

## [News from Open Choice 2006](#)

The Open Choice Independence Project first began providing its services to Bedfordshire County Council in January 2005 for two of its young care leavers. Luton Borough Council and Barnsley NCH have also accessed the services of Open Choice.

NCH and Bedfordshire continue to access our support. The Open Choice Independence Project has also been providing its services to Hertfordshire County Council since April 2006.

Since January 2005, Open Choice has provided 9 full length community housing tenancies for 9 care leavers. 8 out of 9 have been a success and 6 out of 9 have been extended. 2 out of the remaining 3 are due to be lengthened.

From 9 full length tenancies 8 have been for persistent offenders one of which being released on licence. During the first six months of each tenancy for the above Open Choice has managed to reduce and re direct offending temptations by as much as 89 percent.

Our Independent out reach service which, does not provide accommodation, has steadily grown in need. This part of our service has been recognised by placing authorities who see the benefits of our professional and friendly approach coupled with our specialised support programmes, of which there are five.

The continual daily aim of The Open Choice Independence Project is ultimately to be recognised as the preferred and foremost community based service provider within Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. We will strive to provide effective, practical, safe and non judgemental support for the benefit of care leavers and vulnerable adults within our counties.

**Mark Reid**  
**Director/Service Manager**