

# FINAL Telegraph & Argus

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by **SARAH WALSH**

*T&A Reporter*

A dingy tower block is being transformed into a homely, stylish 'des res' for 11 young people under a pioneering new project.

The flats in Park Road, Little Horton, Bradford, had become so run down that the council found it impossible to rent them out.

The stairwell had been used as a toilet, some flats had been burnt out and the filthy block had become a hangout for young drug users.

Now young people who will move into the flats are busy rolling their sleeves up and helping transform the Haselbury House flats into the plushiest in the district.

They are pitching in with redecoration work, putting in stairwell carpeting, hanging pictures on the walls and creating communal rooms and training facilities.

The project is a joint effort between the Christian charity Impact, based on the Canterbury estate; Integra, a



**WORKLOAD:** *The team hard at work helping transform the flats*

Europe-funded youth training scheme; and the young people themselves.

When finished, the flats will be offered to vulnerable young people, aged 18 to 30, who are living independently for the first time.

Some are those who have left council care, others have had to leave the family home for differ-

ent reasons. There will be support workers and job training facilities on the ground floor of the block, helping to create a 'community' atmosphere.

Nigel Delaney, of Impact, said that the charity was bearing the cost of renovation, but they had been helped by several local firms which had offered good deals on paint and carpets as

well as members of the Wyke Christian Fellowship.

"When we moved in, the smell just hit you - it had been used as a dosshouse," Mr Delaney recalled.

"When it is finished there will be a different feeling than in the other blocks around here - it will be a much more homely sort of place."

**BRADFORD:** *Project will give young people advice on budgeting and employment*

## Scheme may provide housing for homeless

A block of Bradford Council flats could be used in a new scheme to provide long-term rented accommodation and support for homeless young people.

The Council's housing services sub-committee will be asked to provide a block of about ten flats and maisonettes in the Park Lane area of Bradford, off Manchester Road.

Experts would help young people to address the problems which made them homeless and develop skills including budgeting and home maintenance.

They would also be given advice about training to help them get jobs and encouraged to become involved in recreation and social activities.

The project, for 18 to 25-year-olds, would be run in partnership with Impact, a Bradford voluntary organisation which works with young people at risk. Impact was formerly part of Lighthouse Outreach which has many years of experience providing accommodation for homeless youngsters and helping them to integrate into the local community.

Sub-committee chairman Councillor Jim O'Neill said he "wholeheartedly" supported the project. If the sub-committee approved the scheme work would start in late spring on improving communal facilities in the five-storey block.

Plans include a video-audio door entry system, better lighting, a laundry area, card phone and mail boxes.