

Latch Information

Latch is a unique independent charitable organisation that refurbishes derelict and run-down houses in Leeds. When they're fully modernised and furnished, our properties provide supported housing for people who are homeless or in housing need and are ready to make a positive change in their lives. Latch was established in 1989.

Latch has 75 flats and houses in Chapeltown, Harehills, East End Park and Burley, providing fully furnished supported housing for families and single people. Our housing is dispersed across these neighbourhoods and Latch support workers provide a visiting support service to tenants. We are planning to have 80 properties by 2020.

Latch takes referrals from Housing Options, other voluntary and statutory agencies and self-referrals. Tenants have a range of support needs, including people who've experienced mental health problems, domestic violence, drug and alcohol problems, and ex-offenders.

Latch has 17 members of staff and is organised into two services:

1. Supported Housing

All Latch tenants have a named support worker who works with them to:

- Set up and sustain their tenancies so that they don't become homeless again.
- Develop a range of skills so that they can move to independent living.
- Identify and take steps towards achieving their personal goals.

Latch is working towards becoming a Psychologically Informed Environment, an approach to supporting people out of homelessness.

Latch also delivers tenancy management functions, including lettings and allocations, rent collection and arrears management and dealing with breaches of tenancy.

This team includes the following roles: Business and Supported Housing Manager, Rents and Tenancies Worker, Personal Coach, 3x Housing Support Workers. The Office Administrator works across both teams.

2. Property Services

This service is responsible for maintenance, repairs, voids works and safety inspections on Latch properties. It delivers the empty homes programme, purchasing and refurbishing empty homes to increase Latch's housing stock, and explores other options for property development. It incorporates the volunteer and trainee programme, providing opportunities for people to gain skills and experience through working on Latch properties.

This team includes the following roles: Property Services Manager, Property Refurbishment Lead, Property Management Lead, Refurbishment and Training Worker, 4x Property Services Workers and a Volunteer Worker.