

FRESH START

Thanks to the ongoing generosity and support from numerous congregations across Edinburgh, Fresh Start has successfully secured new contracts from Edinburgh Council that will allow them to continue to deliver their Starter Pack, Hit Squad and Befriending Services for the next three years.

These services will be offered as part of a package delivered in partnership with Bethany, The Rock Trust, Move On and the Salvation Army, which will enable up to 2,500 new tenants throughout the city to set up and maintain their home each year. Through this new consortium, tenants will be able to access furniture and starter packs, support with decoration, social networking opportunities and visiting support that will address a wide raft of issues.

From May, Fresh Start's annual targets will be to provide 7,500 starter packs, which for the first time will include an 'electrical' pack, decorate 100 homes, and continue to deliver Befriending for up to 10 clients at any one time.

Winning the contract was a challenge and the new targets raise the bar for Fresh Start's services. The funding that they receive through the council is essentially a platform that will allow them to plan ahead. However they will still rely on the continued generous support of the congregations in Edinburgh for goods, finance, and volunteers to deliver these much needed and valued services.

Fresh Start are genuinely excited about these new partnership arrangements. All of the agencies they have chosen to work with are equally committed to collaborative working and quality standards. There is a shared understanding that they should play to each other's strengths, which in turn will only benefit and improve service delivery for their clients throughout the city.

Keith Robertson, the Managing Director of Fresh Start, said, "The process of winning these contracts was very thorough, and the fact that Fresh Start has been successful, reflects the quality of the contribution that the churches make towards our work. We are delighted that the churches and volunteers' contributions have been recognised in this way."

For more information on how your congregation can get involved in the work of Fresh Start please contact them on Tel: 476 7741 email: susan@freshstartweb.org.uk or visit their website at www.freshstartweb.org.uk