

# M3 Project **N E W S**

ISSUE 4

## What M3 did for me

**THIS** is what M3 is all about... in the words of our young people.

Since I've been living on the M3 Project I've got used to living independently and I think everything is just better and my life has become more settled.

I've just completed my college course and I'm about to start my apprenticeship.

Staff at M3 have been very helpful.

**JC**

*I came to M3 because I had a lot of family problems. It's helped me to become more independent and motivated.*

*With Dawn's help, I am now looking forward to moving on and getting my own place.*

**OR**

M3 was good. It helped me to find my own place.

I was with M3 for 10 months after becoming homeless and living in a hostel.

My worker at M3 has been very helpful. Thanks.

**GB**

## Staff change

**WE SAID** thank you and farewell to John Greenwood after nearly six years with M3 – he is now working working for Proffitts CIC on the empty homes project.

We also welcomed a new member to the team – Emma Bird

## Concerns over benefit changes

**A PASSIONATE** plea to ensure the future of young people who are helped by supported accommodation is being made by M3 and sister agencies throughout East Lancashire.

Changes have been announced this week by the Government which could potentially impact on the work carried out by M3, Calico Housing, Pendle Action for the Community, Stepping Stones Projects and the YMCA in Blackburn.

Housing Benefit for 18-21 year olds is being withdrawn with only a few exemptions.

M3 Project Manager Alan Dorrington: "We are calling for a specific exemption to be introduced for those young people who are in supported accommodation, for whatever reason that they needed to access the services we provide.

"We are keen to make sure the

voice of young people is heard if they are unable to live at home, through relationship breakdown, domestic violence, mental health challenges of parents and carers and parental drug or alcohol use within the home."

Alan said that once a young person is ready to live independently, there is also a concern that removing Housing

Benefit will mean they could return to homelessness.

In East Lancashire the various agencies offer support to more than 300 young people each year. Placements are directly funded through the Housing

Benefit budget as well as local authority and grant funding sources.

The organisations are calling on young people in supported accommodation to be viewed in the same terms as those who have been brought up in care homes or are being fostered and who would still be entitled to the benefits.



## Support for M3 Project widens

**AS A** charity we have boosted our profile and now receive support from a variety of different organisations.

We will be running a fundraiser at the prestigious Rossendale

Business Awards at The Riverside in Whitworth in November and we are appealing for raffle prizes.

In a collaboration between M3, Fearn Community Sports College and Rossendale employer J and J Ormerod, pupils will be

given £10 and a month to 'grow' their donation, with all money raised going to M3.

A number of churches are also planning to raise money for us and thanks once again to Trinity Baptist Church for their latest donation.

## So what is M3?

**M3** is a specialist charity that offers a variety of accommodation services to homeless young people aged 16-25.

Accommodation is provided throughout Pennine Lancashire in Rossendale, Burnley, Pendle and Hyndburn using supported lodgings as well as independent supported properties.

From our office base in Rawtenstall, we offer up to 12 supported long-term places and four emergency places.

We also run a teenage family project across East Lancashire.

## Thank you

**IN THE** last six months your donations to M3, along with Gift Aid, have totalled nearly £8,000.

If you want to help on our website there is a donations section where you can select how you would like to help the project.

Just click your choice and follow the simple instructions.

## M3 facts

**SO FAR** in 2015 we have helped 27 young people and families in supported lodgings and through our teenage family project.

## CONTACT US

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