

Byker Hobby Rooms

Social Value Case Study



60

Students visited site



90

Primary school students received Get into STEM resources



692

Students participated in Building My Skills



£1000

Funding donated to a local community group



6

Work experience placements advertised



7

Apprentices used site for training

Byker Hobby Rooms

Byker Estate comprises of approximately 2,000 residential properties, with a mixture of low rise and high-rise terraced housing that were designed by the Architect Ralph Erskine. The Hobby Rooms were an integral part of Ralph Erskine's design, where residents could hold a host of communal activities. In July 2012 a stock transfer from Newcastle City Council was completed with Byker Community Trust, who became the owner of the properties.

This project comprised the site preparation, followed by the conversion of ten Hobby Rooms at various locations within the Byker Estate. The existing hobby rooms have been remodelled into dwellings on Byker Estate.

Get into STEM

Our award winning 'Get into STEM' workshops and kits provide primary school students from reception to year 2 with an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills through fun and interactive learning. St Lawrence's Primary School (0.1 miles from site) and Byker Primary School (0.4 miles from site) received our kit for a two-week period giving over 90 students in Year 1 and 2 access to the resources.

Charitable Provision

As part of the project we awarded £1000 to the PLAY in Newcastle via our Esh Communities scheme. Working in partnership with Byker Community Trust and St Michael's Church, they want to continue running the very successful junior youth club. The youth club has been very successful from day one with 15-20 people attending each session.

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We are very pleased to receive funding from Esh Communities as we have struggled to attain funding in the past. We are so grateful for this grant and it will be put towards keeping PLAY in Newcastle open providing after school activities and a healthy snack at tea time for children aged 5-12 years”

Peter Wood,
Director

Building My Skills

Our 'Building My skills' programme aims to provide young people with careers information and guidance on employability skills via the delivery of 5 workshops. The programme has been rolled out across 5 educational establishments in the local area with a total of 25 workshops being delivered to 692 students. Local schools who took part included; Discovery School, Excelsior Academy, Heaton Manor, Newcastle High School for Girls and St Cuthbert's Catholic High School. Students met an array of local businesses including Arup, Lloyds Bank, Newcastle Eagles, KPMG, NUFC and Accenture.

Apprentices

We provide a bespoke apprenticeship programme via Esh Academy, our in-house apprenticeship programme. During the project, this site accommodated two Esh Group apprentices who are studying Quantity Surveying at New College Durham and Leadership & Management at Newcastle College. This site was also used to assist our subcontractors with five additional apprentices, 3 of which studying electrical and two studying Level 2 & 3 in plumbing.

Work Experience

We are passionate about developing the workforce of the future helping students develop an insight into the skills and attitudes required by business and to raise their awareness of career opportunities within the construction sector.

This project enabled us to offer six work experience placements in various trades over the course of the works. These were advertised on our website, to local education establishments including Newcastle and Gateshead Colleges and to the local Job Centre Plus.

Stay Safe & Site Visits

This project presented a great opportunity to roll out our 'Stay Safe' campaign in the local community to raise awareness of what happens behind the site hoardings and highlight the dangers of construction sites.

We engaged with 60 pupils at St Lawrence's Primary School by delivering our site safety talk and taking them for a visit to one of the recently refurbished hobby rooms. Many pupils who attend the school live in the direct area of our work therefore the safety talk covered the key dangers of construction sites and carefully explained the nature of the work going on around them.



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