

£1million ‘Making Homes’ funding success for YMCA

The YMCA working in partnership with four local authorities in the North West region has secured a **£1 million** funding grant from the Empty Homes Community Grant Programme. Carlisle City Council is one of the partner authorities the YMCA will be working with and **£540,000** has been secured for the area which will be used to bring **45** empty properties back into use by December 2014. The funding has been provided as part of the Governments strategy to deliver at least 3,300 affordable homes across the country by March 2015.

The ‘Making Homes’ programme will involve Fylde Coast YMCA working closely with the Council and local landlords who have properties in the area that have been empty for at least 6 months and require investment to bring them back into use. The funding has been provided through the Governments Affordable Homes Programme 2011-15 therefore all the properties will be made available as affordable housing to people who have the greatest housing needs in the City.

John Cronin, Fylde Coast YMCA’s Executive Director said ‘we are very excited about securing this funding which will enable us to work in partnership with the Council to secure much needed access to affordable homes for those people who need it most’.

Cllr Jessica Riddle, Portfolio holder for Communities and Housing, said:

“We delighted that more than half a million pounds has been secured to bring empty properties back in to use. Empty properties are a blight on local communities and can often attract vandalism and cause considerable distress to neighbouring property owners and tenants. At a time of increased housing need, this is a brilliant opportunity for properties which been off the market for a long time to be brought back into use.”

The YMCA will also be working with Wyre Council, Fylde Borough Council and South Lakeland District Council and nationally received the fourth largest funding allocation.

Landlords wanting to enquire about how they could get involved in the ‘Making Homes’ programme should contact Tim Linford on 01228 510036.

Notes:

Media contact: Grant Sellars, Business Development Manager, 01253 895115 (ext 2025).



