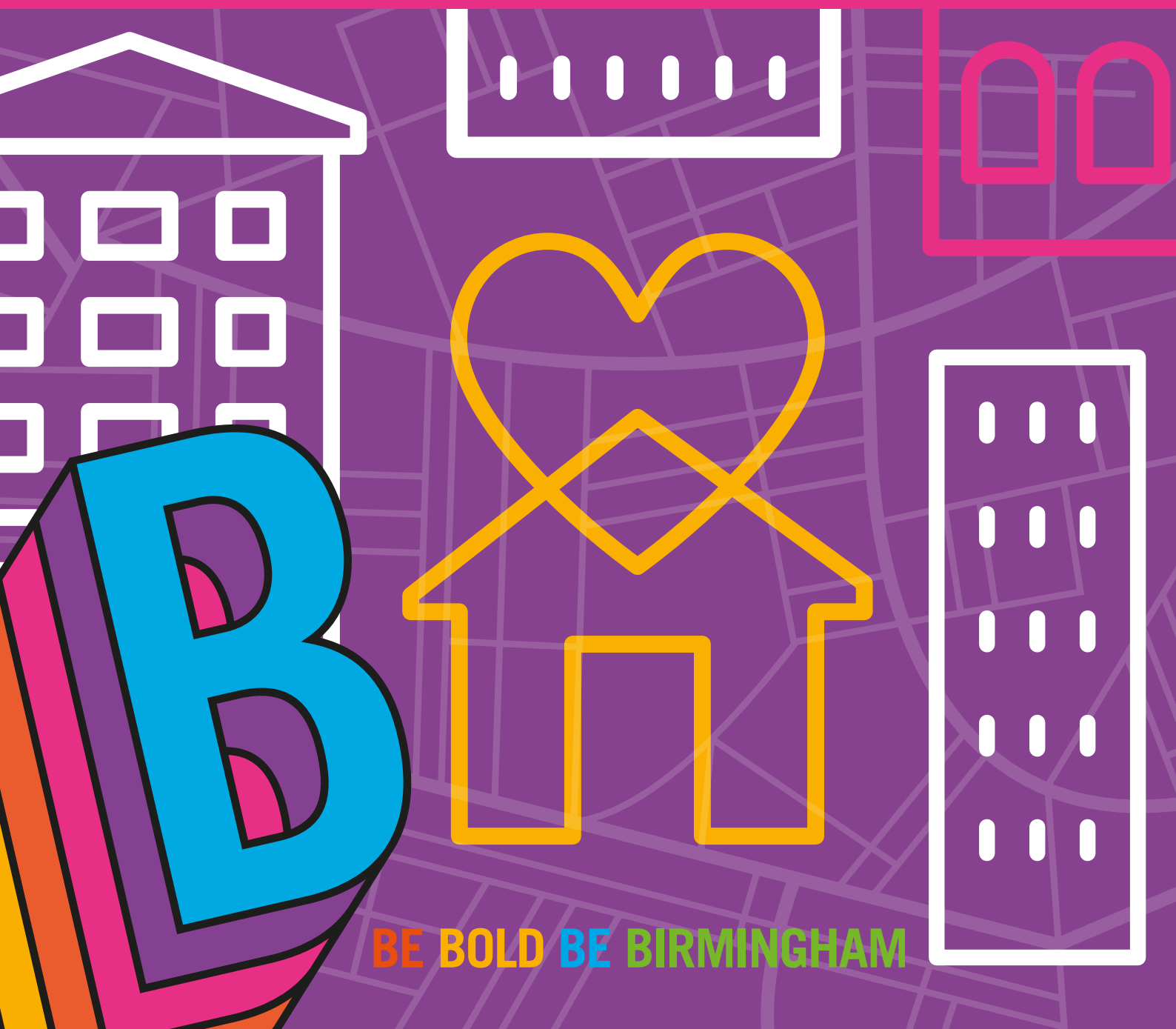


Issue 3

FOCUS

TENANT

Your regular housing updates



BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM

FOCUS

TENANT

WELCOME TO TENANT FOCUS

In this edition of Tenant Focus, we wanted to highlight some of the great work done in local communities by our contractors, Fortem and Equans, who as well as repairing and maintaining our council properties undertake some 'social added value' work, to give back to the local community. This can be in the form of supporting local charities, staff volunteering

drives, or through their hiring of local people into internships and work programmes. We hope that the information provided in this issue shows not only the variety of ways in which both contractors seek to help those in Birmingham, but also of the dedication of contractor staff in finding worthwhile local causes to dedicate time and financial resources.





Since 2016 Fortem have invested £2 million in Birmingham communities, Below is a snapshot of their most impactful support



Image: Jonathan Morgan, Yvette Steinbergen, Kevin Weaver ready to serve breakfast to their clients



Sifa Fireside

Sifa Fireside offers support to the homeless community in Birmingham, which includes help and advice on addiction support, housing, benefits, dental and health checks.

Since 2016, Fortem's staff have served over 4,320 meals, completed 999 hours of volunteer time, and completed 6 upgrade and repair projects for the building.



