



YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SUPPORT FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT//
2012/13

[Young People's Support Foundation Limited](#)

Branch offices retain their identities as 'Signpost' and 'City Centre Project' without associated financial trading.

[Charity Commission Number: 1112504](#)

[Company Registration Number: 05546361](#)

[Registered office: 52 Oldham Street, Manchester M4 1LE](#)

A message from our CEO

The last 12 months have seen YPSF enter into some successful collaborations, as well as creating some initiatives of our own. Our team has been incredibly proactive in engaging third party organisations to boost our own services, and it's warming to have so much interest from students in all the Manchester universities and The Manchester College following our presence at Freshers' Week. Many of the students who expressed an interest have gone on to volunteer with us, and we're happy to have delivered training to all our volunteers in order to give young people a better future.

A collaboration with the single parents' organisation Gingerbread has been a huge success, with our service workers attending all their groups in Manchester and providing advice at the groups or making referrals to our own services. We've also been attending group sessions with Harpurhey Youth Zone and at The Manchester College campuses across the city, delivering advice to young people within their own communities. There's a real sense of support groups in Manchester coming together to provide essential support and services, and we're proud to be part of that.

Back at home, we've extended our free breakfasts to our Wythenshawe site and take-up has been high. Young people who access our drop-in centres at either of our sites can discuss support options over a hot meal and the drop-ins are an integral part of our service. We've also seen a huge increase in the number of young people coming to us for food parcels, and while we're happy to be able to support them with practical help it's a sign that our services are more essential than ever.

The young people who access our services have shown great initiative in creating opportunities for themselves. Our community gardening project at Wythenshawe has seen many young people giving up their time to transform the grounds of our Wythenshawe site into a garden to benefit

the whole community. The food programme based at our city centre office has enabled young people not only to learn how to cook, but to deliver catering for outside events to much acclaim.

Every year, we're amazed at the resilience and can-do attitude of the young people who come to us for help. The young people we work with are a world away from those who get such a bad press, and we're fortunate to be able to support them to a happy and successful future.



Kate Macdonald,
Chief executive officer, Young People's Support Foundation

A message from our chair of the Council of Trustees

The resilience of not only the young people our charity supports, but the staff, volunteers and public who enable us to provide these services, never fails to impress me. In the face of adversity and austerity, we pull together to deliver essential services to young people, many of whom have nowhere else to turn.

The teamwork has extended outside of our organisation and we have seen groups across Manchester pull together to deliver a combined and far-reaching group of services in an attempt to ensure no young person in Manchester is left without the help they need.

This is no easy task, but once again the Trustees and I see a team that strives to ensure help is delivered where it is needed no matter how adverse the conditions may be.

The increasing number of people offering their services on a voluntary basis is indicative of a society that cares about its young people. I'm very proud to be part of a service that leads the way in this support and continues to steer young people towards a safe and independent future.

Janet Finucane,
Chair of the Council of Trustees

Our aims and objectives



The Young People's Support Foundation's (YPSF) purposes as set out in the objects contained in the company's memorandum of association are to:

Benefit the community, and establish and administer advice and information centres for the charitable purposes of relieving poverty and distress for the young people of Manchester.

Provide support for those experiencing difficulties with housing or homelessness.

Advance education and provide resources and facilities in the interests of social welfare and with the aim of improving conditions of life of the said people.

In order to achieve these aims, as a charity we strive to:

Improve the range of services and activities to meet young people's needs so they may be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, and achieve economic well being.

Increase the performance and long term viability of YPSF and its influence on local and national policy.

Improve and maintain a high quality workforce.

Our aims fully reflect the purposes that the charity was set up to further.

Our performance in 2012/13



We have reviewed the achievements of all activities, the outcomes and benefits to young people over the last year.

In doing so, we ensure our aims, objectives and current and future planned activities remain focused on our stated purposes and are in accordance with the guidance supplied by the Charity Commission. Our trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set for YPSF.

Our main objectives for the year continued to be the prevention of homelessness among young people, the promotion of independent living and smooth transition to adulthood. We did this by:

- Providing a range of good quality services to meet young people's needs and improve their chances in achieving independent living and transition to adulthood.
- Improving young people's lives by reducing the risks of homelessness, poor health, abuse and poverty and increasing their contribution to the local community.
- Working in partnership with other agencies (including public, private and third sector) to increase the widest range of services available that promote and meet the needs of young people.

How our activities deliver public benefit

In 2012/13, YPSF helped 2,000 of the most vulnerable young people in Manchester

We did this by:

Tackling deprivation

91% of the young people who came to us last year were unemployed and on benefits.

Helping young people in need

Thanks to YPSF, in 2012/13 1412 young people were supported into their own home or temporary accommodation. Of these, 44 were young people seeking asylum in the UK.

Our long-term, one-to-one support, helps young people to develop the skills they need to live independently when they have no-one else to turn to.

