



Homeless body cuts crime in bid to build a better society

Oxford research group shows Anchor House makes huge saving to the UK before its £9.3m fund appeal

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An East London homeless charity provides savings to society of more than £5million a year, according to an Oxford research group.

Anchor House in Canning Town, which offers accommodation for 180 single homeless people a year, gives £3.98 in benefits for every £1 invested in its operations, according to the report released last week.

Anchor House director Keith Fernett said the charity decided to put itself under the microscope ahead of a £9.3m appeal launch.

'Lower crime'

The report was undertaken by Oxford Economics, a joint venture with Templeton College, the business college of Oxford University.

The charity is estimated to have delivered £5,062,000 in "gross outcomes for society" in 2009. The report said Anchor House provided savings of £3.2m through lower crime, £388,000 through in-

creased employment and £225,000 by hosting Alcoholics Anonymous meetings.

Mr Fernett said: "We are in the business of turning lives around and as a result of our work there are huge cost savings to society."

Other social benefits included saving the NHS £22,000 in hospital admissions, £14,000 in hospital outpatient treatments, £10,000 in acute mental health services and £5,000 in accident and emergency treatment.

The charity provides training and education services with 58 residents moving to independent living last year.

Its appeal aims to transform its 50-year-old building and construct 25 flats.

Andrew Logan, from Oxford Economics, said: "In comparison to other studies of homeless projects in the UK, Anchor House was found to provide an exceptional high return to society."

Anchor House's appeal will be launched at the Inner Temple in the City on October 17. The report is available at www.anchorhouseuk.org



■ Keith Fernett, director of Anchor House in Canning Town