

New North London office open for business

We have just opened a second office in Finsbury Park. This allows us to house and support vulnerable people across London.

Although we have been only open a month or so, we have already housed over 20 clients.

It was always our plan to set up an office here but the timing had to be right. We have now recruited and trained a fantastic

team in South London and we are now confident that we can expand, whilst still retaining our extremely high quality standards.

Having an office here makes it easier for us to provide ongoing support and trouble-shooting to our clients, our landlords and the organisations that refer on to us.

This is only the first step. We have ambitious plans to set



Vision Housing as a social franchise working across the UK.

More announcements on this to follow.

Vision highlighted in the national media

The BBC Radio 4 Today programme highlighted Vision as an exemplar of how social enterprises could deliver public services:

In 2007, Annys Darkwa set up her own social enterprise to provide accommodation for newly released prisoners. All too often, newly released prisoners would be released on a Friday to a life of "sofa surfing" and in more than half of

cases, crime.

Vision Housing, now cares for 300 former prisoners and boasts astonishingly low re-offending rates of between 10 and 15%.

"So now if people are released on a Friday they come to us and within three hours they do have a key and they are put into accommodation.

"We estimate that we have saved the government £10m," says Mrs Darkwa.

In December, Sky News is scheduled to feature Vision and the issues facing released prisoners.

Response to the broadcast has been amazing and we are beginning to see real changes.



Our team is growing

We have just recruited two more resettlement workers for North and South London.

- We are also advertising for more resettlement workers (North and South) and an administrator for our North London Office.
- We will also be recruiting people to work directly in prisons across the UK.

If you are interested in any of the above roles, please contact **Lisa on 0208 648 0402.**

New clients sign up

We are delighted to announce that we now have an agreement with London Probation Service to house their clients across London.

In addition, we are pleased to welcome two new London Boroughs that will be working with us: Islington and Southwark.

More to follow!

195 Middleton Road
Carshalton
Surrey SM5 1HE

225-229 Seven Sisters Road
Finsbury Park
London N4 2DA

Oak foundation become our largest supporter

We are delighted to thank the Oak Foundation, who have become our largest funder. With their help we now have funds for our North London Office. for the next three years.



Oak foundation becomes our largest funder

We will use this funding as a platform to build a totally sustainable social enterprise and we are confident that we can do this.

We have also been extremely fortunate to receive so much support and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our funders (right).

Without them, we could not have achieved what we have.



Plus, the Wates Foundation and The Tudor Trust. Thanks!

New trustees join our management board

We are pleased to welcome the addition of Mark Collins, a BT Director, and James Webbe, a lawyer at Hogan Lovells LLP.

Adrian Gains is our full time chair and our vice chair is Faye Melly, management consultant at KPMG.

We are also fortunate to have Dominic Gurney Champion, a partner at Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP, Stephen Tutt,



an accountant at BNY Mellon and Helen Tugendhat, a human rights activist at Forest People.

Our company secretary is Brian Rush, a senior consultant at PA Consulting Group.

"I have been extremely fortunate for the support I have had from the board over the last three years. I didn't want a board then, but now I have to admit, I can't do without them." **Annys, Darkwa,**

Housing and supporting 300 people across London

We have now housed and are supporting over 300 people across London.

Our re-offending rate has remained very low (10-15%) and, shortly, PA Consulting Group will be conducting an independent evaluation of our outcomes.

Last month, we signed up to the European Action on Drugs and were awarded the Charter Mark for Social Enterprise.



"2010 has been a fantastic year. We have again doubled in size, opened a new office and our re-offending rate remains incredibly low. In a difficult economic climate, we have thrived. So much so, that government is taking a real interest in working with us. We welcome outcome based commissioning, the launch of the big society and are delighted that social enterprises will finally get a chance to deliver public services. 2011 will be an exciting year."

Adrian Gains, Chair

Contact

T: South London (0208) 648 0402
T: North London (0207) 619 3579
W: www.visionhousing.org.uk