Encouraging healthy lifestyles

Last year, we gave 365 young people access to free contraception, arranged group activities to highlight safe sexual relationships and gave one-to-one sex and relationship education.

We help young people to respect themselves, their bodies and other people when they have no other positive role models to look to.

Enabling independent living

We support young people through a wide range of services, including one-to-one advice, drop-in support, tenancy training and group work.

Not all young people can turn to a loving family. We support those who can't.



Our services

YPSF supports young people aged 14-25 in Manchester with the help of our partners and funders. We work closely with Manchester City Council, including their Manchester Youth Offending Service, Supporting People, Health, Homelessness and Children & Adult services. We also receive funding from Big Lottery, amongst others, and provide a placement service for social work students.

DUTY SERVICE

Our drop-in advice sessions are often the first step for young people who need help. As well as receiving free, confidential and impartial advice from skilled support workers - who can help with access to emergency and temporary accommodation as well as personal and welfare issues - young people can enjoy a free hot breakfast (with showers and laundry facilities at our city centre site).

[In 2011/12, 634 young people received help at our drop-in centres.](#)

HOUSING SUPPORT (CITY CENTRE) AND STARTING OUT (WYTHENSHAW)

This one-to-one support service enables young people to find safe and secure tenancies. Working in partnership with several housing agencies, our support workers help young people develop the skills they need to live a safe, healthy and independent life.

[Last year, we supported 121 young people, 113 of whom went on to live independently in their own homes.](#)

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION (WITH MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL AND BIG LOTTERY FUNDING)

Our primary aim is to ensure young people are able to live safely without becoming homeless. Our support workers give help and advice to young people in need, enabling them to secure or maintain accommodation without resorting to statutory homelessness services. We are able to provide immediate and practical support to young people sleeping rough and those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. We help them to find temporary and supported housing with a view to securing and maintaining long-term tenancies, as well as helping them to work with other support providers.

[In 2012/13 we have helped 502 people to remain in, or find, a safe home environment.](#)

HOUSE TRAINED

This Open College Network Accredited course gives young people the practical skills they need to find and maintain their own tenancies and live a healthy, independent life. As well as receiving an NVQ Level 1 qualification, young people who complete this course will gain a re-housing award on the Manchester City Council allocation scheme.

[This year, we helped 141 young people to learn how to live independently.](#)

“There aren’t many people who can genuinely say they go home from work every day knowing they’ve changed people’s lives”

SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY - PREPARATION FOR WORK AND LIFE PROGRAMME

This programme aimed to help learners develop the personal resources needed to increase independence and take routes into other learning and employment. We helped young people improve basic key skills such as literacy, numeracy and IT, as well as develop sport and leisure interests and gain work experience.

[14 young people took part in this programme.](#)

YOUNG PEOPLE’S TASK FORCE

This service provides individual, one-to-one support and housing advice for young people ready to move on from temporary accommodation, or those who have been suspended from the re-housing register. Our support workers help young people work through obstacles to long

term housing and advocates with housing providers to secure tenancies.

In 2012/13, YPSF helped 412 young people with housing, and 363 to secure long-term tenancies.

16/17 YEAR OLD PROJECT

This service helps those aged 16 or 17 who are at risk of being homeless or are worried about their situation. Our support workers help them to secure and maintain alternative accommodation or work with them to enable them to return home safely.

Last year, we helped 468 vulnerable 16 and 17 year old young people to live safely.

MANCHESTER JOINT HEALTH UNIT - YOUNG WOMEN'S WORK

Aimed at young women who may become parents, our support workers provide sexual health advice and resources to help reduce unwanted or unplanned pregnancies. We also support young parents and help them to access resources and practical support.

In 2012/13, we helped 42 young women avoid unwanted pregnancies or gave them support with parenting.

The funding for this service ended in March 2013.

UNIVERSITY AND SOCIAL WORK PLACEMENTS

YPSF provides supervision for undergraduate and Social Work students on placement in YPSF.

This year, we offered 12 social work students a placement to learn, develop their skills and practice.

NLDC WORK IT! PRE-EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

The aim of this programme was to build confidence, develop practical skills and enable learners to get into learning and gain employment through training, work placements or voluntary work to enhance their employability and develop community involvement.

Before funding ended in September 2012, 14 young people had enrolled and five had completed the course.



Young people's stories

YPSF helped me to escape my abusive relationship

When 17 year old Carly* finally plucked up the courage to escape an abusive relationship with her baby daughter, she knew she'd need support. When Connexions suggested YPSF, Carly got in touch. She's now in emergency accommodation with her baby daughter and is soon to move into her own, permanent home with all the support she needs.

Carly explains how YPSF gave her the courage to make the change.

"I had been in a violent relationship for a while and realised I needed to move and get out of it," explains Carly. "I'd known about YPSF for a few years but when I went to see them back then they didn't deal with young people who had children.

"This time though I spoke to my Connexions worker about trying to get into a mother and baby unit. They said that would take a while and told me to contact YPSF as they could now support me even though I had the baby.

