

M3Project

Annual Report

Oct 2013- SEP 2014

M3 Project Ltd (Registered Charity 1154113)

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Youth Homelessness

Why is it a problem?

More than **80,000 young people**

experience homelessness each year in the UK.

Whilst young people sleeping rough in cities and towns is a very visible part of the problem, many

thousands more are experiencing **hidden**

homelessness through having to live in

temporary, insecure or unsafe accommodation and through a destructive cycle of sofa-surfing.

What are we doing about it?

M3 Project is an East Lancashire based charity

helping some of the most vulnerable young people

over 16 with **accommodation and support to**

overcome homelessness.

Our Services

We help single young homeless people and young homeless families aged 16-25, by

providing **supported lodgings** and

supported properties throughout

the East Lancashire area. Our support staff

and volunteer Householders encourage

young people to develop new skills, re-

engage with family and friends, and access

education and training or get into work, in

addition to helping young people move on

into independent accommodation of their

own.

Last year the project helped **58**

homeless young people and

provided **6661 nights of**

accommodation.



"I came to M3 because I had a lot of family problems. It's helped me to become more independent and motivated. With their help, I am now looking forward to moving on and getting my own place."

Supported Lodgings incl Emergency

Our Supported Lodgings service is our original and longest running service. Using our network of volunteer Householders we aim to provide accommodation and support to young people in a home environment, ideally suited to providing security, stability and from which young people can build confidence and independent living skills for the future.

Running alongside our longer term lodgings, the newer Emergency Lodgings scheme has been providing a smaller number of same-day-access emergency placements for young people finding themselves with nowhere to go that night. Sadly, this scheme is due to end in April 2015 as funding is no longer available.

Our longer term supported lodgings scheme continues to work to help young people move on from the disruption of homelessness. Young people like Kate – she came to us via a local Young People’s Service office after her relationship with her mother broke down and she had to leave home. She was affected by witnessing domestic abuse at home, and had been referred to Children’s Social Care. Working with her Householder and one of our Project Workers, Kate managed to maintain part-time work whilst she worked on her independent living skills, and over time was able to obtain full-time work and a private tenancy of her own in a neighbouring town. The project supported her in setting up her new tenancy and kept in touch during those crucial first few weeks as she settled in to her new home.



“M3 was good, it helped me find my own place. I was with M3 for 10 months after coming homeless. My worker for M3 was very helpful, thanks.”

Kate, Supported Lodgings

Teenage Family Project

Running since 2010, the Teenage Family service provides floating support type accommodation for homeless young mums and young families, utilizing fully furnished properties sourced from local social landlords.

A tailored support package with an emphasis on independent living skills, provides the basis for these young families to develop the confidence for independent living in a supported environment, whilst working in a multi-agency set up with professionals from Sure Start, Children's Social Care, Health Visitors and other relevant organisations.

Finding quality accommodation, away from the issues that had been confronting her, meant a young mum like Karen was able to start family life with her young baby – she was referred to us as a pregnant homeless 19 yr old as her family unit had split up. Needing help with her parenting and emotional wellbeing she was jointly supported by Children's Social Care and M3 and was given a placement locally, to which she brought home her new baby daughter born in early 2014.

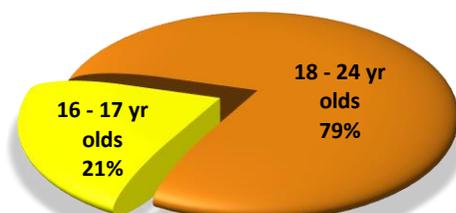
After successfully completing our M3 support programme, she has moved onto her own home in a neighbouring town, entered into full employment and is now engaged and planning her wedding in the next few years.



