



**FORUM HOUSING**  
— it's all about **you** —

# Shout

Welcome to our 10th edition of SHOUT, our newsletter that is all about celebrating the successes of Forum Housing Association and the young people we support.

It's been a busy few months and once again we have plenty of good news we want to SHOUT about.

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[www.forumhousing.co.uk](http://www.forumhousing.co.uk)



# Forum expands further into Cheshire



The Nightstop Project became part of Forum in September 2009 and provides emergency accommodation to homeless 16 to 25 year olds across Cheshire. Nothing new for Forum then, who have been providing this service for over 40 years now! What does make this particular scheme unique is the fact that all the accommodation is in the homes of Volunteer Families.

Based in Cheshire, this project provides a response for young people aged 16-25 by housing them for a short time (between 1 and 7 nights) with a range of approved hosts, while efforts are made to resolve their crisis in a way which enables them safely to move on to a positive destination.

Cheshire Nighstop provides a safe and supportive family environment, enabling the local housing authority and partners' time to assess the needs of the young person and provide a tailored package of care. The desirable outcome for most young people will be to return home and Nightstop provides the young person with "breathing space" to help resolve the situation at home and consider their future. Cheshire Nightstop has recently celebrated achieving 100 bed nights, which is a great success for a project which is still relatively new in the area.

On Friday 26th February 2010, Forum Nightstop Cheshire held an 'Evening of Thanks' for all its Nightstop Volunteers, at The Fourways Inn, Delamere, Cheshire.

Our Volunteer Families gathered together with Forum staff and representatives from Cheshire YOT, Cheshire East Social Care and Crewe YCMA for a fun filled evening of eating, drinking, dancing and live music! Claire Litherland, Manager of the Nightstop Project said, "It was wonderful to see all the different people that had worked so hard alongside me to create Nightstop, all in the one room together".

After a delightful buffet and refreshments, and a short speech by Claire Litherland, everyone got up and joined in a fun dance class which was taught by local Dance Instructor, Chris Taylor. There was actually probably more laughing than actual dancing, although Tony Fitzgerald – Resident Representative and his dance partner, Lorraine Butcher - Head of Services for Children & Families, East Cheshire, were named "star couple". (Strictly Ballroom, here we come!)

The evening was brought to a perfect close with some live music by Resident Representative Tony, with dance instructor Chris commenting that "if the young people you work with turn out like him, your on the right path". We hope that it will be the first of many fun filled Nightstop events, bringing volunteers and staff together.

# Future Jobs Fund success at Forum



Last year the Association became involved in a new £1bn Government Initiative – Future Jobs Fund. It forms part of the Government's Backing Young Britain Campaign. This initiative is about giving opportunities to 18 – 25 year olds who have been out of the workplace for 39 weeks.

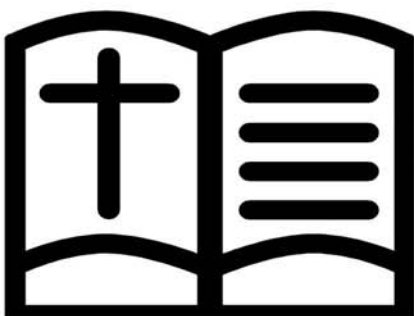
It has meant that Forum has created a number of diverse roles that will give new members of the team employed through the scheme, the opportunity to learn and develop over a six month period.

So far we have employed over 20 new recruits through the scheme, in fact, the initiative has been so successful at Forum, that at a recent visit to a jobs fair held at The BT Centre, Liverpool, Department of Works and Pensions Minister, Angela Eagle, met 3 success recruits from the Association who had gone on to secure permanent employment with us!

Debbie O'Connor, Andrew McCombe and Philip Burchardt are all now part of the team at Forum, and we're very pleased they're here!

Angela Eagle MP took the time during her visit to the jobs fair, to speak with the 3 successful recruits individually, congratulating them on their success. Speaking to Debbie O'Connor a newly appointed Business Support Assistant with Forum, Ms Eagle said that 'the first steps are the hardest'.

Angela Eagle said, 'We have invested £1bn on the Future Jobs Fund to not only provide job opportunities but also help young people learn new skills that will assist them for the rest of their working lives. I have enjoyed meeting the recruits from Forum Housing Association to see how the investment is working. We are determined to give young people the help and support they need so their talent isn't wasted and they can have confidence in their futures.'



## Prayer Request

- All the Board Members, Staff and Young People
- Abundant Financial Provision
- Continued strengthening of relationships within the local and wider Communities
- Inspiration and creativity in order to continue to support young people in an innovative and relevant way
- More opportunities for the good work God has done and is doing through Forum to be told...Spread the Good News!

Don't forget to "Get Plugged In"

## A donation is worth more with Gift Aid

Katie completed a charity walk with jelly in her wellies and raised £550. Gift Aid means that her efforts are now worth £687.50 to charity.



Have you ever wondered how you can help the Association on a more regular basis? We have a Gift Aid scheme. The scheme will allow people to make regular Standing Order payments to the Association and if they pay Income Tax we will also be able to make this giving more effective through reclaiming tax.

The revenue raised through this scheme will only be used to enable young people to undertake personal development activities and for us to make welfare payments to young people in acute need. Many of the activities we have let you know about in previous additions of SHOUT have only been able to happen because of additional funding.

