



## Business Case for Continuation of Y-Steps

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### Introduction

Y-Steps offers young people aged 18-35 who have experienced homelessness, accommodation in Derby Homes' flats. They are offered this accommodation having demonstrated that they can manage their rent, look after their accommodation and are ready to get into work, education or training. Their goal is to be in their own place after 6 months on Y Steps.

We have 24 two bedroomed flats which allows us to provide accommodation to up to 96 young people over a twelve month period, the project facilitates a much wider reach than if these units were in general circulation via Homefinder. This reach assists the City in meeting its obligations under the Homeless Reduction Act for homeless under 35-year olds and addresses transient homelessness within this cohort. In addition we are able to prevent further homelessness by providing "step up" housing within the Foyer if a young person is struggling.

Our collaborative relationship with Derby Homes allows for a "something for something" working arrangement meaning that the project has no reliance on grant funding to provide this pathway for young people.

The programme has been in place since June 2018. This document outlines the outcomes, impact, learning and proposal for continuation.

### Who we have worked with

**87** young people have been accommodated and supported since June 2018.

55 -18-24 year olds

32 -25-35 year olds

66 Male   21 Female

### What we have delivered

Our Y-Steps navigator works with residents in the property to support them in finding education and work opportunities as well as suitable move on destinations.

People referred onto the project demonstrate they are Y-Steps ready by:

- keeping up-to-date with their rent
- looking after their room on Campus and respecting others whilst living there
- learning how to cook and shop for food
- learning how best to manage their money and take care of themselves



- Working with their Housing Navigator, the Health and Wellbeing Team and attending Foyer sessions to do this.
- They must fully understand and meet the responsibilities that come with living in a shared flat
- Be practicing the skills needed to achieve their goal of moving into their own place in 6 months time

## The difference it's made

The Y-Steps project has enabled us to provide suitable accommodation, support and intensive housing management to young people, creating a stable foundation and environment to live, learn and grow.

Y-Steps has been instrumental in providing move on opportunities for new and existing residents and has paved a housing pathway in assisting this target group under the Homeless Reduction Act. Its unique approach – linked directly with our Foyer – has allowed us to further reduce homelessness by facilitating a step-up, step-down project which quickly recognises when a young person is starting to fail and moves them back to the Foyer. If this link was not in place when a young person starts to struggle and loses their accommodation it would result in a homelessness representation to Housing Options.

The accommodation is situated in clusters that promote community interaction, cohesion and integration. The Y-Steps project has positively impacted on changing negative perceptions of young people in the community as our residents have been involved in projects such as YMCAD Community meals, Toyota work programme, Derbyshire Wild Life Trust and All Ages Together group – an intergenerational project delivered in partnership with St Osmund's Church.

The location of accommodation has provided ease of access to YMCAD, Derby City Centre services and amenities and in some cases has supported employment and education opportunities. **21** young people entered employment and requested a bursary to assist them with their rent.

Through stable and settled accommodation along with Y-Steps support residents have been able to reconcile relationships with family and friends as well as build on new connections. **11** people were able to rebuild relationships with family and friends. The project has accommodated **3** Unaccompanied Minors (post age assessment) where their support needs have not been high enough to warrant a 24/7 staffed environment.

YMCAD has built effective working relationships with Local Area Coordinators, Local Police, neighbour and community centres to provide robust additional services to our residents in Derby Homes' accommodation. Our connection with such services including mental health services, social care, education and training providers and our links with local businesses has had a positive impact on residents' journeys with us and we envisage this will continue to enhance support available.



## YMCA DERBYSHIRE

*"I lived in the YMCA for about 6 months which lead to me getting a YMCA offsite shared flat. I lived there for over a year and even my offsite support worker Aimee was always there to help me.*

*To all the residents with the YMCA – don't hesitate to ask for help.*

*I am now moving into my own flat with the help of Hayley and Aimee. I couldn't have done it without them" - Curtis*

We measure subjective wellbeing and self efficacy using 2 validated scales. WEMWBS and General Self Efficacy Scale. This is measured every 3 months.

Subjective Wellbeing - 54% of Y-Steps residents showed an increase in wellbeing and 8% maintained their wellbeing. Based on 24 responses.

Self Efficacy - 55% of Y-Steps residents showed an increase in self efficacy and 14% maintained self efficacy. Based on 22 responses.

### Stories

The stories of these Y-Steps Clients are attached.

One of our residents Mikey has now successfully moved into a Y Steps property. He has been a resident of YMCA Derbyshire on and off for the last 9 years. He first arrived in November 2010, aged 16, and this is now his 10<sup>th</sup> stay at YMCA Derbyshire. Between stays he has sofa surfed, been in B&BS and been a rough sleeper. He is now settled in his accommodation, has graduated from our Toyota Working Assets programme and is finally on his path to independence.

Kawan came to the YMCA as an Unaccompanied Minor and a Looked after Child aged 17 and unable to speak English. He worked very hard to improve his basic skills and build a social network, and was moved to a Y Steps property in recognition of his progress. He is currently studying at Derby College and has just graduated from our Toyota Working Assets programme.

### Destinations

51 people have moved on from the Y-Steps Project. Of these 31 have made a positive move on, including:

Destination	Number
Family and/or Friends	10
University	1
Social Housing Tenancy	8
Private Sector Tenancy	3
Employer Accommodation	1
Internal transfer	8

7 people abandoned and we are not aware of their destination whether negative or positive, 9 people were evicted from the scheme mainly for ASB and/or failure to pay their personal charge, 4 have a negative move on into police custody or prison.



## **What we have learned**

Preparation is key to ensuring progress on the Y-Steps project. We have developed a clear framework for staff and residents to ensure that they are ready for the Y-Steps project. Our learning from the project so far has informed this and we can identify the strengths needed to make progress in the Y-STEPS project.

6 months is sometimes not long enough for someone to move on successfully. Therefore, we will be monitoring this more closely and will carry out a more detailed analysis of destinations and sustainment.

The work we have completed with those young people who have entered employment has led us to apply to Homes England to build an affordable housing project for young workers in Derby. This scheme will provide 60 units accessible, affordable housing for those young people who want to live and work in the City.

## **Impact of closure and our proposal**

Closure of the project by termination of the lease we have with Derby Homes will result in up to 48 people becoming homeless. This will have a detrimental impact on our residents in relation to access to suitable accommodation, negative mental health, self development and personal progression. Homelessness impacts on employment, education, health, wellbeing, connections and relationships.

The organisation proposes a continued working relationship with Derby Homes in relation to these properties to safeguard our current and future residents.

Y Steps is deliverable in different forms of accommodation; however pairing people carefully to cohabit successfully allows us to move them on more easily into shared private sector housing.

**YMCA Derbyshire**

**November 2019**