



Green Gown  
Awards 2014

Finalist's case study



Dissemination  
supported by:



# Hull College

## Social Responsibility

### East Hull Voids Transform Lives



#### Section 1 About the project

##### Summary

The project has fully transformed run-down and in some cases derelict properties that have been empty for over 3 years into contemporary, affordable homes for families in need. This has provided 'real life' work-based learning opportunities, with these working classrooms offering students invaluable experience whilst being supported by their tutors.

##### Project partners

Partners involved in the project include PROBE (HULL) Ltd, Hull City Council, Homes and Communities Agency and private sector supporters.

##### Profile

- Further and Higher Education
- Over 27,000 students (includes full and part time students)
- Grade 1 – 'Outstanding'
- Urban/Rural locations

#### Section 2 The results

##### The problem

The project addresses 2 problems:

1. Providing valuable and appropriate work experience for students undertaking construction related qualifications,
2. Refurbishing derelict properties within local neighborhoods to provide quality affordable social housing.

##### The approach

The project identifies void properties that have been empty for over 3 years. The properties are in a poor state and require extensive refurbishment, in order to return them to the social housing market. A comprehensive schedule of works is then prepared by students and their tutors to identify the level of refurbishment required (which incorporates the individual course timetables and their content). Tutors and Curriculum Leaders are then fully aware of their course requirements and when their groups are scheduled to be on site.

The void property is managed as a small construction site and students are expected to treat the experience as a real working environment, although tutors and assessors are always available to provide ongoing support and guidance. Onsite activities enable tutors to teach in 'real life' environments, where unforeseen problems are likely to occur, unlike simulated classroom learning.

##### Our goals

- For students to gain supported work experience opportunities, within a managed working environment,
- To engage with learners and offer non-traditional ways of learning,
- To 'test' new working methods and green technologies, in a real working environment,
- Increase the employability skills of all students involved on the project,
- Community engagement,

- Showcase students work and talents at a national level, and been an example of best practice for the delivery of community economic regeneration.
- To provide quality, affordable accommodation that achieves budgets and timescales.

### Obstacles and solutions

Obstacles	Solutions
Student Engagement	For the project to be successful, the students have to be fully engaged. This has been achieved, by giving them the full background of the project and how their individual role plays a significant part in the project's achievements.
Project Delivery – achieving budget and timescales	Providing a comprehensive schedule of works at the start of the refurbishment, so that all Tutors/Curriculum Leaders know when they are expected to be on site for their area of work. Classroom learning prior to this helps prepare the students for the tasks that they will be undertaking onsite. A detailed budget is agreed at the start, by all parties, to ensure cost efficiencies and sustainability can be achieved.
Providing additional learning for students	As well as classroom based and on site learning, students are encouraged to use digital technology to support their development. Recorded activities are available on the Colleges' Virtual Learning Environment and can be downloaded by students using Quick Response codes which are located near relevant work areas. Students can access these by using their own mobile devices at anytime. An onsite webcam is used as a learning tool for tutorials to a wider audience, which allows learning in the classroom to be brought into real life.

### Performance and results

- By March 2015, Hull College will have refurbished 12 void properties within Hull,
- To date, over 300 students, with an average of 25 learning hours each, have gained work experience through the project,
- The partnership is considered to be an example of best practice and has received much recognition by the funding bodies and other agencies,

## Section 3 The future

### Lessons learned

Planning and engagement by all parties is key to the success of the project.

### Sharing our project

The success of the project has been communicated through the local media and social media sites, as well as Hull College's website. The project has generated a lot of interest and has seen visits from many politicians and Government Office representatives.

### What has it meant to your institution to be a Green Gown Award finalist?

"Hull College Group are extremely proud to be part of such a fantastic and prominent sustainability initiative. Our commitment and hard work towards Green Energy shines through in our sustainable projects throughout



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the Group's campuses and it would be a real honour to see these efforts recognised with such a prestigious award." Graham Towse, Principal at Hull College

#### Further information

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