

# OUR PLANS 2024-25



[stepbystep.org.uk](https://stepbystep.org.uk)



# OUR MISSION

Every young person has the right to a safe place to live and the opportunity to realise their aspirations. A young person's future should not be defined by the circumstances they find themselves in.

Step by Step is a charity that reinstates life chances and changes young lives. We support young people facing homelessness and other challenges across six counties in the South of England. Our services provide accommodation, personalised support, help with mental wellbeing, and advice & guidance. We empower young people to work towards the brighter future they deserve.



## WE NEED YOUR HELP

Last year, we supported over 1,580 young people. As well as providing a safe place to live, we empowered young people to realise their potential and work towards sustainable independent living.

This year, we want to make even more of an impact, but we need your help to achieve this. It is voluntary income from supporters that allows us to offer the life-changing wraparound services that make all the difference.

Over the next few pages, you will find some of our key priorities for 2024-25, including those that rely on the kindness of our supporters to make possible.

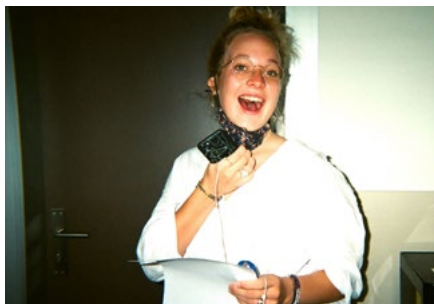
# KEY PROJECTS FOR 2024/25

## LAUNCH

FUNDING REQUIRED

Our unique advice and support service is open to all young people aged 11-25 across the six counties we operate in. It offers more than just guidance and sign-posting – young people are given a dedicated Support Worker who provides practical support and advocacy.

Launch is free to any young person who needs it, offering key preventative support for homelessness and wellbeing.



FUNDING REQUIRED

## SHARED ACCOMMODATION

We offer two models of accommodation for young people living alongside their peers.

**Supported Accommodation Beds (SAB)** see young people living in a Step by Step Foyer, with their own bedroom and shower, and communal kitchen, dining and lounge areas. Support Workers are on-hand 24/7. Some are statutory funded, while others rely on voluntary income.

**Supported Independence Flats (SIF)** are based at our Aldershot Foyer. Young people live in one of four self-contained flats with their own bedrooms and communal facilities. These are for young people with a lower level of need, requiring less support.

SIF placements prepare young people for moving on to independent living. They are entirely funded by voluntary income.



# KEY PROJECTS FOR 2024/25

## EXTENDED SUPPORTED LODGINGS

**FUNDING REQUIRED**

Our Supported Lodgings services places young people in the community to live with host individuals or families. Each year, Supported Lodgings prevents homelessness for hundreds of young people, offering them not only a safe, vetted place to live, but the closest thing they can have to family support.

Supported Lodgings placements are only statutorily funded up to the age of 18. Fortunately, we are now able to extend placements thanks to fundraised income, ensuring that young people can stay until they have finished exams, found somewhere to move on to, and are generally ready to leave the placement.

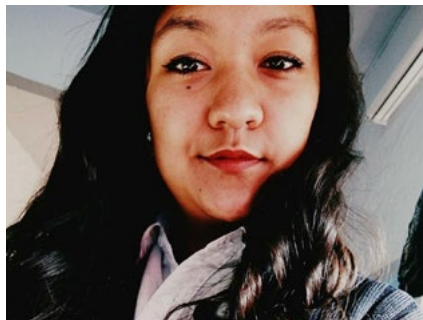
Extended Supported Lodgings is key to ensure support doesn't end when young people need it the most.

## OPPORTUNITIES FUND

**FUNDING REQUIRED**

This is a fund that Support Workers can access to provide young people with the everyday items they need to overcome barriers. It could be a bike to get to college, smart clothes for a job interview, or train tickets to get to work – anything that helps a young person to progress.

The fund is an essential part of our offering and is comprised entirely of voluntary funding.



## SPEAK OUT!

**FUNDING REQUIRED**

Step by Step are putting young people's voices at the heart of everything we do. Speak Out! is a forum for young people to share their thoughts, present their ideas and offer feedback on Step by Step services. Their views will then help shape the direction of the charity.

Like many of our unique services, Speak Out! receives no local authority funding. We would like to expand Speak Out! to involve even more young people, but we need the help of our supporters to achieve this.

