

PRESS RELEASE
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Local partnership helps support local residents

Local partnership between Hyndburn Homes and Community Solutions North West (CSNW) has proved to be a great service to local residents. This great local partnership has been a massive contribution to the area, bringing local needs to the forefront of the communities concerns.

Over the last 12 months, 81 Hyndburn Homes tenants have been referred for volunteering with CSNW, citing work experience and wanting to contribute back into their community as the most common reasons for wanting to get involved.

“The support I have received has helped me find my first paid job in years. I can’t describe how that makes me feel!” Scott Marsh, CSNW volunteer and Hyndburn Homes tenant.

Hyndburn Homes have helped to divert 2.8 tonnes of non-perishable food from landfill, by supporting almost 400 Community Solutions Food Bank parcels across the area.

They have also referred 66 of their most socially isolated tenants to the Community Solutions Befriending service.

“Working with Community Solutions has enabled us to address needs that we would not otherwise have been able to meet. The number of our tenant’s accessing services is encouraging. The statistics highlighting the extent of socially excluded and isolated people in our communities are shocking but this partnership is helping us to reach more and more of them. Community Solutions and Hyndburn Homes are, and will remain, committed to working together to make a difference for people in Hyndburn.” David Perry, Neighbourhood Manager of Hyndburn Homes

Hyndburn Homes have created real social value by partnering with CSNW to provide services that are needed in the area.

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"Working with Hyndburn Homes staff and tenants on the various projects has been a great experience and we value the partnership we have developed over the past 3 years."

Deborah Clark, Managing Director of CSNW

The partnership will continue and grow throughout 2014 including financial inclusion project – 1st Call Hynburn.

Ends

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Notes to Editors

Community Solutions North West was founded in 2011 to help people through difficult times of genuine need. The Food Bank was the original project, and has delivered food to thousands of local people. They have since identified and developed a range of services to help alleviate people's needs including:

- *Food Bank – provision of food for those in genuine need, meeting the immediate crisis need whilst encouraging behavioural changes and capacity building for anyone receiving a food parcel.*
- *East Lancashire Community RePaint Scheme - low cost paint for those in need and the community, in the first month of trade CSNW has sourced 2500 litres of paint that has been diverted from landfill, in the first month of trading we distributed 560 litres of paint back into the community.*

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- *Befriending Service - combating social isolation and loneliness through telephone, one to one, group and intergenerational befriending which is funded in partnership with Lancashire County Council. This also includes Street Soccer Academy which supports the most vulnerable male adults at risk of offending through FA chartered sessions.*
- *Volunteer Management - managing volunteers on behalf of other organisation including Hyndburn Homes financial inclusion project – 1st Call Hyndburn*

CSNW offer a variety of fulfilling volunteering opportunities which you can apply for through the website. www.csnw.co.uk

For referrals for our Food Bank and Befriending services please find referral forms on the relevant pages of our website.