

EXploring Innovation in Transitions

Key Ingredients: National House Project Case Study

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Assisting Care Leavers. Time for Action.

OECD webinar series: From policy to effective implementation in practice

EXIT case study site: National House Project, UK

National House Project (NHP)

- Charity in England, employing 12 professionals
- Founders designed innovation
- Support implementation of LHP
- Includes *Care Leavers National Movement* (CLNM)
 - 2 young people from each Local House Project
 - Originated as young people's advisory group
 - Founders designed innovation



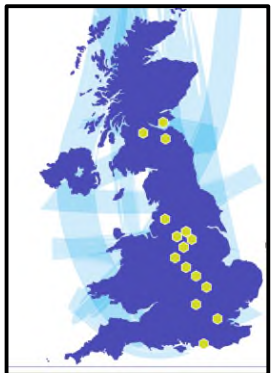
Local House Project (LHP)

The innovation

- young people experience leaving care together
- c.10 young people annually
- peer community
- develop practical and emotional skills
- live interdependently
- homes to live in for as long as they want

Implemented by

- Local authority (LA)/council organisations
- Children's social care services



Research design

Research team

- Inter-disciplinary: children's social care, implementation science, public health
- Peer researcher: care-experienced young person

Case study sites:

- National House Project
- Islington House Project + Local authority, England
- Midlothian House Project + Council, Scotland

Research data:

- Interviews with young people, practitioners and strategic managers (31)
- Observations of events and meetings (13)

Interpretative process:

- Thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006, 2021)
- Analysis workshops with inter-disciplinary research team

Research period:

- Data generation: October 2021 – August 2022
- Data interpretation: August 2022 – August 2023





Value-alignment – fit with national strategy, organisational ethos, practice framework

Innovation readiness – prior experience of successful implementation of innovations

Access to resources - funding, housing stock, availability of property for House Project base

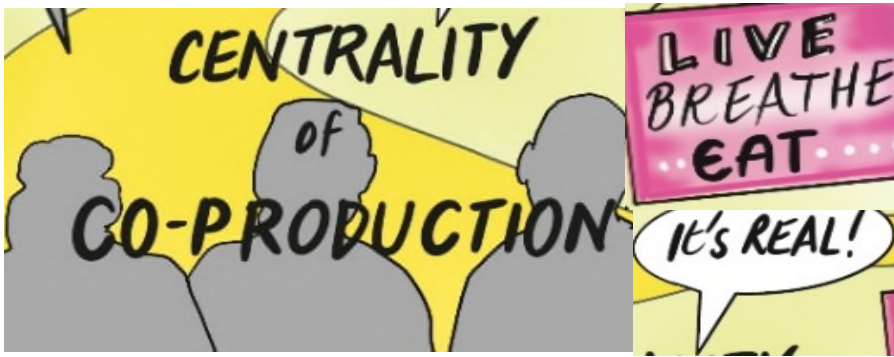
Political-socio-geographic factors – political support, housing demand

It's a really good match...values, ethos...we're not battling against a system...we want to empower the young people, give them more independence...a say over how they live in their homes...if we were working with a local authority that didn't have the same approach we would probably be meeting a lot more barriers and blocks. Whereas it's not often we do.

Professional, Islington LHP

Where it fits into 'The Promise'... it totally does, that's something as a local council, we're streets ahead and the House Project framework does tick a lot of 'The Promise' boxes.

Professional, Midlothian LHP



They've got it to a tee...We go around each person ... there's one or two reps from each House Projectwhat they're experiencing and what each cohort is finding good....what's not so great...how can it be improved? And it's not just, "Oh how's the House Project going?...it's "How's your communication with staff? How's your communication with the actual place? Do you feel part of the community?"...we feed back on it ...it feels great knowing that they're actually, they're listening to you

Young person, CLNM, Midlothian LHP

The real shocking, I say 'shocking', the great thing ... was, it was real, it was actually going to happen. It was being set up. It's not like you'd joined an eco-team in high school and they said, "We're going to try and get this much stuff recycled," but everyone leaves by the end of the first two months because they're going to miss their break time. It was good to see people come who actually wanted to do it and were genuinely invested...Now that we've established CLNM I've seen it make a difference. Like I say, it's not the eco-team, we're all there, we're all doing it. We're not just a name.

Young Person, CLNM founder



I would say partnerships with colleagues in social care are critical...I have regular meetings with my service director and the directors in social care to talk about how the project is progressing, any challenges...in various tiers of the local council there are meetings occurring to ensure that that project's successful.

Professional, Homes and Community,
Local authority

They give us all the opportunity to lead, whether that is in a practice lead role, whether we've got two apprentices now, they lead on certain things. It's really empowering isn't it, just being allowed to be a leader and being allowed to be creative and see actually small things that you might want to do come to fruition because you've been allowed the opportunity to do that, it's really empowering.

Professional, NHP



A summary of outcomes shared with the House Project Board quarterly around education, training and employment, numbers we've housed, numbers that are accessing mental health services for example...stats on the diversity, number of young people we've got with additional learning needs...it's largely how many young people are we working with, of the young people we work with how many are we successfully getting through the programme and move into houses, and then from then on how many managed to sustain their tenancy.

Professional, LHP

- 619 young people are members of the NHP community*
- 359 young people have successfully moved into their homes*
- 0 evictions*

NHP-EXIT meeting notes, August 2023



Source: NHP website, 2023



With each cohort that we've housed...we look back at what's worked, what hasn't worked and so if it hasn't worked we tweak according to what's happened on the ground and hopefully even more successful for the next group.

Operational Manager, Homes and Community,
Islington LA

House Project is a skeleton, it's not a rigid programme, so it's kind of looking at involving us to put the body on that bones, to make a House Project which is kind of bespoke to Midlothian and responds to our young people's needs.

Professional, Midlothian LHP

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