



Making an Impact Together
Pass the Story, Spread the Change





Dear Cherished Supporter
and Friend of Oxfordshire Youth,

Here in Oxfordshire, two young people can grow up just streets apart, yet face vastly different futures. While our county is known for its dreaming spires and innovation, too many of our young people are growing up in poverty, living in rural isolation, or struggling to access safe spaces and role models that can help them remove the barriers that shadow their dreams and narrow their horizons.

But this is where the transformative powers of youth work and partnerships shines brightest.

Oxfordshire Youth are proud to build partnerships with funders, businesses, individuals, and local government who share the same ambition to eliminate inequalities and we thank each and every one of you who has given so generously of your time, expertise, networks, and funding.

Your investment in youth work doesn't just change individual lives—it helps rewrite the story of inequality in our county. Through your support you are helping build an Oxfordshire where a young person's possibilities aren't determined by their postcode, but by their potential. We see you as partners in this change, and we honour your compassion and commitment.

And if these snippets of success move you as they move us, we would love you to pass this little booklet of hope to someone who hasn't yet discovered our work and who cares about our county's future...

By sharing these stories, you can help us weave more young people into this tapestry of transformation.

With gratitude and hope, Emmy O'Shaughnessy
Deputy CEO , Director of Fundraising
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The impact created by your support

“You helped me in any way you could
and that's a lot more than you will ever understand.
It really helped me knowing I had someone.”

“They pushed me, in a good way.”



“I would have been in a hole if it
wasn't for OY. You guys
brought back my confidence
and said I could do it. Having a
person to check in and support
me has helped me and my
mum gain a better relationship,
and this wouldn't have
happened if it wasn't
for the support”



Celebrating success

“I have had 3 support workers during my time in YPSA with OY and all of them have helped me in different aspects. Without any of them, I wouldn't be here (going to university)”

“YPSA has helped me with my education to get into university thanks to Josie I have my money sorted out. Thanks to Sean for keeping to his word and taking me on a Sunday as I don't have the family and he's been there for me. Thanks to you Sue”

Thanks to Lucy Group's long-term commitment, we now offer annual Future Leader residential, engaging employability workshops, and meaningful work placements.

Thank you to the Lucy Group for enabling 8 young people to go on the residential and 15 young people to engage in employability skills training!



“A Place To Belong”

Thomas was left isolated and alone after coming to the UK with his father on a sponsored visa, and his father returning to Africa in 2023 without him. His mother had passed away so he was left living with his father’s girlfriend, who then asked him to leave her home once his father left. On his own and with no family support, he felt afraid and vulnerable. With no permanent home, he was placed into a hotel away from his college friends and his mental health started to decline.

After moving into the Young People’s Supported Accommodation, this sudden and deep trauma left him scared about forming relationships with people, fearing that they would leave him. He also had a challenging and difficult relationship with females, with disrespectful behaviour towards staff in the service.

Thomas attended one-to-one sessions with his male progression coach, where he built a strong professional relationship. He was given positive and beneficial advice around respecting females and polite behaviour. The focus was on honouring boundaries and being conscious of how to communicate with others. With consistency and willingness, Thomas was given the chance to lead the sessions and choose the topics.

The progression coach introduced him to the local community and OY youth club, which helped him form trusting relationships and feel heard. Thomas really immersed himself in the community, along with his progression coach, and helped older people with garden upkeep and the local foodbank and community shop..

Playing football and finding a team where he was supported each week was a step towards belonging. With growing confidence in himself, living in supported accommodation and consistently attending college, Thomas was able to apply to University and was offered a place on an engineering course.



Given the right education, Thomas found his voice within the community, with people from different backgrounds. He found a place he could truly belong.



Ali's story

Discover more of 'Ali's story as he embarks on this new adventure to university.

Oxfordshire Youth celebrates 'Ali' who is starting his degree after 'graduating' from our Young People's Supported Accommodation (Y.P.S.A.) service. He came to Oxfordshire Youth having experienced very little support for his education in his birth family, saying "I didn't find school easy". Ali's case notes made it clear he had survived a very challenging childhood.

Y.P.S.A. is a life-changing service for young people in need of safe accommodation and specialist support. Oxfordshire Youth supports over 100 young people aged 18-25 in high quality two, three and four bedroom homes provided by our project partner Response.

Our Progression Coaches offer support and access to training for young people that enables them to grow in confidence, and move onto their next independent steps. Ali explains the transformative impact this support had on his life.

"If I had been in a loving family when I was younger then I wouldn't be so independent now. My challenges hindered me in some ways emotionally, I find it hard to be introspective but my family circumstances pushed me to become more self reliant and reach beyond my comfort zone.



I got involved with Y.P.S.A. in June 2023 and over this period, I've had three Progression Coaches who've each been beneficial in different ways. They've been the support figures I needed when I had none. One of the coaches was the catalyst for my journey towards studying at university. He's the reason why I took such a profoundly, big step. I think starting university will open a lot of doors for me, it's really exciting!

People can be their own worst enemies and they can let their past define them and dictate what they do for the rest of their lives. It might be easier not to take a big step, but I think you need to use the support that's offered and push yourself.

Being at university will shape me a lot, and in this environment, I'll have the space to uncover the parts of me that I need to develop and understand.

After this, I think I'll go on to study for my master's and PhD. My previous tutors said that they think I should get into lecturing or becoming a professor or something similar.

I think that's down the line for me but I would like to work in academia at some point".

Together we are building a future in which every child and young person has the skills, connections, and opportunities they need to thrive.

Bring on 2025.





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