



TRUTH ABOUT LIFE ON THE STREETS

A powerful new film capturing the lives of some of the young people caught up in their own housing crisis will be shown on TV this week.

The More4 documentary *Would You Take in a Stranger?* reveals the workings of the emergency accommodation service Nightstop UK, which matches ordinary families with young people who desperately need somewhere to stay.

The filmmakers follow three young people in trouble, including Dandi (above), a 21-year-old who has been using Nightstop on and off because of a difficult relationship with her mum. Nicola Harwood, head of Nightstop UK, a project led by charity Depaul UK, described the documentary as “a powerful and compelling portrayal of what we do with nothing left out: the heartache, difficulties, tears and joy”.

Would You Take in a Stranger? is on More4, Tuesday, July 11 at 10pm.

NEW MODEL FOR AFFORDABLE HOMES

ADAM FORREST

Instead of waiting for the Government or big developers to ease the housing crisis, one community group in Cornwall has shown it is possible to get stuck in and get genuinely affordable new homes built.

The Cornwall Community Land Trust is celebrating the construction of 200 affordable homes over the past 10 years. Part of a growing movement of community land trusts shaking things up across the country, the Cornwall CLT was set up a decade ago to combat rising house prices and the popularity of visitor-owned second and third homes in the area.

“I believe we make the difference between families barely existing and being able to live bigger lives to a greater potential,” said director Andrew George. “We’ve shown we can do it.”

Keziah Mannering, her fiancé Callum Wilson and their new baby Albie have just moved into a house in the CLT’s most recent development – Briar Close in St Teath. The house was priced at only 56 per cent of open market value because of terms set by the CLT at the outset of the project.

Keziah and baby Albie



WHAT’S A CLT?

- A community land trust (CLT) is a small organisation set up and run by people to build or restore homes for community use. There are 225 with plans to build 3,000 homes by 2020.
- If a CLT can obtain land or secure a long-term lease it can dictate the terms of rent or insist on sale conditions for new homes. The model allows the trust to make sure the asset is affordable for future residents.

As *The Big Issue* has explored in recent months, if a CLT can afford to either buy or get access to land on a bigger development site, it can dictate rent levels or sale prices, even linking prices to average earnings in the area.

“I lived at my mum’s house for three-and-a-half years, trying desperately to save for a mortgage”, said Keziah. “Starting a family it was important to me to have a home in St Teath as many of my family live here but I thought there was no way I could afford anything. We feel very lucky.”

Cornwall CLT has been involved in the building homes at 20 developments in the county, either directly or assisting smaller groups. And their efforts have been boosted with the recent news that Cornwall has received £5 million of funding to scale up community-led housing development.

“Many people are in the situation that where they’ve grown up, through no fault of their own, they may never be able to afford a house, even when they have good jobs,” said the CLT’s development manager Helen Downing. “That’s where we come in to try and bridge the gap. We’ve got a proven model and we just need to keep expanding it.”



ROLL UP FOR THE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OSCARS!

Each year, the brightest brains behind the best social enterprises in the UK step into the spotlight at the UK Social Enterprise Awards 2017.

Celebrating business excellence and outstanding

contributions to society, all social enterprises can apply, and there are specific categories that investors, corporates, public sector bodies and charities can apply for. And we are delighted to announce that *The Big Issue* is

a sponsor of the 2017 Awards. Winners will be announced at a ceremony and gala dinner in a central London venue on Thursday November 23.

There are 13 categories in total and this year we’ve added two new ones – Tech for Good

and Community Business of the Year.

The closing date for entries is July 14, so be quick off the mark!

Read more about the SEUK Awards at bigissue.com