



Our Members

Aldwyck

Arches

Axiom

Bournemouth
Churches

Brighter
Futures

Broadland

CCHA

Connect

Hastoe

Hendon
Christian

Hexagon

Hightown

Leeds
Federated

Leeds &
Yorkshire

Liverpool
Housing Trust

North Star

Shepherds
Bush

South Yorkshire

St. Vincents

Tyne

Homes for Cathy

'Homes for Cathy' is a group of housing associations that were formed in the 1960/70s and have come together to mark the 50th anniversary of the showing of the drama documentary 'Cathy Come Home' on BBC TV in November 1966 and to highlight the continuing needs of homeless people.

The 'Homes for Cathy' group will be organising a range of local and national events and initiatives in the months leading up to and around the anniversary.

Homelessness

The first TV showing of "Cathy Come Home" led to a public outcry about the problem of homelessness. Up and down the country people came together - often in partnership with their local churches - to form housing associations in their town or city to provide homes for homeless people. Despite housing associations and others building hundreds of thousands of homes over the last fifty years, the problem of homelessness has not gone away.

Today more and more families are being accepted as homeless by local authorities up and down the country and last Christmas over 100,000 children were in temporary accommodation. There is simply not enough affordable housing around to meet their housing needs.

Cathy Come Home

'Cathy Come Home' was written by Jeremy Sandford and directed by Ken Loach. The drama documentary highlighted the desperate plight of a homeless family in London in the 1960's and had a powerful effect on television viewers.

Years later in 1998, it was voted the 'best single television drama' in a Radio Times poll.

Cardboard Citizens

The Cardboard Citizens theatre group (www.cardboardcitizens.org.uk) has been working with homeless people in London since 1991.

On July 5th, they staged a very successful reworking of 'Cathy Come Home' at the Barbican Theatre in London which was followed by a discussion about homelessness involving Ken Loach, Shelter and others.

Members of the Homes for Cathy group supported the performance by purchasing tickets for staff members and sponsoring a film of the preparation for the performance.

A number of housing associations in the Homes for Cathy group have commissioned the Cardboard Citizens to perform the play in their local town or city later in the year to raise awareness of homelessness amongst local stakeholders, tenants and staff.



Raising the profile of homelessness

The 'Cathy Come Home' 50th anniversary is an opportunity to highlight the continuing plight of homeless people and the need for viable housing solutions to reduce the numbers of families in temporary accommodation.

Lobbying Politicians

Working with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, we hope to organise a showing of the film in Westminster in November for key politicians followed by a debate. A Parliamentary dinner and a reception are also being planned for the November period.

Education Pack

The Homes for Cathy group are putting together an 'education pack' to help teachers to involve teenagers in discussions and learning about the problems of homelessness.

Telling the Story

The individual housing associations in the Homes for Cathy group are, of course, regularly housing and supporting homeless people. We will be encouraging our tenants to speak about their own experiences to camera so that these short 'stories' can be posted on our websites for local and national media to pick up.

Working with Others

The Homes for Cathy group are working with the National Housing Federation (NHF), Shelter and Crisis. We hope to participate in the NHF Annual Conference in Birmingham in September. We are also exploring the idea of staging a concert in aid of Crisis in London.

Cathy Come Home: The Film

Housing associations in the Homes for Cathy group are also looking to organise showings of the original Cathy Come Home film in local cinemas up and down the country in November. The showings may be followed by a debate about homelessness involving local politicians and housing professionals.



More Information

The Homes for Cathy Group welcomes new member housing associations.

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 @Cathy_Homes
#HomesforCathy

 HomesForCathy