

Supported housing boost for young lives

ST Christopher's Church, Holme Wood, in partnership with local charity Impact Community Developments, has launched a new supported housing initiative that will help vulnerable young people make the most of their lives.

Sir David Sieff, formerly of Marks & Spencer, presented a tree in the grounds of Purbeck Court, Holme Wood, in Bradford at the end of September to mark the start of extensive renovation work to transform two derelict blocks of flats into modern, safe and supportive accommodation. Impact

Community Developments is driving the project under the charity's new 'Impact Living' banner.

Impact Living encapsulates the charity's holistic approach to housing provision which goes far beyond bricks and mortar to include support for young adults with everything from job seeking to healthcare.

Canon Gordon Dey, vicar of St Christopher's, said: "Impact will renovate the flats and administrate the tenancies, while St Christopher's Youth Project will be involved with Impact in recruiting tenants

and providing individual Christian support to enable them to live independently within two years and will offer a wide range of activities to complement the individual support.

"We have recently employed an additional youth worker, Fiona MacKay, to strengthen the capacity of our team to offer continual support, social activities, skills training, and to integrate this new project with the rest of our work in Holme Wood. In partnership with Impact we'll also work at maintaining good relationships with local residents".

The apartments, which had previously

been earmarked for demolition, will be renovated and furnished, featuring new central heating, carpets and fitted kitchen. Extensive landscaping will transform the site externally. Within the grounds there will be a new communal facility with coffee and breakfast bar, mini gym and free internet facilities. Safety support workers will also be available 24 hours a day, and lighting and CCTV will ensure safety for all residents.

The fast-track refurbishment, when complete in early December, will provide modern, fully-furnished flats for up to 30 young adults.