

REPORT TO: London Borough of Hackney
'Living in Hackney' Scrutiny Meeting

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DATE OF MEETING: 15 July 2020

SUBJECT: Sanctuary Housing Input- "Living in Hackney"
Scrutiny Meeting

Background

Sanctuary Housing is a national Housing Association who own and manage 69,000 homes across England and Scotland, including a total of 2237 properties in the London Borough of Hackney.

Sanctuary own and manage large numbers of properties across the Kingsmead, Morningside, Gascoyne and Cass Estates, as well as Old Kingshold and Shore. Our local office is easily accessible to our residents and partners, in the heart of the Kingsmead estate.

As a national association, our activities are carried out across a wide geographic area. However, with the addition of a recently created Head of Housing, specifically for London, we are working to tailor our local offer to meet the particular challenges faced by our residents and stakeholders within the Greater London area.

With regard to the two discussion points relating to recycling and community investment, I can set out Sanctuary Housing's position as follows.

1. How registered providers are working in partnership with the Council to enable higher levels of recycling on estates they manage

All waste across our Hackney Estates is collected by the Local Authority, and we work with residents to encourage that they utilise the recycling facilities wherever possible. Our local teams find that this is effective and our residents are able to recycle their waste through the Council collections.

In a wider context, where we do not have Local Authority provision in place, we have group wide mixed recycling contracts for properties and offices. There a number of local variations in the facilities that dispose of the waste, and therefore recyclable materials in different areas will vary.

We encourage that no site has general waste without a recycling provision, and are away from “comingled” collections. Where possible, we also build targets around recycling into some of our contracts.

2. Community investment by Sanctuary Housing Association, as linked to the [Inclusive Economy Strategy](#).

Sanctuary Housing are committed to running our business in an ethical and sustainable manner, and aim to create social value through financial inclusion and community investment.

We run a number of Apprenticeship schemes across England and Scotland, in all areas of the business, providing opportunities in a number of diverse areas such as Maintenance, Customer Service, Business Development and Care.

On a more local level, our Neighbourhood team carry out a number of activities within the London Borough of Hackney that link to the Inclusive Economy Strategy. This can be demonstrated as follows:

Priority 1

Support local neighbourhoods and town centres to thrive, and to be inclusive and resilient places.

Sanctuary’s Neighbourhoods team use an asset based approach to work with residents, community groups and other stakeholders to develop and deliver community initiatives in local neighbourhoods. These are brought together in an annual “Neighbourhood Plan”. A summary of the results of the 2019-20 Neighbourhood Plan activity are provided in Appendix One.

An example of this asset based approach in 2019-20 includes the “Lead Positive Change” project which we are supporting, with Volunteer Centre Hackney at our Old Kingshold and Shore Estates.

This six-week programme supports people to take their idea for a community project from an idea through to pilot. Following the programme, participants receive one to one support to continue to develop their project.

It covers the essentials of setting up a community project. It is preceded by informal drop in ideas sharing sessions and finishes with individual one to one coaching sessions, a celebration event and an opportunity to pitch for seed funding.

It is based on a skills-share model, so participants take responsibility for essential elements of the course in exchange for their place. Acting as a microcosm in which participants can try out roles that they may like to continue to take within other projects at Volunteer Centre Hackney as a whole, this skills-share format embeds this as a culture within the project and

allows participants the opportunity to see how their skills are useful to the wider community.

Priority 2

Champion and support local business and social enterprise in Hackney, and protect and maximise the delivery of affordable workspace in the Borough.

In 2019-20 we worked with female BAME residents in Morningside and the surrounding areas to address employment inequalities and create opportunities.

By supporting residents to learn transferable skills in fashion design, sewing, catering and baking in two separate creative workshops whilst also learning enterprise skills, the project aimed to support residents into employment.

The project was specifically targeted to those who may be long term unemployed or have low level mental health issues. The sessions included a number of business skills to help residents into self employment and workshops took place within these sessions, to create a peer to peer support network.

Following the completion of each course, the residents have a chance to test their skills and business knowledge by selling their products in The Hackney Shop.

Priority 3

Connect residents to high-quality employment support and opportunities to learn new skills, get good quality, well-paid work and progress their career throughout their working life.

In 2019-20 we supported Immediate Theatre to deliver the “What’s Your Story?” programme. It began by addressing the issues of unemployment in female BAME communities and has now looked to expand its offer by targeting youth (18-30) unemployment. They have also facilitated a series of training workshops linking with our Morningside Youth Club.

The project provides a creative approach to supporting female and young residents to build their confidence and skills in applying for jobs. It does this by allowing participants to create a short documentary exploring a subject of personal/local relevance. Two participants are then invited to take up volunteering opportunities with Immediate Theatre and/or other local organisations.

We have also supported Hackney CVS and three other Housing Association partners to provide our residents and local voluntary organisations they work with, to access relevant training to ensure resilience and provide appropriate skills for their continued success. Sessions are delivered at local community

centres and are open to all Sanctuary Housing residents and partners who work with our residents.

The aim of this training is to help small voluntary organisations as well as interested residents develop the skills needed to deliver community initiatives. This ties in to the work we are carrying out to upskill representatives of the three local resident associations to allow them to take over management of the three Community centres.

Summary

Sanctuary Housing is keen to work in partnership with Local Authorities and our mutual residents to invest in communities, to enhance the opportunities available and to create a sustainable environment for many years to come.

We would welcome further discussion to explore the options available and consider the possibilities of working closely together now, and into the future.

Appendix One

Employment, Education and Training	
Number of people developing a new skill	292
Number of people gaining work experience	69
Number of people to be supported to gain an accredited qualification	46

Health and Wellbeing	
Number of people taking part in healthy activity	657
Number of people reporting feelings of improved physical health	190
Number of people with increased confidence to manage their own health	32
Number of people reporting feelings of reduced isolation	212
Number of people reporting feeling more in control of life	62

Community Safety	
Community groups supported to increase community capacity	4
Number of people reporting increased sense of belonging to a neighbourhood	694
Number of people reporting increased sense of safety	300
Number of people participating in positive active citizenship	200

Environment	
Number of residents actively engaged in improving spaces or places	75
Number of people reporting lifestyle changes that are more sustainable	75

Summary

- Spend - £48,607 across 22 initiatives.
- Additional Funding - £85,610 (for every £1 of Sanctuary grant funding spent, £1.70 in additional funding from other sources was secured for projects).
- Total Beneficiaries – 2,237 (£21.73 investment per beneficiary)