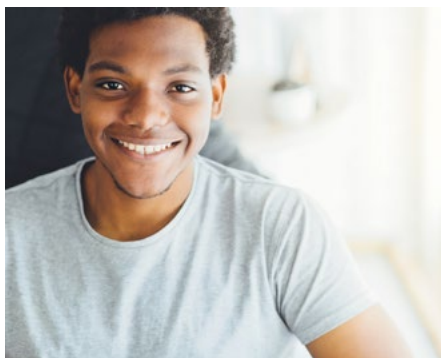
# KEY PROJECTS FOR 2024/25

## SEPARATED CHILDREN SERVICE

**FUNDING REQUIRED**

Many children and young people flee unimaginable horrors, only to find themselves in this country with no family or support. Our Separated Children service addresses this need, finding young people specialist placements in Step by Step Foyers or Supported Lodgings.

Our goal is to offer these young people a safe place to live, and the means and opportunity to become integrated, contributing members of society.



## STEP BY STEP FOSTERING

Our new independent fostering agency is up and running and already bringing together hearts and homes. Step by Step Fostering is unique among fostering agencies as all surplus income it generates goes back to support the Step by Step charity.

Step by Step Fostering is a key part of our strategy for 2024/25, offering the opportunity to impact even more young lives while bringing in extra income for our other services.

## MOVE ON PLACEMENTS PILOT

There is an acute shortage of viable rental properties for young people leaving supported accommodation.

This exciting project will see us renting a property in which young people can take the next step towards independence, living in the community with light touch support from Step by Step's skilled team.

## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### Be The Hero

We're inviting members of the public, community groups and corporate partners to Be The Hero young people need, and join us in taking a stand against youth homelessness.

Our Be The Hero campaign celebrates the everyday heroes — our supporters, hosts, foster carers, and volunteers — who make a profound impact. It also honours the young people we support, recognising their strength and bravery as they overcome adversity. Behind every hero, there's someone who cares, and together we can provide the support they need to thrive.

We'll be taking the campaign out on the road and shouting about it online, so look out for your chance to Be The Hero!



### Become a Host or Foster Carer

We're always looking for amazing families or individuals who can open their home to a young person with nowhere else to turn.

You could become a Supported Lodgings host, offering your spare room to a young person while providing light-touch mentoring and support.

Or you could become a Foster Carer and welcome a young person into your family, giving the love and stability a young person needs to thrive.

Visit our website to find out more.

### Open Doors 2024

Our annual Christmas appeal asks for your support to change lives. Every penny raised will help young people who rely on our services, over the festive period and beyond.

Why not organise your own fundraiser to support Open Doors 2024? We can help with ideas and advice.



# INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

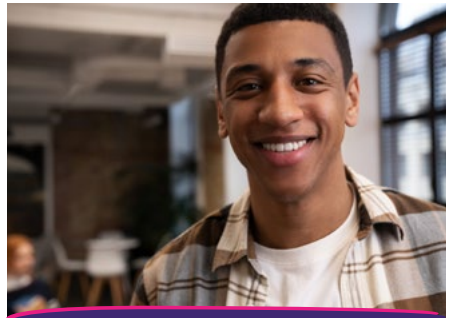
**Jenny** was forced to leave the family home at just 17 years old as she no longer felt safe. We gave her a place in Supported Lodgings, where she would receive not only a safe place to live, but the nurturing and mentorship she needed to move forward with her life.

When she turned 18, we were able to offer Jenny an Extended Supported Lodgings placement so she could complete her studies.



**Luke** had been sleeping in a tent in a park for several months. He was in a desperate situation. Fortunately, our Launch service was able to help.

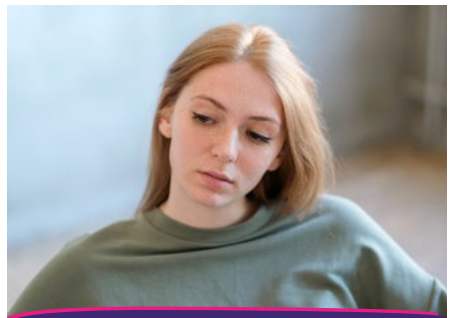
We gave Luke access to a shower and food parcels, and helped him claim Universal Credit. Just eight days later, we were able to help him find accommodation with a partner organisation. Luke now attends university and is thriving in his new life.



**Sophie** was facing neglect at home and at a very low point in her life. She reached out to Step by Step and we offered her a Supported Lodgings placement.

Sophie now sees herself as part of her host family and knows that they genuinely care about her.

*"I feel like I belong here and can be myself. Everyone is so lovely to me, and it's a place that I can call home."*



## CONTACT US

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