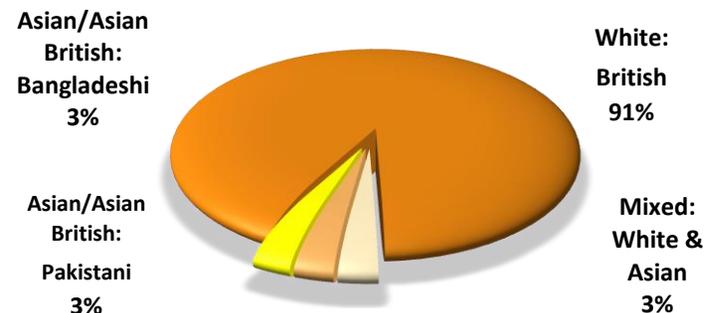
Who we helped

- Within the **Supported Lodgings service** and using 12 available placements of lodgings accommodation for single young people, the project provided **2951 nights of accommodation to 24 young people** during the period Oct 2013 – Sep 2014
- Within the **Emergency Lodgings service** and using 4 available placements of lodgings accommodation for single young people, the project provided **925 nights of accommodation to 18 young people** within this same period.

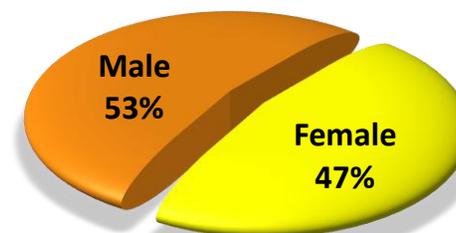
Age of clients



Ethnic Origin of Clients



Sex of Clients



Who we helped



Gender	%
Female	47
Male	53
Age	%
16 - 17	21
18-24	79
Ethnicity	%
White: British	91
White: Irish	
White: Other	
Mixed: White & Black Caribbean	
Mixed: White & Black African	
Mixed: White & Asian	3
Mixed: Other	
Asian/Asian British: Pakistani	3
Asian/Asian British: Bangladeshi	3
Asian/Asian British: Chinese	
Asian/Asian British: Other	
Black/Black British: Caribbean	
Black/Black British: African	
Black/Black British: Other	
Other ethnic group: Arab	
Other ethnic group: Other	
Gypsy/Romany/Irish Traveller	

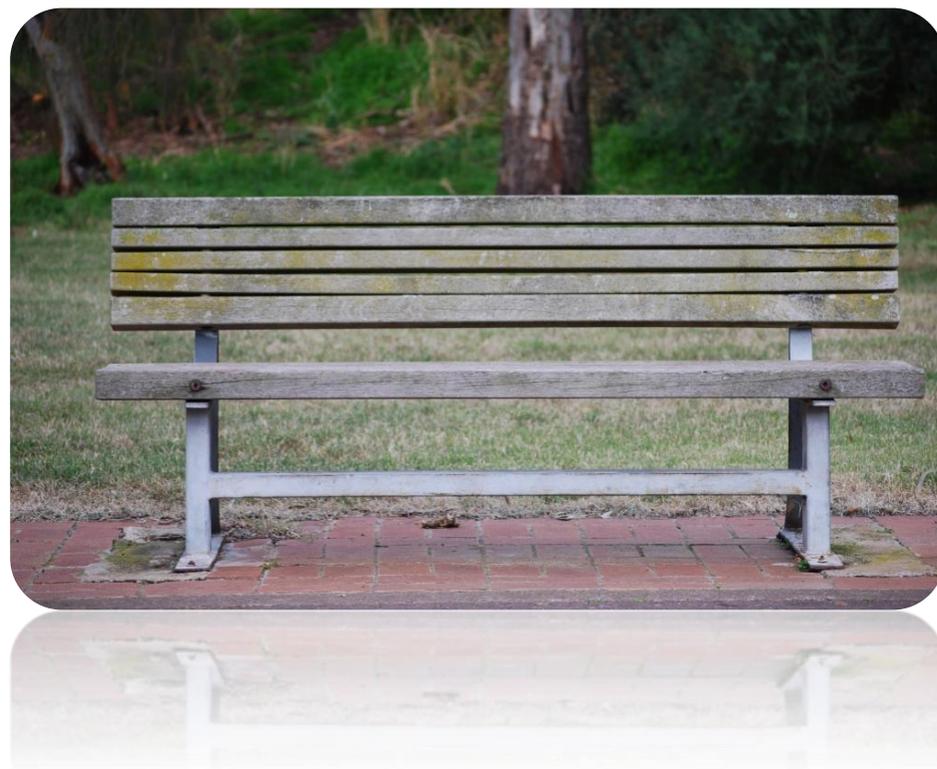
Sexuality	%
Heterosexual	92
Gay	
Lesbian	
Bisexual	3
No wish to say	5
Transgender status	%
Transgender	3
Not Transgender	94
No wish to say	3
Disability	%
Yes	18
No	82
Economic status entering service	%
Part-time work	8
Govt training/Work Programme	5
Job seeker	38
Not seeking work	21
Full-time student	18

