

Housing scheme launched to help young people in Medway

An accommodation service for young people in Medway was officially launched on 18 September.

The Shaftesbury Young People Supporting People service offers housing and planned support to 33 vulnerable young adults with support needs. This is provided through the Medway 25 service – offering a range of accommodation to 25 service users in locations in the Medway area and to 8 young people at Doust House in Rochester.

Shaftesbury Young People also provides other supported housing services for young people and services for care leavers, young people Looked After in residential care and those struggling in the education system. The charity works in London, the south east, the Midlands and East Anglia. More familiar to Medway residents as Shaftesbury Homes and Arethusa, the charity also runs the Arethusa Centre at Upnor, which offers outdoor education and personal development activities to 8000 young people a year.

Acting Chief Executive of Shaftesbury Young People, Andy Haines, welcomed some 50 guests including a number of young people who have already received support from the service. Medway Council's Director of Adults and Children, Rose Collinson and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services Cllr Les Wicks were at the event.

Cllr Wicks said: "This scheme enables young people to maintain their tenancies as well as gaining or re-learning the life skills necessary to lead independent lives. This scheme contributes to the council's core values, one of which is to promote independence for vulnerable adults."