

**\*\*\*For immediate release\*\*\***

## **Innovation fund launched to find new solutions to housing crisis**

London, England 14.10.2015 – A new innovation fund aims to back enterprising people with ideas to address the challenges within the UK housing sector.

UnLtd, the Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs, has launched the [Building Futures Innovation Fund](#) to offer support and funding to passionate people with great ideas that can demonstrate a commitment to making a lasting difference to the lives of individuals and families.

Building Futures Lead and Clore Social Leadership Fellow Louise Cannon [explains in a blog post](#),

“The UK is in the grip of a housing crisis, and the problems extend beyond a lack of affordable housing. Local authorities face challenges in deciding how to prioritise who they home, while Housing Associations grapple with the implications of the extension to ‘Right to buy’. Helping an ageing population to remain independent presents additional complexity for policy makers. At UnLtd, we are convinced that social entrepreneurs have solutions. There are individuals out there with radical ideas to address housing in the UK, and the passion and commitment to start well and thrive.”

UnLtd has previously backed social entrepreneurs like Paul Chatterton, co-founder of Lilac – which stands for Low Impact Living Affordable Community. Paul and a group of friends began thinking about how they could live differently and better in the future, ‘ripping up the rulebook’ on housing. Seven years on the result is Lilac, a unique co-operative co-housing project in Leeds comprising of 20 straw homes of different sizes

with a common house in the middle. Car parks are pushed to the edge so children have car free space to play. Paul describes Lilac as “a blueprint of housing in the future that we can achieve right now.” He is now helping community-led housing groups in Leeds and neighbouring urban areas to create high quality, affordable, environmentally sustainable homes. Paul will be offering his skills and expertise to the project, helping to ensure that innovative ideas develop well and thrive.

Other supporters of the new fund include CLT Network, Orbit Group, Clore Social Fellow and Chief Exec of the Living Space Project Maria Adebawale.

Boris Warrell, Executive Director of Orbit, commented:

“Our mission at Orbit is 'Building Communities' so it's fantastic to be involved with the Building Futures fund. Giving people the chance to innovate and achieve their dreams by setting up social enterprises will help create strong and thriving communities.”

*If you think you have a great idea to help the UK meet the housing needs of the vulnerable, visit <https://unltd.org.uk/building-futures/>*

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**Notes to editors:**

### **About UnLtd**

UnLtd is the leading provider of support to social entrepreneurs in the UK and offers the largest such network in the world. It supports more than 1,000 individuals each year through its core Awards programme.

UnLtd puts people at the heart of what it does and reaches out to find passionate, talented, resourceful people who are determined to tackle the key issues facing society. Its focus is on

helping greater numbers of people to start up as social entrepreneurs, enabling those who want - and can - to scale up their impact.

UnLtd aims to develop collaboration and networks that will create an ecosystem of support, through delivering support to social entrepreneurs in partnership with social investors and delivery partners. It operates a unique model by investing directly in individuals and offering a complete package of resources; from awards of funding between £500 and £100,000 to ongoing advice, networking and practical support.

For more information about the support offered by UnLtd go to [www.UnLtd.org.uk](http://www.UnLtd.org.uk)

Twitter: [@UnLtd](https://twitter.com/UnLtd)

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