

## **Improving Financial Confidence EASI4communities**

### **Proposal:**

- Work with Housing Associations in relevant areas to develop a peer support and mentoring programme for social housing residents experiencing financial exclusion and low levels of financial confidence
- Establish a Network of residents through which training would be provided to equip individuals with the skills required to undertake low-level maintenance of their homes and gardens. Training “offer” to include painting and decorating, grounds maintenance, furniture restoration, loft and cavity wall insulation and general housing repairs
- Broker partnership with local businesses and industry to provide training opportunities to members of the network. Training to focus on “green” issues and benefits e.g. paint and furniture recycling, energy efficiency
- Establish a budget for residents to undertake their own repairs as part of the training provided within the Network
- Working with trainers to deliver financial capability training through the Network

### **Outcomes**

- Increased confidence to access financial support and advice through self-help, sign posting, advocacy and peer support
- Greater understanding by residents about the financial implications of home and garden repairs from the start to the finish of that repair
- Increased confidence in money management throughout the process of repairs as part of understanding costing and budgeting
- Increased pride in their home and environment which may reduce tenant turn over, thus creating savings for RHA s
- Harnesses untapped potential and skills that already exist in communities, changing the dependency culture
- Raised awareness of environmental considerations – “greening” the training where possible
- Raised awareness of importance of energy saving through loft and cavity insulations
- Reduced housing repair costs for housing maintenance providers
- Increased opportunities to secure employment through training
- Increased financial independence to help to avoid future debt problems

### **Links to financial capability training**

Members of the network are to be encouraged to attend financial capability training and advice sessions, delivered through existing providers.

### **Business Volunteering and Corporate Social Responsibility (CRS)**

EASI4communities to explore and broker business support through CSR in order to increase training opportunities within this initiative, and improved opportunities to access the labour market.