



May 1st 2015

Ashley Community Housing secures funding from Big Potential Fund

Ashley Community Housing (ACH) has successfully secured £26,088 in funding from the Big Potential Fund to work with Baxendale. The grant is for Baxendale to carry out an initial piece of work to help ACH scope raising social investment to significantly improve our current Move On provision. Baxendale will draw on their wealth of experience in supporting social and community businesses to deliver the project.

Our Move On provision includes these high level targets:

- No tenant will return to homelessness within 6 months of moving on from our supported accommodation
- All tenants will access education, training and employment opportunities that reflect their capabilities, develop their resilience and support their progress towards long term career goals
- All tenants can access mental health support and move towards mental well-being and social inclusion.

The improvement to our Move On provision will be a vital step in helping our tenants transform their lives, as it is the next step they take to becoming fully self-sufficient. ACH's current offer of supported accommodation means our tenants have to leave when they find work, which can have a negative effect on their personal development. ACH currently offers access to a wide variety of training and support in our Move On provision, however a lack of Move On accommodation can hinder the tenant's progress. Through working with Baxendale we seek to scope and eventually secure investment that will allow us to offer Move On accommodation so that tenants can take time to settle into a new job and find a suitable home for themselves. Baxendale's experience of working with other community housing providers and their expertise in offering business support in the sector will be invaluable.

Big Potential is a **Big Lottery Fund** managed by Social Investment business that offers VCSE organisations the chance to consider the usefulness of social investment as part of its broader financing or fundraising strategy. The **Big Lottery Fund** supports the aspirations of people who want to make life better for their communities across the UK. They are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by the National Lottery and invest over £650 million a year in

projects big and small in health, education, environment and charitable purposes.

Since June 2004 they have awarded over £6.5billion to projects that make a difference to people and communities in need, from early years intervention to commemorative travel funding for World War Two veterans.

Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £33 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

For more information please see our website www.ashleyhousing.com or call 0117540433

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