

Northern Voice



**WHAT WE ARE
PROUD OF**
AWARDS 2011



Housing associations across the North have even more to be proud of in 2011. All the entries to What We Are proud Of 2011 really prove that housing associations are about so much more than bricks and mortar. They are all investing in individuals and communities throughout the North.

This year the awards had four new categories in each region. These awards were judged by

an independent panel in each region and the winners were also announced at the respective award events.

All the projects have had a major impact on entire communities making a huge difference to so many people. As the landscape of social housing shifts it is vital that we work together as a sector to demonstrate the huge range of extra work we do. That is why these

awards are so important. Coming soon we will produce a publication showcasing all the entrants from the awards and a short video from the regional finals.

Also, many thanks to our sponsors Morrison Facilities Ltd for their continued support of the What We Are Proud Of Awards.

Derek Long - Assistant Director

North West

Villages Housing pick up North West award

Villages Housing Association Safer communities initiative, Stockbridge Village

The Stockbridge safer community initiative was developed when the association realised that, to have a real impact in the area, they needed to work in collaboration with other organisations.

The partnership between Knowsley Council, Merseyside police, Villages Housing and the local community has resulted in the area becoming a safer place to

live and work and a more confident community in just one year. The partnership worked together to target criminal activity and support community engagement and development.

This included an additional resource of 12 Police Community Support Officers, each given a micro-beat of streets within the area enabling them to know the residents and build up trust with them. This led to increased intelligence regarding crime and anti-social behaviour activities in

and around the estate.

This targeted approach has successfully resulted in a number of criminals being convicted. Equally important community confidence has increased with residents taking a more active role in the delivery of future services and ambitions for the area.

Vernon Jackson, Chief Executive of Villages said:

‘Joint training and working has delivered amazing results – overall crime has reduced by 20% in 12 months and community engagement and intelligence has increased significantly.’

The Villages Safer Communities Initiative also took the Best impact on residents and Best partnership working awards on the day.

Category winners

Best contribution to the community

Wulvern
Sherborne reborn

Outstanding individual

Linda Sidebottom
New Charter Housing Trust
New Charter DreamScheme ‘Our Great Garden’ RHS Tatton 2010



Yorkshire and Humberside

Incommunities take gold with their sporting initiative

Incommunities Your Sporting Chance

Your Sporting Chance is a groundbreaking initiative that positively contributes to community cohesion, reduces anti-social behaviour and aims to reverse negative stereotypical views of young people today. It works with professional sporting organisations and uses the brand and players to encourage engagement.

The initiative offers young adults at risk of social, education or employment exclusion the opportunity to gain valuable life skills from work experience, education opportunities and team work. Already over 50 young people have benefited from the

project which works with three sporting partners - Keighley Cougars RLFC, Bradford Bulls RLFC and Bradford City F.C.

Funding from Incommunities Foundation - the housing group's charitable arm - supports the work of three youth workers who provide a key link between the sporting partners and the young people.

Geraldine Howley, Incommunities Group Chief Executive said: 'We are thrilled that the project has achieved a double success in these prestigious awards.

'Your Sporting Chance combines the power of sport as an influential role model and effective youth project work. This

successful team work is making a positive difference to the lives of the young people involved.'

The project also won the Best partnership working award.

Category winners

Best impact on residents and Best contribution to the community

Chevin Housing Association Ltd
(A member of the Together
Housing Group)
South Kirkby - Construction Skills
Certification Scheme (CSCS)

Outstanding individual

Alan Metcalf
Connect Housing Association
Junk Beatz



Incommunities at the Yorkshire and Humberside final

North East

Three Rivers win three times

Three Rivers - Pelaw View Community Group

Residents of the Sherburn Road Estate in Durham, owned by Three Rivers Housing Association, set up a community group to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The 'Pelaw View Community Group' has been incredibly successful, with its work resulting in a drop in crime and anti-social behaviour over two years. It has expanded, forming a management committee and has become a registered charity.

It now manages and delivers community projects, a café, youth forum and young people's activities. The group has shaped the service of the local community centre through consultation

and voluntary work, recently undertaking projects with the local police, charities, NHS and Darlington FC.

Three Rivers also won the Best impact on residents award and Outstanding individual for Mandy Reay from the project. Mandy has worked tirelessly at the centre along with Three Rivers staff supporting the local community and as a team they have improved the lives of many people.

Category winners

Best impact on residents

Coast and Country Housing Ltd
Empty homes to happy homes

Best partnership working

Cestria Community Housing
Kickz Project

SHINE

The Showcasing Housing Initiatives in the North East (SHINE) Awards continue to grow each year. These unique awards celebrate projects and initiatives in the North East.

For the first time the SHINE awards have two categories, Transforming places and Transforming lives.

The awards are open to any member based or operating in the North East.

The awards take place in October and entries have to be in by 22 August.

For more information about the awards or exhibiting at the dinner please email north@housing.org.uk or call 0161 848 8132.



North East winner Three Rivers celebrate.

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