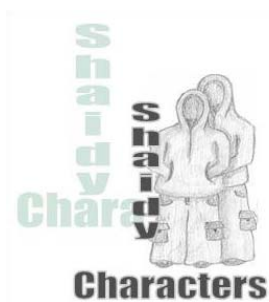


## Homeless Young Person's Education



Shaidy Characters is a project in Derwentside, County Durham involving young people who have experienced homelessness. Since 2004, the group have become well known in their local community, campaigning to raise awareness about youth homelessness, through peer education, consultation with other young people and two successful SPEAKOUT conferences.

Homelessness is a problems that many young people have to deal with on a day to day basis. There can be a number of issues for the young person to come to terms with and several agencies may become involved. For a young person, this can be very confusing and they often feel their views are overlooked.

Through our consultations and projects, Shaidy Characters have identified a need for training, so workers can understand more about a homeless person's real experience and become better equipped to deal with the multiple issues that can arise. Over the past year several young people have been trained to put together a workshop for workers. Some of the group have now delivered workshops and presentations to over 60 people through Tenant's Participation Advisory Service (TPAS). The workshops are delivered by young people who have experienced homelessness first hand and are highly interactive and participatory.

Participants will receive:

- An excellent day's training, certificated through County Durham Learning
- Resource pack to use within your own organisation to cascade good practise,
- Buffet lunch, plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits,
- Mystery prizes
- Despite the serious subject we hope everyone will also have a good time and a bit of a laugh!

**This training is suitable for:**

- Housing workers who would like to know more about young people's issues,
- Youth and community workers who would like to know more about homelessness and housing options
- Managers who feel they have become "removed" or out of touch with their service users, and
- Any other professional who works in the field of youth work, housing education, employment, youth crime, drugs and alcohol, mental health.....and all the other issues that are associated with homelessness.

**The young people will present:**

- The reality of their personal experience of homelessness and how it has affected their life,
- Their experience, with pros and cons, of homeless services and the housing options open to them,
- How to improve service delivery to be come more responsive to homeless people's needs.

**The training will help participants:**

- Understand the consequences of youth homelessness on both the individual and society,
- Identify risk factors in a young person's life, which are likely to result in homelessness,
- Recognise the practical and emotional support that might be needed by a young person who is homeless and also when maintaining a tenancy for the first time,
- Identify appropriate services that may be able to help a young homeless person.

**There are four sessions to choose from;**

- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November

**The training will be held at the Greenhouse, Annfield Plain/ Greencroft, starting at 10.30 am and ending at 4.00 pm.**

**In order to cover overheads, the cost of the training is £50.00 per person. This must be paid in advance and is non-refundable unless at least seven day's notice is given for cancellation. Places are limited and the deadline for booking places is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007.**

To book your place return the attached form as soon as possible to Sam Gibson at:

**Address:** Shaidy Characters  
SHAID  
Tommy Armstrong Centre  
Clifford Road  
Stanley  
Co. Durham  
DH9 0XG

**Telephone:** 01207 218850/43

**Email:** [shaidychararacters@googlemail.com](mailto:shaidychararacters@googlemail.com)

If you would like further information please feel free to get in touch with Jane Williamson (Projects Coordinator) at the same address.