



case study

...there are increasing opportunities

Supported Volunteering

Since the establishment of our Supported Volunteering programme in 2005, 81 Service Users have participated in the scheme. Increasing numbers have taken up placements across the country, with a 25% increase year on year. Three Regional Co-ordinators support 59 current placements on this fully fundraised project.



Supported Volunteering gives our Service Users opportunities to engage with local groups and organisations, whilst pursuing personal interests and hobbies. Enabling them to contribute to their local community also helps to increase disability awareness.

Recent Supported Volunteering opportunities include; helping at Shopmobility; assisting with the Salvation Army's second hand furniture delivery scheme and acting as a visitor guide at the Fakenham Gas Museum.

Stephen's Café Society

Stephen, who lives at Hodge Hill near Birmingham, has gained new skills and great experience at a local internet café where he works on a Supported Volunteering placement.

He is there once a week, accompanied by his support worker, and being on the front desk suits his outgoing personality very well. He explains to customers how the café works, assists if they need help to get started at a computer, then calculates how much they owe and takes payment when they have finished.

Stephen relishes the fact that he has more independence and copes well with most situations. Another member of staff is usually on hand to offer guidance. Now Stephen hopes to increase his hours to meet students and youth groups who gather in the café in the evenings.



Investing in...

Bricks and Mortar

Donec Offers Sector-leading Care

Work is currently underway to improve the lives of residents at our first residential home, Donec, in Grayshott, Surrey. Having opened in 1962, Donec is now no longer fit for purpose, which is why we are investing £1.5m to replace the existing building with three linked, self contained five bedroom houses.

These new houses will give residents, some of whom have lived at Donec since childhood, the opportunity to enjoy more individuality, choice and personal space within a small scale domestic environment.

The new Donec houses will provide sector-leading personalised care for people who will benefit from higher levels of support. Residents will move into their new homes in the spring of 2011.



Work is progressing at Donec

New Opportunities at Bainbridge Close

At the end of 2010 four residents from Meadow Cottage in Cromer, Norfolk will be relocating to Bainbridge Close in the nearby market town, North Walsham. The two purpose built, two bedroom bungalows will provide residents with specialist built-in facilities which are not available at their current 44 year old home. The move will benefit residents as it will enable them to pursue a more active and involved lifestyle, within the local community, whilst retaining the very intensive 24-hour support and care they need.

Bainbridge Close is the result of a successful partnership between North Norfolk District Council, who provided the land, Orbit and Broadland Housing Associations, who secured Homes and Communities Agency funding for the scheme, Norfolk Adult Services, with specialist occupational therapist input and ourselves. Our investment of £55,000, as a contribution towards specialist equipment and specification, will benefit residents by helping them to fulfil their needs, wishes and aspirations.



...investment is central to our commitment

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Huw's Transformation

Major renovation work on Huw's, our registered nursing home in Nottingham, was completed in the summer of 2009. Our investment of £1.4m resulted from a five year fundraising appeal and enabled us to redevelop the existing accommodation into two self-contained flats and to build a brand new house in the grounds.



The improvements we have made to Huw's have created more personalised, smaller scale living opportunities for residents, who now have many more options to participate in everyday activities which were not previously possible, such as cooking.

Our investment has provided an environment almost unique in nursing services for people with complex and multiple disabilities, enhancing the possibilities for people with high support needs, and better facilitating individual development and lifestyle.



Louise is becoming stronger and more confident

Happier and More Confident – Louise and Chrissie

Louise has multiple disabilities and had trouble getting around the overcrowded 'old' Huw's. She now shares a new flat with three friends and the extra space and uncluttered layout have had a dramatic effect. Walking independently is much easier and Louise is becoming stronger and more confident. This is, quite literally, a major step forward and everyone is thrilled.

Chrissie used to find the number of people, noise and busy atmosphere of her old home very trying; she would get anxious and agitated, and would isolate herself in her room. The new flat is quieter, calmer and relaxed and she is now comfortable spending time in the company of her three flatmates. This is a wonderful transformation and Chrissie is clearly much happier in her new surroundings.



Chrissie in her new home