

Mace Housing Co-operative



18 homes
Affordable rented

For further information:
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When Empty Homes Community Grant Programme funding became available in 2012 from DCLG, Mace Housing Co-operative received an allocation of c £1.3m to bring vacant properties back into use in Hackney and Camden on leases of around 10 years. Developing 18 flats above shops on Kilburn High Road (amongst other projects), Mace has used the funding alongside £120K funding from Camden Council to bring empty homes back into use.

Mace was set up in 1974 as a self-help housing association by graduate students from University College to house *creative* individuals and homeless people. It concentrated on short-life housing, provided initially by the Greater London Council, as this was the quickest way to get its members housed. The houses were allocated to members who renovated them at the own expense in exchange for a peppercorn rent. Later higher rents were charges in exchange for the homes being renovated by Mace. Mace subsequently set up Mace Housing Co-operative as a means of housing its members on a permanent basis. Its mission statement is largely aimed at providing homes for single homeless people.

Mace now manages around 300 properties, most of them leased from housing associations and local authorities, particularly including the London Boroughs of Hackney & Camden. Now employing a number of full time staff and with a turnover in excess of £1m, it aims to secure leases of at least three years from property owners.

Aiming to also empower its members and the communities it serves through practical skills training, Mace launched its SEAP (Skills Empowerment and Advisory Project) programme in 2015. Designed specifically for the unemployed and others who wish to pursue a career either in rent income collection or repairs and maintenance administration, the programme is over-subscribed at the moment. The Co-op is now recognised as an Assessment Centre for AIM (a National Awarding Organisation) offering a large number of OFQUAL regulated qualifications at different levels and in a wide range of subject areas.

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