

Guest Blog: Breathing New Life into Communities

The funding for estate regeneration has changed over the years, with the focus shifting from improving current buildings, to tearing them down and starting again. What doesn't change though is the need to build and support our communities living across our estates and that a lot of what we see as "regeneration" can be achieved using the skills of our local people. "Do It Yourself" regeneration will often achieve the things that local people really care about rather than delivering a corporate vision, and while it is inherently low scale it delivers ownership and self confidence, and very often challenge. Using local skills, building a framework for involvement and support and then allowing the conversation to go wherever it needs to go, allows regeneration and community development to deliver locally, In Poole this has seen the development of numerous community gardens, a wide range of health, wellbeing and creative arts opportunities, the delivery of Fareshare across the town, and securing grant funding to build play areas, skate parks and a range of children facilities. In addition there are involved, happy and challenging residents', who are keen to do more, support their neighbours, and who shape the place they live and the services they receive. Regeneration on the quiet or local residents just doing what they do? Either way I am very proud that they live in PHP homes and contribute to so much of what PHP does.



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This blog has been prepared to support Su's workshop at NFA Annual Conference 27th – 28th April 2017