



# NHP

Living connected and fulfilling lives

## Housing Strategy & Partnerships Manager

### About NHP

The National House Project (NHP) is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO 1179743) registered with the Charity Commission in 2018 and with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in 2023. It works alongside local authorities (LA) to establish their own Local House Project (LHP) to support young people to leave care well.

We provide a psychologically informed practice framework, resources and support to a small team of LA staff who work closely with groups of young people leaving care. This team builds long lasting relationships, a community of support and provides opportunities and experiences that enable young people to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to lead positive lives. The approach is relational with an emphasis on developing community-based support systems. Everything is co-produced with young people.

The LHP approach was established in 2015 in a LA with the support of the DFE Social Care Innovation Programme. In 2018, NHP was established to scale the work, and we are currently working with 23 LAs across England and Scotland.

For young people impacted by trauma, having to leave care and move into their own home between the ages of 16 - 18 without familial support is understandably difficult. Many feel ill-prepared, isolated and scared and it is not surprising that many struggle resulting in poor emotional and mental health and being overrepresented in prison, homelessness and unemployment populations.

For all care leavers, a third are homeless within 2 years of leaving care. In the House Project Community we are working with over 1100 young people and 680 have moved into their first home. We're proud to report we've had no evictions or tenancy breakdowns. Our work has been positively evaluated by academics, psychologists, researchers and young people who conduct biannual peer evaluations. Our work is positively regarded by Ofsted, and we have won several sector awards for our work. This role is key to our plans for both scaling the number of new LHPs across England and Scotland; and increasing the reach within existing LHPs by making more stock available. A central part of the role will be building strong, strategic partnerships with housing providers (LA stock, social housing providers and private landlords where appropriate) so young people leaving care have a choice about where they live.

Housing is a key element of the House Project approach and NHP cannot support the establishment of an LHP without the LA having an arrangement with a housing provider to make properties available. Indeed, we have LAs who have had corporate and political agreement but without an offer of properties we have not been able to proceed. Availability of stock is undoubtedly an issue but many housing providers have had experiences of young people struggling, resulting in high workloads and costly court and eviction activity. This reluctance to then make a scarce resource available to our young people is understandable. It is clear however that whilst young people have a



responsibility to manage their home the high eviction rate is not a reflection on young people but the system that has not prepared or supported them. Reluctant housing providers have agreed to provide accommodation after hearing of the House Project approach and indeed, once an LHP is established housing providers can see the benefits of the approach and increase their offer.

We are currently working with 1,100 young people, 680 of these have already moved into their own homes without any tenancy breakdowns or evictions. The support we provide works.

This is a unique role supporting a charity that works with care-experienced young people across the UK, ensuring they leave care well and secure suitable housing. Leaving care at 16-18 can be daunting. Many young people struggle with isolation, housing instability, and unemployment. NHP changes that.

### **About the role**

Salary: £45,000 per annum

Contract: Fixed-term, 2 year contract. Full-time, 35 hours per week.

Location: Hybrid – Office at Crewe Hall, Crewe (2 days per week office-based) and homeworking, with travel around the country as required. See our current locations here: [Local House Projects](#) | [The National House Project](#)

### **Purpose of the Role**

Reporting to the Director of Partnerships, this exciting new role offers the opportunity to support NHPs internal expertise on Housing; ensure we have strong partnerships with Housing Providers and grow the offers of housing from Housing Providers across the UK, to support our growth as a charity. Essentially with more housing we can establish more Local House Projects and expand those that already exist, and in turn support more young people.

Working closely with senior leadership team (CEO, Director of Practice and Director of Partnerships), this role will lead on developing our first Housing Strategy and ensure we have the internal knowledge, expertise and capacity to grow our housing partnerships.

### **Key Responsibilities**

#### **General**

- Lead the development and implementation of NHP's Housing Partnership Strategy in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team ensuring aligned with organisational priorities and growth of NHP.
- Build, develop and sustain a strong pipeline of housing partners across all NHP locations- at both a local and national level. Maintain effective relationships with existing providers whilst identifying new business and strategic housing opportunities to grow supply.

