



News Release

Date:	June 2nd 2014
Subject:	Vulnerable tenants gain easier access to rentals bonds and specialist support thanks to The DPS

£20,000 has been paid out to housing sector charities around the country as The Deposit Protection Service (DPS) makes the first grants from its Charity Donations Fund.

Charities in Liverpool, Rochdale and Darlington have been successful in obtaining donations from the fund, which has been established to support initiatives which directly improve the provision of housing, with a particular focus on the private rented sector.

The successful applicants are the 700 Club, based in Darlington; The Sanctuary Trust, located in Rochdale; and The Homesavers Charity, which operates from West Kirby, in the Wirral.

The 700 Club, which helps homeless people achieve independence in safe, sustainable accommodation has received £7,500 from The DPS. CEO John Elliston said "The grant from The DPS will be used to enhance the Bond Deposit Scheme, extending the service it offers to the most chaotic and difficult clients who would usually be excluded from the private rented sector."

£5,000 has gone to the Sanctuary Trust, a charity working with homelessness and complex homeless related issues. "Following recent austerity-related cuts in funding, the donation from The DPS will allow us to continue our personal development programmes which would otherwise have ceased operation" said David Lackner-Smith, CEO.

Homeless people in Merseyside will find it easier to get a property thanks to the £7,500 donated to The Homesavers Charity, which assists the homeless and people in danger of becoming homeless as well as people on low incomes, by providing tenancy deposits. Laura Mahon, Charity Secretary, said "We're delighted that this donation will help provide up to 20 tenancy deposits for individuals and families in housing need, enabling them to obtain a tenancy through the private rental sector."

NEWS RELEASE

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Donations are awarded quarterly, with a total pot of £20,000 available to charities in the UK each time. DPS' director Kevin Firth is proud of the difference the donations will make: "We're passionate about making it easier for vulnerable people to gain access to quality, long-term rental properties – and working with local housing charities is the ideal way to help with this.

"Our donations to charities near Manchester, Liverpool and Darlington are the first step towards this aim – with £20,000 available each quarter for successful applicants we believe we can make a significant difference to the challenges the homeless face around the UK."

Isobel Thomson, Chief Executive of the National Approved Letting Scheme was one of the judges: "It is a privilege to be able to help with the awards for The DPS Charity Donations Fund – and I look forward to seeing the progress the charities make with their awards."

Charities focused on the housing sector can apply for funds via The DPS' website at <http://www.depositprotection.com/charity>. Applications for the second quarter's awards need to be submitted by June 30 2014.

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Information for Editors

- 1. Pictures of donations being handed over are available on request**
- 2. Kevin Firth and the charity spokespeople are available for interview on request**
- 3. Further information on the 700 Club - 01325 366397**
- 4. Further information on The Sanctuary Trust - 01706 345017 or email admin@sanctuarytrust.org.uk**
- 5. Further information on the Homesavers Charity - 0151 625 4549**
- 6. Full information on The DPS' Charitable Donations Fund, including how to apply, can be [found here](#).**

About The DPS

The Deposit Protection Service is the custodial tenancy deposit protection scheme accredited by the Government. It is provided free of charge, and funded entirely by the interest earned from deposits held in the scheme. The DPS was approved by the UK government to run an insured TDP scheme in September 2012 in addition to the approval it has already been granted by the UK government in respect of the custodial scheme. The DPS is run by [Computershare Investor Services PLC](#). Online self-service allows landlords to register and make deposit payments, transfers and repayments 24 hours a day. Help and advice is available through a dedicated call centre during office hours. An impartial Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) service, helps to resolve any disputes quickly and without the need for court action. For more information, visit www.depositprotection.com

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