



Improving lives for only £1 a week

Providing internet access to social housing tenants is important and improves their access to services and opportunities.

Working with Glasgow Housing Association (GHA) and BT, SFT developed an innovative, commercially viable Wi-Fi prototype that provides internet access for only £1 a week per household, available to tenants living in 138 flats of a Glasgow multi-storey tower block.

To ensure success, SFT worked closely with GHA to develop a novel, low-cost broadband solution within a multi-storey block as a way of increasing internet use.

Expert advice was provided by SFT throughout the procurement process, resulting in the successful delivery of the pilot.

Subsequently, more than 50% of households signed up to take part. Internet access has allowed tenants to improve their IT skills, search for work, reduce fuel and shopping costs by accessing online deals and increase confidence in using online services.

As a result of SFT's pathfinding work, GHA's parent organisation, the Wheatley Group, are looking at how this innovative approach to gain internet access could be adopted more widely in its housing portfolio.

"Digital inclusion is a huge challenge and one which GHA and Wheatley Group is determined to face head-on as part of our vision to make homes and lives better. We want to open the door to allow tenants to access training opportunities, jobs, exclusive online deals and our own online services."

Evelyn McDowall, Business Solutions Leader at the Wheatley Group

