

Changing lives by utilising Empty
Homes –

Safe homes for women and
children fleeing violence and abuse

Winner, the Preston Road Women's Centre



Creating sustainable solutions for women and children
in Hull

Services delivered – integrated service model from crisis intervention to recovery

- Specialist domestic abuse support – LA contract, Comic Relief, COVID-19
- **Safe dispersed accommodation**, (incl women with no recourse to public funds)
- **Affordable Justice Ltd Family Law firm**
- **Nursery 0-5s** – fee paying/LA contract
- **Accredited training**
- Volunteering programme –unrestricted funding
- **Charity shop**
- Young Women's participation and empowerment – Children in Need

The problem

- 10% growth in demand over the last few years
- Women's services have been decimated nationally as a result of public funding cuts
- ***Short term revenue funding addressing long term social need***



Why is Social Investment important?

- Alternative to grant and contract funding
- Asset backed investment helps to grow your balance sheet and bring you financial sustainability
- Direct route to scaling up – helping to create more beneficial impact through accessing the resource of Empty Homes housing
- Helps to increase your autonomy over service development

PRWC - Making it happen

- Three tranches of Empty Homes capital grants totalling £1 million 2012-2015
- £980 000 **loan** finance through Unity Trust Bank
- Rent optimised through registered social landlord trading arm
- Business plan for this initiative generates annual sustainable **surplus**
- Additional income streams through property management service – Safe as Houses

Our Empty Homes work

Before



Our Empty Homes work

After



Outcomes delivered

On average a woman will leave and return to a violent relationship 7 times before making a permanent break from the perpetrator

When we house and support women in these circumstances, they make a permanent break first time round

It can be done!

You Did it...



Any questions?

More information available at
[https://www.purplehouse.co.
uk/surviving-and-thriving-in-
the-womens-sector/](https://www.purplehouse.co.uk/surviving-and-thriving-in-the-womens-sector/)