

NHMF Framework Social Value Award 2026 - Shortlist

This is a new Award for 2026 to recognise the social value created through a project procured through NHMF Framework.

Two shortlisted entries:

- **Peabody & Purdy - Darwin Court Foodbank**
- **Framework Housing Association - Digital Skills Sessions**

What was the Social Value initiative?

Darwin Court Foodbank evolved from COVID-19 emergency food distribution services, and continued post-covid to serve residents aged 16 to 94 when it was evident the demand remained. It has been operating since August 2023 and is located in an area where 25% of Londoners live in poverty after housing costs.

Digital Skills Sessions - Digital Skills Drop-in centre to help people with any tech problems or desires (phone, laptop, tablet, online training). It helps users get set up on digital services, removing any barriers to taking full advantage of the internet. It provides training on IT for beginners to advanced users, so they can achieve what they want to do, irrespective of experience. The Centre also provides SIM's (Data) so you can access the web and equipment such as laptops and phones. Users can procure Social Broadband & mobile contracts, with free SIMs and data for 6 months. Support is provided to fix or upgrade users' existing IT equipment and to help them with new IT purchases. With a support worker, users can access external online training opportunities and register with a local GP and to use NHS online to contact their GP, book appointments, order prescriptions, etc.

Why should it be recognised for this award?

Darwin Court - Peabody's partnership with Purdy (Part of Sureserve) transformed an underutilised meeting room at Darwin Court, South London into a thriving intergenerational community hub (much more than a Foodbank) serving 210 registered residents. Purdy's strategic investment in refrigeration units, freezers, and shop-floor shelving created a "mini-mart" style foodbank operating with dignity (residents choose their own items without referrals or vouchers, requiring only proof of Peabody residency). It has become a year-round community anchor through its seasonal initiatives (Easter celebrations, Christmas present scheme & vouchers). One employee, volunteered with her daughter, demonstrating how the initiative brings families together while serving others. This family involvement has inspired other Sureserve Compliance Electrical employees to participate (a ripple effect of community engagement extending beyond corporate mandates). A Baby Bank also now operates alongside the Food Hub, providing nappies, food, and clothing for various ages to address critical needs for young families. It has become a trusted community hub that signposts other vital services across Peabody and a vital social space for isolated residents.

Digital Skills Sessions - Centre is open to everyone for any tech enquiry or problem. It provides a relaxed environment to ensure everyone feels at ease and valued. The Digital Champions aim to be friendly and accommodating to all enquirers. One participant explained how he knew nothing when he came in but did not feel belittled. He was inspired and trained to use a laptop, despite no previous experience or use. They are working with the NHS to promote its website and app, and to help users improve their physical and mental health.

How is ROI being measured?

Darwin Court - HACT Social Value Insight Tool has been used to calculate a Social Return on Investment (SROI) of £876,929 from Purdy's investment to date of £19,800 (£5,000/ of revenue funding over 3 Financial Years, as well as a £4,800 initial capital funding investment

for refrigeration and shelving). Part of the measurement is intangible but visible to anyone visiting the hub – preventing hunger and connecting the community (hub has become a social lifeline for isolated residents, particularly important in older person's housing).

Purdy is committed to long-term partnership, understanding that sustainable social value requires ongoing investment. It provides:

- Infrastructure funding (refrigeration, shelving)
- Regular food donations
- Weekly volunteer workforce
- Executive leadership involvement.

Digital Skills Sessions – Investment is targeted at strengthening digital access for people experiencing homelessness and those most in need, ensuring they can remain connected to vital services, support networks, and opportunities. It helps remove barriers preventing them from engaging consistently with the support available to them. ROI is measured through the practical outcomes this funding delivers, including the number of people able to stay digitally connected and the resulting increase in engagement with support services. The client also monitors how this targeted use of social value funding expands their overall capacity—enabling them to support more individuals effectively and demonstrate tangible, measurable impact from the investment.

How could this Social Value Initiative be developed?

Darwin Court - Potential to replicate the successful model at Darwin Court, scaling up into other areas to leave a lasting social value legacy.

Digital Skills Sessions - Keep Drop-in centre going and set up other centres.

How would any prize money be used to impact on the project?

Darwin Court - It would help to increase its opening hours, invest in more refrigerators and more fresh food and high demand items. It could fund a canopy so people do not have to wait in the rain. It could also potentially be used to replicate the foodbank hub in other areas where Peabody and Purdy operate and live in London.

Digital Skills Sessions – It would be used to enhance the project's impact by addressing practical barriers to digital inclusion that cannot be met through donated equipment alone.

Firstly, it would be used to for essential accessory packs for donated laptops (often received without chargers, protective bags, or basic peripherals) so they could be provided complete, and usable so that recipients can use them safely, consistently, and independently. Laptops are provided to support job applications, education, training, and everyday digital access.

Secondly, it would support the provision of connected devices (mobile phones) for people experiencing homelessness, allowing individuals to stay in contact with support services, access digital advice and maintain vital connections during periods of instability. Donated phones are limited by ongoing costs associated with SIM cards and data.

Together, this targeted use of prize funding would increase the number of people able to remain digitally connected and significantly strengthen the project's ability to deliver measurable, life-changing outcomes.