This year and next

The year Oct 2014 – Sept 2015 sees some very challenging events coming up for the Project. Continuing reductions in Local Authority spending mean reduced budgets for all LA funded services, including the Lancashire County Council Supporting People funds which support the main contracts deliverable by M3. Re-tendering for contracts has, at the time of writing (July 2015) already taken place and M3 has been successful in winning a mini-competition within the Lancashire Supporting People Framework to continue delivering 13 placements of supported lodgings in East Lancashire for the 2 years until April 2017.

However, re-contracting also meant a reorganization of supported lodgings services in Lancashire, and cessation of funding for our Emergency Lodgings service, which has now finished in April 2015.

Re-contracting for our Teenage Family service is yet to take place in 2015, but it is hoped that M3 can retain this unique service, delivering support to young mums and young families in a tenancy based environment.



“The year Oct 2014 – Sept 2015 sees some very challenging events coming up for the Project...”

Changes to the structure and scope of the Welfare State continue to impact, both directly and indirectly. The flagship Universal Credit programme, replacing 6 previous benefits (including housing costs) with a single benefit, paid monthly, promises to be a major change in the way our young people access financial support from the state. It's full implementation has been delayed for a further indefinite period, meaning our young people are still on older, traditional forms of welfare benefits when studying or out of work.

Most worrying for the project, is the recent announcement from the Government of a decision to remove the automatic right to entitlement to Housing Benefit for 18 – 21 yr olds. Though exemptions for some young people will undoubtedly be made, this has huge implications for the funding of our placements, and the possibility of young people being able to move on to independent living after a placement with us. Details are yet to be released, but the project will be watching developments keenly.



“Over the years we've provided accommodation for several young people, the majority of these have progressed to live on their own, completed their studies at college and either gone onto further education or other avenues they wanted to pursue whilst they are young.

C & P, Householders



How you can help

Become an M3 Champion:

M3 needs people in our local communities to spread the word about our work, the funding we need, or help find us people who want to become a Householder.

Help us fundraise for the work M3 does:

Funding the services M3 provides for homeless young people has become increasingly challenging in the current financial climate. M3 is looking for people to help raise funds in a variety of different ways to help us continue our work into the future.

Become a Householder for M3:

Do you have a spare room? Do you want an extra income? Do you want to help young homeless people? You could play a vital role in helping a young person move from homelessness to more permanent accommodation.

Contact us on 01706 216600 for more information about any of the above.

Financial Statement

Summary of Statement of Financial Activities Year ended 30 September 2014

	2014	2013
Turnover		
Grant funding	203161	223371
Housing Benefit/Rent/Other	111781	101770
Cost of Placements		
Householder payments	76852	86256
Property costs and management	46965	45284
Employment costs		
Wages and NI	131185	131598
Staff expenses	8039	7467
Overheads		
Office costs	15283	15904
Other administrative costs	11807	12114
Other	225	804
Surplus	24586	25714

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