

# QUAKER HOUSING TRUST FIFTIETH YEAR WORK REVIEW 2017



QUAKER HOUSING TRUST

## **QUAKER HOUSING TRUST:** PRACTICAL WITNESS SINCE 1967

Yearly Meeting in Britain's own housing charity, funded directly by donations from Quaker meetings and individual Friends.

A unique national channel for practical Quaker witness in social housing, we make loans and grants to local projects.

We are a Quaker body giving Quaker money, on behalf of Quakers, to social housing projects we believe Friends would want to support.

How we work is as important as what we do because both reflect the reason we exist.

## FIFTIETH YEAR WORK REVIEW 2017

In 2017 Quaker Housing Trust (QHT) marked 50 years as a channel for Friends' money to help provide real homes for people who would otherwise be badly housed or homeless.

Social housing for rent is an important option that should be available for everyone who needs secure housing. Quakers in Britain have been actively engaged in promoting social housing for over a hundred years.

An expression of concern about housing at Yearly Meeting in 1966 led, within 18 months, to the creation of its own housing charity, Quaker Housing Trust. The aim was to assist small local housing associations meeting the needs of vulnerable groups of people that were not being met by the Government. It was legally constituted on 7 December 1967.

In its first 10 years QHT primarily helped projects housing elderly people, single families, ex-prisoners and people who were lonely and/or homeless. Today we also help projects give safe homes to refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and survivors of trafficking.

Housing needs in the 21st century are just as urgent as those in the 1960s. In comparison with the problem QHT resources are minimal, but our contribution to small groups can mean the difference between success and failure.

As you will see from the projects listed here, QHT continues to respond creatively to the approaches from projects and contributes to local solutions for people of all ages and with a wide range of needs.

Friends can be part of making a real difference to people in housing need by contributing directly through their own housing charity.

More information about what we do and how to contribute is contained in the pair of booklets: *Pressing Problems* and *Hard Times*.

*Quaker Housing Trust April 2018*

“IT IS EVIDENT THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL AREA OF URGENT NEED WHICH LIES BEYOND THE SCOPE OF PROVISION AT NATIONAL LEVEL, AND FOR WHICH LARGE SUMS OF MONEY ARE NEEDED.”

*QHT first annual report May 1968*

## PROJECTS JAN-DEC 2017

### Action Foundation, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Capital Costs Grant of £21,700 for refurbishing and furnishing a property they are buying to provide safe housing for 22 additional refugees in Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland.

### Afghan Association Paiwand, Harrow, Middlesex

Capital Costs Grant of £12,763 to upgrade and furnish two more properties to house a further 12 unaccompanied refugees aged between 16-21, who have come from a variety of countries, escaping war and/or persecution. [This follows a similar grant of £11,600 in 2015.]

### Calder Valley Community Land Trust, Hebden Bridge

Capital Costs Grant of £20,000 towards the costs of building four new dwellings for people aged 60 upwards, currently living in the Calder Valley, with a defined housing need and limited financial means.

## Coventry Migrant Women's Houses

Capital Costs Grant of £7,100 to install 14 photovoltaic panels with inverter and storage battery at this group house for homeless forced migrant women with no income and in need of support.

## Dundee Friends Property Trust

Capital Costs Grant of £7,638 to upgrade a three-bedroom flat owned by Dundee Friends Property Trust to give a home to a Syrian family at the time in a refugee camp.

## Emmaus North East, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Capital Costs Grant of £8,000 towards the cost of setting up a laundry, utility room and common room to serve the 15 Companions at this new Emmaus Community.

## The Foxton Centre, Preston

Capital Costs Grant of £20,000 towards buying a property to provide supported accommodation for rough sleepers and women sex workers, all with multiple and complex needs. The grant is conditional on the organisation raising the rest of the funds they need for this project, and intended to help them in their approaches to other potential funders.

## Hope Projects (West Midlands)

Environmental Assessment Grant to assess their nine Birmingham-based properties for asylum seekers to provide a list of costed recommendations to reduce the environmental impact and running costs of the houses.

## Lighthouse Homes, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Capital Costs Grant of £22,800 to redecorate and furnish 20 of 35 flats, and install CCTV in a newly acquired property for 38 vulnerable homeless men and women who need intermediate homes when they move from the organisation's community housing.

## Norman Almshouses Charity, Norfolk

Capital Costs of £25,000 grant and £25,000 loan offered to convert five bedsits into four one-bedroom dwellings to house local people on low incomes. [Payable when work begins on site in 2018.]

## Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting

Capital Costs Grant of £22,000 towards a house for a new project run by Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service for male victims of domestic abuse.

## **Open Door (North East), Middlesbrough**

Capital Costs Grant of £39,500 to help with renovating, decorating and furnishing two terraced houses they are buying to provide housing for refugees and destitute asylum seekers.

## **Pairc Trust, Isle of Lewis**

Capital Costs of £20,000 grant made and loan of £14,000 offered for additional energy efficiency measure a property they were buying to provide suitable housing for a family with a disabled child who would otherwise be unable to stay in the community. [A subsequent change in circumstances led Pairc Trust to re-think this project and return the grant.]

## **Quaker Social Action, East London**

Capital Costs Grant of £20,000 to help them turn four properties into real homes for young adult carers in transition from living at home to an independent adult life. The grant is for buying good quality furniture, fixtures and fittings, decoration and high quality and energy efficient appliances for this innovative and unique Move On Up Project.

## **St Hilda's Almshouses Trust, Saltburn, North Yorkshire**

£20,000 Capital Costs Loan for help with further renovation of derelict property to provide two new affordable dwellings for those on a low income. [This follows a similar grant in 2016.]

## **Street Connect, Glasgow**

Capital Costs of £20,000 grant and £20,000 loan to help buy their first property, a one-bedroom flat as move-on accommodation for people who have successfully completed a residential rehabilitation programme. The project was also given a Health Check Service Grant.

## **Whitebeam Homes, Arran**

Capital Costs Grant of £5,803 for improving energy efficiency in a three-bedroom former council house bought by Whitebeam Homes and let to a family on a low income.



“THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE NOW IS ON NUMBERS, NOT PEOPLE: QUAKERS HAVE LONG BEEN CLEAR ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF A HOME TO THE PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND THUS THE HEALTH OF WIDER COMMUNITY.”

*QHT minute September 2017*

QUAKER  
HOUSING  
TRUST