# Go even further

If you have a desire to help homeless young people from your local area in a safe and constructive way, then we would suggest this is an ideal method. Every single penny of giving will be directed to young people in a safe, accountable and purposeful manner.

Please contact Mike Pooley on 0151 649-9718 for more information.



## Forum's 40th Anniversary Trees are Blooming Marvellous!

As part of Forum's 40th Anniversary Celebrations in 2009 we thought it would be a great idea to plant flora and fauna around the region.

One of the locations chosen was Prenton Methodist Church on the Wirral, and so way back in October last year a White Cherry Blossom Tree was planted with

the help of Forum's Alison Jones.

As you can now see from the recent photograph, the tree has now well and truly taken root and proudly displaying its beautiful foliage this Spring!

Blooming marvellous!

Don't forget to "Get Plugged In"

# The Matrix Accreditation Achievement Forum Did It!



During March the Association was assessed over a period of 3 days against the Matrix Standard. The Matrix Standard is the unique quality framework for the effective delivery of information, advice and guidance on learning and work.

The assessment process engaged 19 young people, 11 staff and 4 partner agencies. All of whom contributed to informing

the assessor of the great information, advice and guidance we provide to those whom we serve.

The Assessor highlighted many strengths in our service delivery which included:-

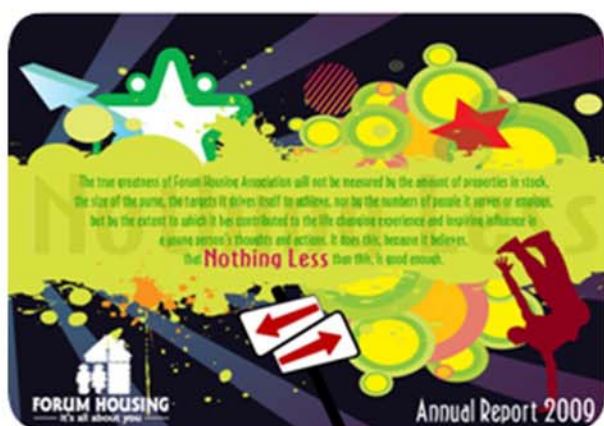
'Placing the young person at the centre of the support process'

'Information, advice and guidance delivered through Forum staff is integral to everything that Forum does with its residents'

'A major strength is the excellent understanding that staff have of the needs of young people'

'Engagement with, and the involvement of, young people is central to Forum's ethos and there are a variety of mechanisms through which Forum staff successfully engage with young people and gain feedback about its services'

As an Association we strive for excellence in all that we do, we are committed to our own learning and development and to bringing improvements in service for young people wherever and whenever we can. The Association is proud to hold the Matrix Standard and is looking forward to further improving our service delivery.



## New Annual Report

If you haven't had our most recent Annual Report please ask and we'll be pleased to dispatch one to you.

You can either call in at our head office at

2nd Floor, 84 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6HB

and pick one up or give us a call or email and we'll post one out to you

Phone: 0151 649 9718

E-mail: [info@forumhousing.co.uk](mailto:info@forumhousing.co.uk)

You can also download a PDF version of the Annual Report via our website. All you need to do is visit the Press and Publications page.



[www.forumhousing.co.uk](http://www.forumhousing.co.uk)





# Nightstop Volunteers Thank You!

Earlier this year, Forum Nightstop Cheshire held an 'Evening of Thanks' for all its Nightstop Volunteers, at The Fourways Inn, Delamere, Cheshire.

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then, who have been providing this service for over 40 years now! What does make this particular scheme unique is the fact that all the accommodation is in the homes of Volunteer Families.

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Don't forget to "Get Plugged In"

# Get Plugged In!

Would you like to receive regular news bulletins and event invitations from the Association via e-mail?

Receiving information in this method will also help us reduce our carbon footprint.

We promise you will not get bombarded with emails and your details will not be passed on to any third party

Email us on  
[getpluggedin@forumhousing.co.uk](mailto:getpluggedin@forumhousing.co.uk)



## CLARINS

### CLARINS PARTY NIGHT

House of Fraser Birkenhead

Thursday 22nd July 2010

6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start

*All their secrets (well, almost all!) will be revealed at the Clarins Beauty Party, an evening full of pampering treats, expert skin care advice and the latest make-up trends!  
With fantastic prizes to be won and a complimentary gift on departure, whatever your beauty needs, Clarins has the answer!*

Claire Griffiths  
Forum Housing Association  
Telephone: 0151 649 9718

Places are limited, so secure your booking by contacting Claire Griffiths. Tickets will be priced at £5.00 and all ticket sales will be donated to the Association.

*Don't forget to "Get Plugged In"*





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# **National Volunteer's Week 1st - 7th June 2010**

## **Want to Volunteer?**

Want to give something back to your local community and help people?  
Volunteering is a fantastic way to spend any spare time you might have making a  
difference to young people's lives

Please attend our Volunteers Fair on Thursday 3rd June 2010  
9:30am - 12:00pm in The Learning Centre,  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 84 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6HB.

If you would like any more information call Claire Griffiths or visit our website  
[www.forumhousing.co.uk](http://www.forumhousing.co.uk)



**0151 649 9718**