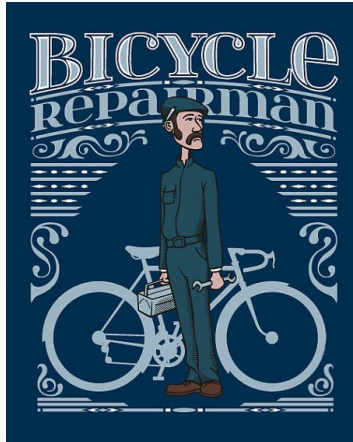


Bike Maintenance Course funded by Sport England ran by Colin Charlton

St Peter's Court's Bike Project evolved from a meeting between Colin Charlton and St Peter's Courts Manager, Tony Hammond. The idea was to provide a training programme for the tenants residing at St Peter's Court, that would include cycling activities, mechanics and leadership.

The programme is being delivered by Colin Charlton and James Charlton, both Mountain Bike Leaders and Advanced Cycle Mechanics.



Tenant's getting to grips with bike maintenance

Over the next 6 month's the tenants will engage in the following activities:

- Basic road cycling
- Advanced road cycling
- Off road mountain biking
- Technical mountain biking
- Basic to advanced cycle mechanics
- Navigation and bike group leadership

Now that the project is up and running, we now wish to open our services up to the local community in Sacriston and beyond; offering the above training as a package or, individual elements to suit our customer needs. Shortly, we will be opening a small workshop that will carry out servicing and minor repairs.

Tony Hammond
St Peters Court Manager

SHAID Extends a Warm Welcome to its Latest Team Member



SHAID would like to introduce its latest team member, Mark Donnell, who has joined SHAID as a Digital Marketing Apprentice.

Mark commenced his role with SHAID at the beginning of December thanks to a Back to Work Grant for Job Centre Plus.

The main focus of Marks role within the organisation will be to develop SHAID's online presence through website development, digital marketing etc..

In addition Mark will be offering his expertise to other partner organisations who wish to improve on their current digital marketing campaigns.

Support Services 3rd Quarter report

Advice & Information

We've had a busy quarter with **32** young people either self referring or being referred by partner organisations. Of these:

- 13** Have been successfully rehoused
- 5** Currently viewing properties
- 0** Currently on hold
- 4** Were referred directly onto SHAID's Floating Support service or other advice agencies.
- 10** Have remained at home

Floating Support

SHAID are currently supporting **29** young people on our Floating Support service.

Alison Stephenson
Pre Tenancy Support Worker

Project Comes to a End

Unfortunately the funding for SHAID's Social Isolation Navigator Project came to an end on November 30th meaning the loss of our Navigator Christine Fairley.

Since the commencement of the service on the 4th January 2016, Christine has worked closely with **370** people offering one to one support as well as signposting services.

In addition, Christine and service users developed The Canny Cooks and Canny Crafts groups, which gave members the opportunity to meet others in similar circumstances and build friendships and at the same time offer peer support.

It is hoped that the Canny Groups will continue as a peer led group with the support of SHAID.

Finally, SHAID would like to wish Christine every success in the future.

THE HOMELESSNESS MONITOR: ENGLAND 2017

Below is a snap shot of the executive summary of Crisis Homeless Monitor Report which is over a 100 pages long but very informative.

Following the 50th anniversary year of Cathy Come Home, it is fitting that the core theme in the 2017 Homelessness Monitor is 'access to housing' for homeless people and those at risk of homelessness. The picture emerging from this year's analysis is far from encouraging: social sector new build and lettings are at historically low levels, there is an ongoing shift towards so-called 'affordable' rental products which are in fact beyond the reach of those on the lowest incomes, and Local Housing Allowance limits which are increasingly adrift of private rents.

While the 2016 Autumn announcement of grant support for 40,000 affordable housing dwellings over the next four years is welcome, social landlords' investment capacity will continue to be constrained by the 1% annual rent reduction policy, and it remains very much in doubt that the resulting homes will be in fact be accessible to the bulk of those at risk of homelessness.

The absolute shortage of genuinely affordable housing for low income households in large parts of the country continues to be intensified by welfare policy. The benefit cuts introduced in this decade, and those planned for coming years will cumulatively reduce the incomes of poor households in and out of work by some £25 billion a year by 2020/21. This is in a context where existing welfare cuts, economic trends and higher housing costs associated with the growth of private renting have already increased family poverty to record levels. Aside from frozen Local Housing Allowance rates, the stringent LHA restrictions for younger single people and the overall benefit cap are the welfare reform measures most widely viewed as problematic. (Crisis Homeless Monitor Report 2017)

The report covers every aspect of housing, housing needs, support structures in place and those being reduced due to austerity.

The report is a balanced in-depth review of homelessness of local authorities across England but does not show the statistics of the third sector which in my opinion massively dilutes the real homelessness agenda.

That said, Durham County are very proactive when looking at homelessness and on the whole very supportive of the third Sector generally. There is also the introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act. I strongly believe that the third sector has a massive part to play in the delivery of prevention and support assigned and clearly mentioned in the Act and that the Local Authority will acknowledge our role and embrace the professionalism and skills we bring.

If you are interested in reading the whole report a copy is available online at www.crisis.org.uk

Kevin Howe,
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SHAID

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