"The staff at YPSF were really helpful. They did an assessment of my situation and helped me find some emergency accommodation, and made sure they kept me near to my family and college which I appreciated. They looked into housing association tenancies for me

and showed me how to use the websites and how to apply for myself.

"Most importantly, they helped me get onto the council housing list as I wasn't getting anywhere with that on my own. Without YPSF I doubt I'd now be due to move into my own house and would've had to stay where I was living. They really helped me with that; they were brilliant with everything and I know for a fact that if I hadn't had their support I wouldn't be in the position I am now.

"By helping me to find somewhere to live, YPSF gave me the means to get away from my violent partner. They also gave me information about my options regarding reporting him to the police or taking out an injunction against him. The support workers gave me the impression that they had experience; they knew who to contact and speak to. When they spoke to me they didn't make me feel ashamed or embarrassed, I felt like I had someone to talk to.

"I feel so much more relaxed about the future now. It seems like everything is going to be easier and I'll have a safe and secure place for me and my daughter, I'll be able to carry on with my education and see my friends, things I haven't been able to do for a long time."



YPSF stepped in when I had nowhere to turn



When 17-year-old Adie's* relationship with his mum broke down, he moved in with a family friend. After just three months he was asked to leave to make way for a new baby, so with nowhere else to turn he asked YPSF for help.

Now settled in a hostel and about to start an apprenticeship, Adie explains how YPSF helped him to take control of his life.

"I don't get on with my mum so I came to Manchester to stay with my mum's friend," he says. "Things were great for about three months, but then she asked me to leave because she was pregnant. She didn't want me in the small house with her boyfriend and the baby as well.

"I knew about YPSF before I went to see them as I had some friends who also didn't have anywhere permanent to live. When I ended up in the same

position I knew I should contact them.

"I went straight to the drop-in centre on Oldham Street and when I told them about my situation they found me a place in a hostel within a few hours. I was really surprised because I thought I'd have to wait at least a few days.

"They really understood my circumstances and took the time to go through my situation and write everything down. I felt confident they could help me because they'd done good work for my friends too.

"I honestly don't know what I would've done without their help. I couldn't go home as my mum wouldn't let me back in the house anyway as she was really angry with me.

"My mum's friend would've probably let me stay a few more days but no more than that. YPSF helped me to sort things out for myself and take control of the situation instead of having to rely on people for a night here and there.

"My key worker at YPSF has helped me find a hostel and apply to college, and I'm starting a hospitality course apprenticeship. I'll only get £40 a week but I'll get work experience in hotels and restaurants, and when I'm not working I'll have my own space so I'll be able to focus on my music and drawing when I'm not working."

*All names have been changed.

"Before I went to YPSF I felt as though I had nowhere to turn. I knew I needed help but because of my age there just didn't seem to be any, I felt like I was told I just had to deal with things myself. They are always saying there are opportunities for young people here but they couldn't help me when I needed it. The staff at YPSF didn't brush me off or tell me to go home when I went there.

They were the only ones there for me and in fact it was the first time I'd ever really opened up about what was going on at home. Without them I would've been forced to go back to my mum's and I really can't imagine what would've happened if I'd had to do that. Instead they gave me the confidence to speak to college and explain what was going on."

Sally*, 17

Thank you!

YPSF is extremely grateful to the funders, donors, businesses and supporters who have helped us to deliver essential services to 2000 of the most vulnerable young people across Manchester in 2012/13.

From the volunteers who donate their time to the individuals, organisations and businesses that raise much-needed funds, all the help we receive enables us to support young people towards independent living and a safer future.

So, thank you Manchester City Council, [Manchester Youth Offending Service](#), Children, Families and Social Care; [Adults Social Care](#), Joint Health Unit; [Wythenshawe Regeneration Team](#), Big Lottery, [Irwin Mitchell Charitable Foundation \(IMCF\)](#), The Manchester College, [Norley Methodist Church](#), Manchester University Law Society, [New Apostolic Church](#), runners in the Manchester BUPA Great Run, [Business in the Community](#), Bedspace and all the individuals who have made donations over the last year.

Our staff continue to be the driving force behind the operation, frequently going above and beyond the call of duty. Every one of them invests personal commitment to helping young people and for that, we thank them.

And finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who give up their spare time to help improve the lives of young people.

Huge gratitude to Zahrah Al-Ali, [Elizabeth Fielding](#), Jason Greensmith, [Patricia Campbell](#), Kieran Piert, [Amy Win](#), Lee Jamieson, [Stephen Duerden](#), Henry Sutton, [Vendela Engstrom](#), Amy Traxson, [Victoria Kelly](#), Edward Salter, [Omasan Okorodudu](#), Colin Stansfield, [Ho Wen Jun](#), Fraser Macdonald-Oulds, [Aneta Jarzebska](#), Rebecca Koppen, [Paula Wilkinson](#) and Neil Richards.

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