

Building Partnerships with Housing Associations

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a Charity that has been working with young people from all backgrounds for more than half a century. We are the leading youth achievement award in the UK. Over time, we build confidence, dedication and commitment, attributes we all want to see in our young people in the workplace and beyond.

Building a Brighter Future for Young People

It's a tough time to be a young person in Wales right now.

There are 200,000 children and young people living in Poverty in Wales, part of one of the richest countries in the world. The DofE in Wales operates in the 15 most deprived areas in Wales where communities often feel isolated and disengaged. Limited opportunities lead to a lack of self-esteem, aspiration and motivation as young people see their futures as pre-destined to be ones of hopelessness, disengagement and unemployment. The DofE challenges this directly by providing a flexible programme for positive development that can be adapted to the specific needs of any community.

The DofE is recognised nationally as the most valuable non-formal programme for young people with the highest impact on mobility and employability. It is those young people facing the biggest challenges for whom The DofE represents the most significant achievement.

We are working with young people in every community and from every walk of life to provide a solution. From housing associations to young mums groups, youth centres to secondary schools, young offenders institutions to police cadets.

Working alongside Housing Associations across the UK including *One Support, Viridian Housing, Affinity Sutton and Family Mosaic* we have developed a range of programmes currently being delivered in England. Together, by investing in the young people of today, we are investing in the community leaders of tomorrow – and helping our partners foster community cohesion at the most fundamental level.

At a time when young people face increasing social and economic challenges, we are proud to be working alongside Housing Associations, with whom we so closely share vision and principles.



Last year we calculated a social return of more than £36 million through DofE Volunteering activities.

We support more than 300,000 across the UK, with Wales representing just under 10% of our participation.

Our participation represents a diverse cross section, from Muslim only girl groups, to Welsh language and groups supporting young people with substance misuse problems.



“ The Duke of Edinburgh's Award offers something to young people of all backgrounds and I think there is something really powerful in that. Some of our young people have come from very challenging backgrounds, and the DofE gives them something they can excel at.

Our partnership with the DofE is giving the young people not in employment, education or training a framework to explore their own aspirations, something to drive them forwards and a way for us to reach out to the most excluded. ”

Kevin Beirne
Group Director of Housing Care & Support
One Housing Group

Building a brighter future for our communities

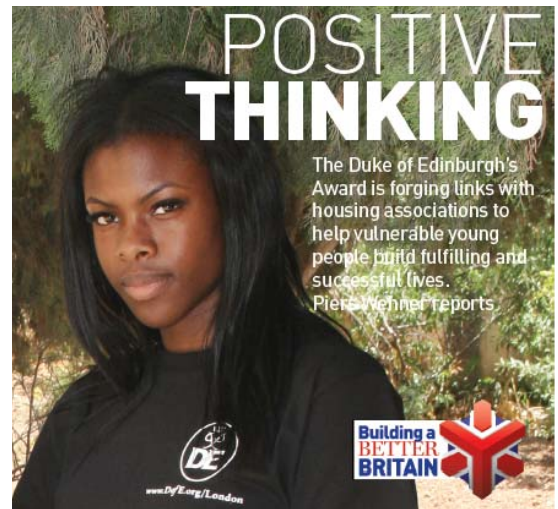
The DofE is committed to extending its reach to all young people. Our charity has been one of the first youth programmes to recognise the increasingly important role that Housing Associations have to play in strengthening the foundations of diverse communities and helping to build a stable future not just for commercial but for social stakeholders.

The diversity in the form of our emerging partnerships in England with organisations such as *One Support*, *Viridian Housing*, *Affinity Sutton* and *Family Mosaic* illustrate the diversity of the sector.

Affinity Sutton are delivering the DofE to the members of their Young People's Forum. *Viridian* have invested in peer Leadership.

One Support have integrated the DofE offer into their customer support plan so that all ongoing support work can be

accredited – motivating, recognising and rewarding young people on their journey through the service. Each partnership demonstrates how we can add value to each others work and maximise the lasting benefit to local communities.



Talk to us...

We understand that Housing Associations are different in terms of their structure and makeup but we are always interested in exploring new opportunities or partnerships that benefit young people in the communities which you service and support.

To arrange a meeting with us, please contact :

David Williams—Operations Officer (wales)

01874 623086

07967 620999

David.williams@dofe.org