- Work closely with local authorities (and LHPs) to understand regional housing supply, demand and challenges- with a view to informing the Housing Partnership Strategy.
- Develop and maintain a database of partnerships with Housing Providers, and opportunities for growth
- Represent NHP at regional and national Housing Forums, conferences and events
- Support Local House Projects to negotiate property offers and advocate for care-experienced young people and the NHP approach
- Coordinate the Housing Community of Practice with one of the Practice Leads
- Work with the Director of Partnerships to secure tangible opportunities to deliver Social Value opportunities- including collaborations and strategic opportunities.
- Support LAs to maximise the accommodation offer to care leavers through Section 106 agreements and their responsibility to Public Value in all commissioned services
- Deliver ‘horizon scanning’ briefings to the NHP team so they are up to date with housing policy, progress and challenges to inform their work and practice

### **Communications and Collaboration**

- Develop case studies and share best practice/our approach across the Housing Sector
- Work closely with the Business Support Administrator and Admin Team to create and share communications about housing
- Support the preparation of housing partnership updates, impact stories, and social media content.
- Contribute to internal communications about partnership successes and learning.
- Support the rest of the NHP team from time to time, as required.

### **Person Specification**

Area	Skills, knowledge & experience	
<b>Housing sector knowledge</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 years experience in a housing association, LA housing team, or similar</li> <li>• Demonstratable experience of developing, managing and sustaining strategic housing partnerships with multiple stakeholders in a local authority, housing association or similar.</li> <li>• Able to demonstrate relationship building, negotiation, and influencing skills to secure new housing opportunities and agreements.</li> </ul>	<p>E</p> <p>E</p> <p>E</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience of representation at a senior level influencing policy, strategy and networking.</li> <li>• Ability to work collaboratively across internal teams to align partnership approach including housing delivery and social value opportunities- Understanding of housing regulation and law</li> <li>• Qualified in housing (e.g., CIH Level 3/4)</li> </ul>	E D D
<b>Partnership development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience working with local authorities and housing associations</li> <li>• Ability to develop partnerships and formal agreements</li> <li>• Strong interpersonal and communication skills</li> </ul>	E E E
<b>Strategic planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to develop and implement housing strategy</li> <li>• Can map housing opportunities and gaps across geographies</li> </ul>	E E
<b>Understanding of young people's needs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarity with care leaver challenges</li> <li>• Trauma-informed practice understanding (even if not practitioner)</li> <li>• Has worked with vulnerable or young people, even if not in direct support role</li> </ul>	E D E
<b>Project coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to work across multiple localities and willingness to travel as needed</li> <li>• Able to coordinate housing activity between NHP, LHPs and providers</li> </ul>	E E
<b>Policy &amp; influence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confidence engaging with housing policy-makers and influencing strategy at LA or provider level</li> </ul>	E
<b>Data and systems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comfortable working with data on housing demand, availability, tenancy outcomes</li> </ul>	E
<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfactory check through the Disclosure and Barring Service.</li> <li>• Full UK driving license and access to own car.</li> </ul>	E D

## Benefits

- 31 days annual leave plus bank holidays
- 10% employer pension contribution
- Enhanced maternity, paternity and adoption leave

- Hybrid working option with at least two days a week in the office (Monday and Thursdays)
- Quarterly team development days
- Access to professional development and training
- Access to psychological support via our external psychologists

### **How to Apply**

If you're excited by the opportunity to **build something transformative**, we'd love to hear from you.

**You are invited to join an online briefing about NHP and this role.**

When: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 12.30pm

**Please register in advance for this meeting:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aN4PJMHCSh-GaIE\\_QAdW4A](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/aN4PJMHCSh-GaIE_QAdW4A)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with further information about how to join.

**To apply, please submit your CV and cover letter** via Charity Job detailing what skills, knowledge and experiences make you the best candidate for the role by 4pm Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March.

We welcome applications from all backgrounds. If you require adjustments during the application or recruitment process, let us know. If you are care-experienced and meet all the essential requirements you will be guaranteed an interview.

We do not accept unsolicited CVs from recruitment agencies.

### **Interviews**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an in-person interview on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April in Crewe.

Further details will be provided to shortlisted candidates.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

NHP is committed to protecting the well-being of young people. All staff must adhere to our safeguarding policies.

**Recruitment Agencies:** We do not accept unsolicited CVs from agencies.

**General Requirements:** Right to work in the UK, two professional references, and a DBS check.