

Support Initiatives review 2006

For EPIC Trust and Supported Housing



EPIC Trust
Empowering People through
Independence and Choice

Extending our services across Circle Anglia



Left
Jitinder Kohli
Right
Robert Black

The launch of Circle Anglia is an exciting time for our supported housing, support and care services. It means we can help even more people live independently within their local communities across the country.

Residents living in London already receive their landlord services, such as rent collection and repairs, from a specialist Supported Housing Management Team, with extra care and support provided by EPIC Trust.

However, one of our priorities over the next year is to expand EPIC beyond London so that all of our residents receive services in the same way, regardless of where they live.

It's already happening in some areas – for example our tenancy support service has been integrated in London, Norfolk, Essex and Suffolk. Also, in East Anglia, we already provide a range of established and successful services, including The Vineries, the Foyers, and the Independent Living Centres, as well as the group's own sheltered housing services across the Eastern Region.

We're also talking to councils outside of London about providing their residents with the highly successful support services we already offer in the capital.

This report highlights some of the things we have achieved over the last year and focuses on the people we help. We hope you enjoy reading it.

Robert Black
Group Director of
Support Initiatives

Jitinder Kohli
Chair
EPIC Trust

Creating communities



The Vineries

Residents past and present celebrate The Vineries first year anniversary in Dagenham.

Mum's the word for Constance

New mum Constance Mulimira says she would be living on the streets with her baby if she hadn't been offered a place at The Vineries scheme for parents and young babies in Dagenham.

"This is a lovely community" she says.

"The manager and support workers are all helpful and I've made some friends among the other residents. I do find it hard

sometimes, but I'm coping OK. I don't know what I would have done without a place here."

Lynn brings scheme and community together

Brentwood Foyer Manager Lynn Maidment, and her team, organised an open day, so that local residents could see how the scheme supports young people and helps them explore their potential.

"Neighbours who had walked past the building every day since it was built told us that they didn't know we were here or what we did" she says.

"The residents were fantastic – they were quite happy to show people round their rooms and chat to visitors. And we've had some excellent feedback from local people."

Chamak is proud to live at Sonali Gardens

"I'm really happy and proud of my home at Sonali Gardens" says Chamak Ali. "I live at the heart of the Bangladeshi community, and everyone is really friendly."

"All the staff are helpful, and the supportive environment means that my quality of life has improved a great deal since I've been here."

"And there's always loads to do – everything from entertainment and keep-fit sessions to outings and lunches."



Happy and proud

Chamak Ali, lives at the award winning Sonali Gardens in East London.

Key achievements over the last year



Providing supported housing for over 3,350 people

Providing supported housing for 3,354 people including sheltered homes for older people and people with a wide range of needs, including learning disabilities, mental health issues and drug and alcohol problems.

Offering support packages tailored to people's individual needs through EPIC Trust and other specialist organisations. These help people to keep their tenancies, stay in their local communities and live more fulfilling and independent lives.

Completing Cutbush House (pictured top left) which supports 53 older residents, including people with learning disabilities, as part of our programme to redevelop five and refurbish four sheltered housing schemes in Islington. The recently opened Brightwell Court provides another 35 self-contained flats.



Picking up a 2005 Community Care Award for Sonali Gardens – an East London scheme that provides accommodation and support for older residents – and a Prince's Trust award for our Foyer for Ipswich youth scheme.



Winning an important award from the National Housing Federation for the way we work with Haringey Council to support vulnerable local residents and make sure their problems don't lead to them losing their tenancy.

Launching Alone in London's Good Practice Guide to mediating with young people and their families. The guide highlights how family mediation can help support vulnerable young people when they find themselves in difficulties.

Organising a wide range of activities, including a lunch club for Chinese Elders, a dance scheme for sheltered residents and local school children and even a unique Christmas lunch in Pentonville Prison!



Involving residents

Jeannie puts on her dancing shoes!

When Jeannie Clarke and the other residents at South Anglia's Buntingford sheltered scheme were asked how they wanted their communal room improved, they didn't hesitate. They now have a dance floor complete with silver glitter ball.

"This is something the residents specifically asked for and we were delighted to be able to give it to them" says Senior Scheme Manager Debby Burton.

"I've had a go on the new dance floor and its wonderful!" says Jeannie.



Glass act

Emilia's glass painting workshop helps service users explore their artistic side.

Emilia explores service users' creativity

Former EPIC staff member Emilia Cann-Sagoe now runs her own glass painting business and has been working with people with mental health needs to explore their artistic talents.

"The work produced by the service users has been outstanding" she says. "Working in a group has helped improve their confidence, which led to them sharing their creativity and life experiences."

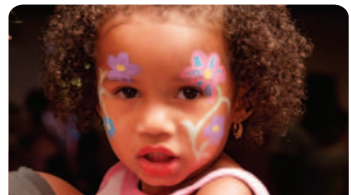
The service users agreed. As one said, it was "good for concentration and focus and reminding me of my creativity."

Stephen has his say

Islington sheltered resident Stephen Williams (pictured front cover) is a member of the EPIC Trust Board, which is made up of community representatives and service users.

He is really enjoying his role as he feels it has given him a real insight into what EPIC does.

"I want to help the people around me" he says. "Being a Board member means that EPIC can listen to and respond to the views of residents."



Award winning

Our HARTS for families service has won an award for helping Haringey residents to maintain their tenancy.

About Supported Housing and EPIC Trust

Circle Anglia's Supported Housing Department provides homes and landlord services for 3,354 people. It collects rent and service charges, arranges improvements and repairs and tackles problems like neighbourhood issues.

EPIC Trust, the group's specialist care and support partner, supports more than 4,500 service users.

These include Circle Anglia residents with a wide range of support needs, including older people, people with learning disabilities and mental health issues and people with alcohol and substance misuse problems.

EPIC Trust also provides support services to other residents on behalf of a number of local councils.

Some Circle Anglia residents currently receive their support from other agencies, especially if they live outside London. Our plan is to expand EPIC to cover all the areas where we provide supported housing.

Group Director of Support Initiatives

Robert Black

The Board

The EPIC Trust Board includes three people who use our services. Jermaine comes from The Vineries, our Independent Living Centre for young people in Dagenham, Stephen is a sheltered housing resident and Paul is a mental health service user.

Other members of the Board represent different parts of the local community and the agencies we work with to manage some of our more specialist schemes.

Independent members

Jitinder Kohli Chair

Stephen Foster

Pamela Mitcham

Gaynor Quilter

Pauline Sidebottom

Chander Hingorani

Sheena Lo

Liz Anderson

Agency Forum

David Fisher

Service users

Stephen Williams

Paul Stevens

Jermaine James

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