

21 December 2010

## Rough sleeper project gets more financial support

A Barnstaple-based charity that helps to improve the lives of homeless and vulnerable people has been given another cash boost.

Freedom Social Projects has been awarded £33,000 by the Homes and Communities Agency to make additional refurbishments to its centre on Howard Avenue. In addition grants totalling £18,500 has been received from the Safer Devon Partnership, supported by Safer North Devon, to develop a range of social enterprise initiatives.

Over the past two years, with support from North Devon Council, the charity has secured almost £174,000 from the 'Places of Change' government grant programme. This recent award takes their total funding to just over £225,000.

Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Brian Moores says: "This is another fantastic achievement for the team and shows a real endorsement to the work they do. The council is pleased to continue to support this project."

Project Manager for Freedom Social Projects, Phil Noall says: "We are delighted to have been awarded this additional grant which will allow us to complete the developments started in January 2009. The Freedom Centre is an amazing facility for vulnerable people in North Devon and we are grateful for the council's ongoing support"

The Freedom Centre is unique in North Devon and offers an open access day centre for homeless and vulnerable people, education and training programmes, such as life skills courses, basic IT skills, back to work training and healthy living programmes using the centre's gym facilities. The day centre also gives access to basic services such as food, clothes, showers, advice and recreation

For advice about homelessness and housing options:

Phone: 01271 327711

Email: [customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@northdevon.gov.uk)

Web: [www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing](http://www.northdevon.gov.uk/housing)