



News release
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Surprise Morrisons delivery for young people at Hutton House

Last week Hutton House supported accommodation for young people received a surprise delivery from Morrisons' Royston store.

Hutton House is one of housing association Catalyst's residential support services for young people. The service supports over 170 16-25 year olds across Hertfordshire who would otherwise be homeless, helping them live independently and gain skills, qualifications and employment.

In each of its stores, supermarket chain Morrisons employs a Community Champion to connect with surrounding communities. Through this scheme, stores arrange donations of non-perishable food and essentials to local groups such as food banks and homeless charities.

Community Champion at the Royston store, Caitlin Curron, was researching the local area when she came across Catalyst's young persons service in Stevenage. She contacted Project Worker Dawn at the scheme to ask if they would like a donation of some food items, which they gratefully accepted.

Much to the surprise of the residents and team at Hutton House, who were looking forward to receiving a carrier bag or two from the store, Caitlin and Royston Store Manager Matt Little arrived with a pallet of goods! The donation included pasta sauce, tinned tuna, biscuits, coffee and washing liquid – all things the young people will be able to use and will help with their weekly budget.

The team and residents at Hutton House were overwhelmed by the generosity of the donation, and have shared the products with two of its other local schemes for young people.

Catalyst's Young Persons Service Manager, Mika Saha, said:

"We are truly grateful for Morrisons' kind donation – it means so much to us that they've taken the time to get to know their local community and contact us. The donation will go a long way to help the young people who live with us. Buying food can not only be financially hard, but simply getting to stores can be difficult.

"One of our residents emailed Dawn to say: 'I just wanted to share my appreciation to the Morrisons' team for the fantastic support to our hostels, helping with our shopping. Delightful surprise!'

"Thank you from us all."

Matt Little, Morrisons Royston's Store Manager told us:

"We're so glad to have got in touch with Hutton House and meet the amazing team and young people there – observing social distancing of course. It was one of the most emotional donations we've made as we saw first-hand how the food and household supplies will help



these young people get back on their feet. Young people are so often misjudged and overlooked in our communities and we're proud to help.

"Caitlin and I were touched to see how genuinely appreciative Catalyst' team and residents were. We've since arranged to drop off some bread that the local food banks were unable to take. It's perfect for residents at Hutton House as they can freeze it.

"I used to live in Stevenage so it was particularly special donation for me to give something back to the community there. Morrisons has a strong ethos of looking after its communities, and this, along with other initiatives such as 'Doorstep Delivery', is just one small way we can help those who need it the most."

-ENDS-



IMAGES



Morrisons' Royston Community Champion Caitlin Curron (left) and Store Manager Matt Little (right) deliver their donation to the young people and team Catalyst's Hutton House.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Catalyst

Catalyst is a one of the leading housing associations in London and the South East with 34,000 homes and 1,200 employees, having recently merged in December last year with Bedfordshire-based Aldwyck Housing Group.

We are experts in placemaking and developing tenure-blind neighbourhoods, with a strategy in place that will see us build up to 1,300 quality new homes each year. Our approach to creative design, effective urban planning and high-quality development is underpinned by our long-term interest in our neighbourhoods. By adopting a stewardship role, we ensure that the places we help to create are well maintained, look great and remain desirable and affordable places to live. A prime example of Catalyst's work is our flagship regeneration project in North Kensington, Portobello Square.

www.chg.org.uk

About Catalyst's Young Persons' Service

For over 30 years, our Young Persons' Service in Hertfordshire has been supporting young homeless people to successfully make the move to live independently.

We're the largest provider of its kind in the county, and we provide a home and support to over 170 young people living in one of our 20 properties.

During their stay with us, which can be for up to two years, the young people work with our teams to make sure they have all the necessary skills and confidence to make their move to living independently and supporting themselves. The support we offer includes budgeting, staying safe and living peacefully within a community.



We encourage the young people to engage in education, training or employment, as well as working on a wide range of life skills that will enable them to manage a tenancy successfully once they move on. We support our residents to take part in a custom-made AQA programme that gives them with a widely recognised qualification.

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