Image: Melinda Simon and Tristan Dovey to serve breakfast to their clients



Acorns Children's Hospice

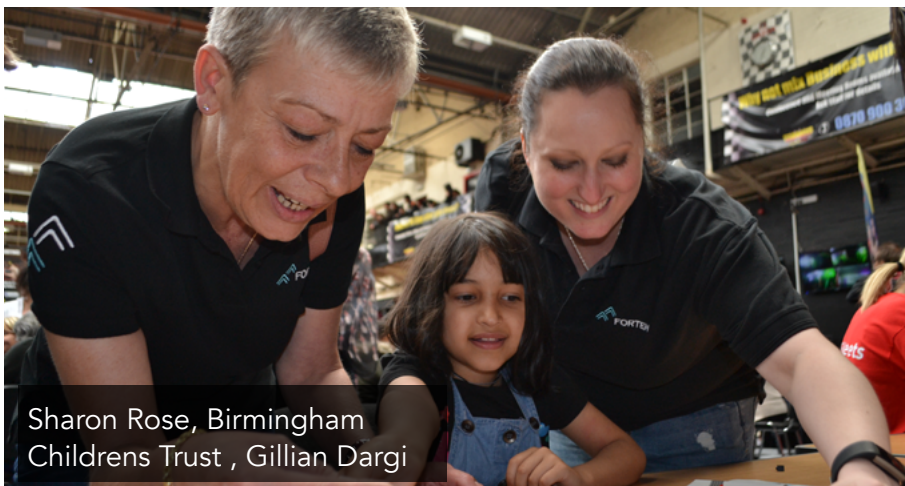
Each year, Fortem works with Acorn's children hospice to complete essential repairs and maintenance works to the building, including bereavement suite upgrades, replacing the summer house, and fitting a new kitchen and ceiling. Fortem has also donated £6,000 worth of materials since 2016 and completed 1,124 hours of volunteer time. Each year Fortem donates the Christmas tree and lights for the children in the hospice and lends support during open days to raise funds for the hospice.



Image: Acorns Children's Hospice - **Back row** - Steve Jones, Michael Kenny, Michael Hickey, Charlie Johnson Rod Tapper
Front row – Ezra Falconer, Mel Checkley, Work experience student



Left image: Acorns Children's Hospice - Lilly Daniels, Barrington, **Front** – Mel Checkley and Victoria Young



Sharon Rose, Birmingham Childrens Trust , Gillian Dargi



**BIRMINGHAM
CHILDREN'S TRUST**

Birmingham Children's Trust

Fortem supports the work of Birmingham Children's Trust, from organising events and parties to financial donations to renovate their centres.

Since 2016, Fortem has invested £36,000 in the St Andrews contact centre, and a further £98,000 invested in the Charles House contact centre. Fortem is the only repair contractor in Birmingham to pilot the Trust's mentor scheme for care leavers, and Fortem uses their dress down money to fund a children's party for 3 care homes.



Left image: Birmingham Children's trust (Charles House) – **Back row** Natalie Loon, Mel Checkley Jake Hughes, and Mike Jennings
Front – resident that uses Charles House and Birmingham Lord Mayor



Equans has an annual commitment of £6.8million for social value work. Since their contract started over £2m has been delivered.

This has meant:



32 LOCAL APPRENTICESHIPS CREATED



63 WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS



12 EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS WORKSHOPS DELIVERED



186 HOURS VOLUNTEERING ON LOCAL COMMUNITY PROJECTS



£4,000 RAISED BY THE TEAM FOR LOCAL CHARITIES



OVER £6,000 SUPPORT FOR ST BASILS YOUNG PERSONS HOMELESSNESS CHARITY

EDAC SAFE AT HOME



To work to provide practical support for survivors of domestic abuse, Equans is a member of Employers Domestic Abuse Covenant (EDAC). As part of this scheme, they provide a free security camera, lighting and installation to help reduce the risk of post separation abuse and harassment. The new 'Safe at Home' programme will launch in October initially being piloted for BCC residents. To date, Equans have donated £1,000 to purchase camera equipment and will provide operatives for the installations.

EASTER HUB

Equans support Birmingham Children's Trust's Easter Hub, with donations of Easter treats donated by Equans staff. This year also saw donations from the Chair of Sutton Housing Liaison Board along with Park Court Residents Group.



Image: On the left is Donna Prescott, Deputy manager and Sarah Fisher, Scheme Manager

APPRENTICESHIP UPDATE

Currently Equans have 27 apprentices across Birmingham and over the course of the contract, Equans has committed to creating 32 apprenticeships for local people, alongside working with the city's schools and colleges to provide work experience and careers advice.



Left to Right: Sam Evans, Leo Heath, Zohaib Ali, Ali asuhabi, Kieran ward and Jaheim Thomas

6 new apprentices have been recruited in 2022, undertaking apprenticeships in Carpentry, Plumbing and Electrical with South and City College. Equans are also working with supply chain

partners to increase the number of opportunities for apprentices across new programmes. Paul Bingham, Regional Director at Equans, said: "As part of our work in Birmingham, it's really important that we are

able to leave a lasting legacy for residents of the city by creating these opportunities to embark on a new career in construction, whilst learning skills that will last a lifetime'.





F **TENANT**OCUS

If you would like to get involved and work with us to improve your neighbourhood and the services you receive, please go online to complete our **'Get Involved'** form here:
Resident Involvement Questionnaire |
Resident Details (birmingham.gov.uk)



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