Action for Children

Guernsey Youth & Housing Project

The difference we make.

Case studies from young people who have accessed our Guernsey services last year.

Steven's Story

Action for Children's Guernsey Youth Housing service aims reduce youth homelessness on the island and to develop programmes that target it's root causes. The charity supports many young people like Steven each year.

Steven, aged 19, moved to Guernsey for employment, but endured bullying & emotional abuse in staff accommodation. Struggling with his mental health, binge drinking, and finding himself experiencing financial difficulties, he reached out to Action for Children in a mental health crisis, disclosing previous suicide attempts and thoughts of ending his life.

AfC provided Steven with keep safe work, and helped him rebuild his life through skills training for independent living, financial management, and securing new accommodation. When he later lost his job due to attendance struggles, Steven was supported by our team to navigate leaving Guernsey in a positive way and finding stability back in the UK, where he continues to focus on his well-being.

Thanks to the generosity of the Bailiwick community, Action for Children's Guernsey Youth Housing project is able to continue to serve as a lifeline for our Islands most vulnerable young people, offering them hope, the foundations they need to thrive and pathways to independence.

"I think back to the state I was in when I first came through the doors at AfC, how unprepared for adult life I was both physically and mentally, it honestly feels like a complete far cry.

Whether it was helping me get to appointments, checking in to make sure all was okay, helping me move in and out of the places I called home, communicating with people that needed updates when I couldn't bring myself to, or sitting down and allowing me to vent, just to reassure me that the world hadn't ended.

So much of it is burned into my memory - the drives to the GP, the walks around L'Ancresse, the chats about football, wandering around looking for furniture, and many, many more positive moments that I'll never forget."

The quote is from Steven and the outcome change diagram above evidences how Steven's life outcomes have improved following her engagement with our services.

Thank you for supporting us, so young people can break the cycle of homelessness!

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Jane's Story

Action for Children's Guernsey Youth Housing service aims reduce youth homelessness on the island and to develop programmes that target it's root causes. The charity supports many young people like Jane each year.

Jane, a care-experienced young person, lived with her partner and his grandmother but faced tensions in the home due to her unemployment, leaving her homeless. Action for Children stepped in to provide shelter, financial support, and guidance tailored to her situation, including support with a deposit for longer term shelter.

With newfound motivation, Jane explored career options and focused on her goal of gaining a role in an office-based environment. She worked through application challenges, built interview skills, and eventually secured a position as a trainee insurance broker. AfC supported her transition into the workplace, providing resources like formal clothing and a laptop. Jane started her role, improved her relationships, and is saving for a home with her partner.

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"Action for Children are not just for assistance in finding work, but it has also helped me to stay in my job and make wise decisions. The team at AfC have not just helped me to make a living they also assisted with finding accommodation, and they go above and beyond for us young adults in their care.

You can always go to one of the team for advice even outside of the workplace and they help find sensible solutions. I could not be more grateful for the support I have received from next steps."

The quote is from Jane and the outcome change diagram above evidences how Jane's life outcomes have improved following her engagement with our services.

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Rachel's Story

Action for Children's Guernsey Youth Housing service aims reduce youth homelessness on the island and to develop programmes that target it's root causes. The charity supports many young people like Rachel each year.

When Rachel's mother passed away during her early teenage years, she lost her sole caregiver and began a difficult period of instability. With her father living abroad, Rachel moved between her sofas and spare rooms offered by family friends. But overcrowding and downsizing left her with no other options and without a place to stay.

At 16, Rachel facing immediate homelessness, came to Action for Children for support, the charity began working with Rachel to find alternatives. After emergency housing, she moved into a training flat where she gained critical skills—like managing a tenancy, self-care, and independent living. These skills helped her transition into social housing, where Rachel now confidently maintains her own home and builds her future.

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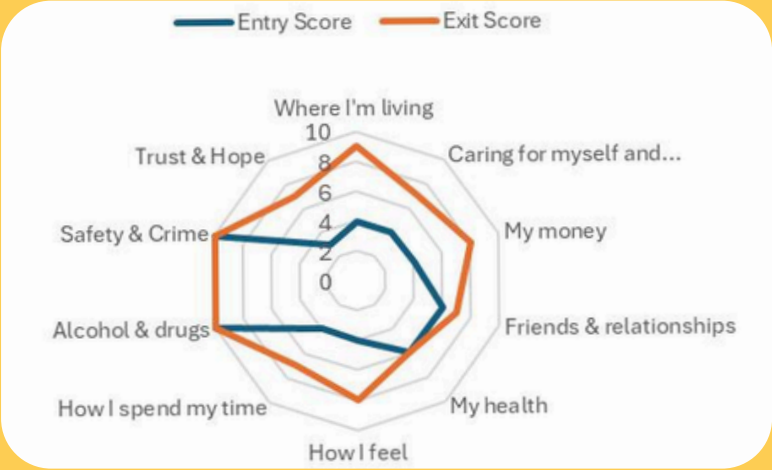
"I fully believe getting moved into the training flats changed the course of my life. If I hadn't been moved in, I'm not sure where I would have gone next.

I'm so grateful for all the opportunities and memories you've given me over the years. Your work here is so needed, and I hope you all know how valued you all are!"



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Sarah's Story

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Sarah was brought into care when she was 13 years old, she was experiencing family conflict and there were concerns about the impact of parental substance misuse. She spent time in foster care and had a reasonably positive time in foster care, but the arrangement began to break down as she began to explore independence, staying out later, and generally exploring her own adulthood.

She made the decision to leave foster care at 18, and moved into an Action for Children training flat, where our team were able to support her with work around motivation, supporting her ongoing engagement in education, and teaching practical skills to making nutritious meals and manage a home.

During the move into a training flat she continued to attend further education completing a BTEC level 3 in a creative area of study and targeted a place at university. This September, Sarah was successful at securing an unconditional offer at university and left the Island to start her new life on the South Coast of the UK. Action for Children funded all the things she needed for her student accommodation to support settling into her new community and offered a months worth of additional support after she had moved.

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'The project helped me prepare for university a lot, If I didn't have it, I would have struggled and panicked wondering how I could've gotten everything I need. I would have also really struggled with money once I was at university... I would've been a starving artist!

The grant to move on made me feel overwhelmed but in the best way, searching amazon for everything I needed with my AFC worker was great, I've never really been able to get anything I wanted like that before. It was so weird having access to things everyone else does, I am so grateful.'

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Bobby's Story

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Bobby was referred to Action for Children by his probation worker following family conflict which had been caused by parental mental health struggles, there were conflicts which often led to verbal and physical altercations between Bobby and his parent would often result in Bobby having nowhere to stay.

Bobby would leave home and walk the streets, and his alleged offending and concerns about substance use and linked behaviour brought him to probation's attention.

Action for Children assessed Bobby for Nightstop, but due to risk factors, this wasn't possible. Instead, we provided short-term emergency hotel accommodation with on-call support. Working with benefits and using crisis funding, we secured a longer hotel stay while exploring long-term options.

Bobby was supported to secure a winter let, attend the interview, and set up direct rent payments to prevent eviction issues. He has also completed a training flats assessment and will be put forward for the services independent living training flats.

Alongside housing support, the team identified Bobby's wider needs and commissioned 10 professional counselling sessions to support his emotional well-being.

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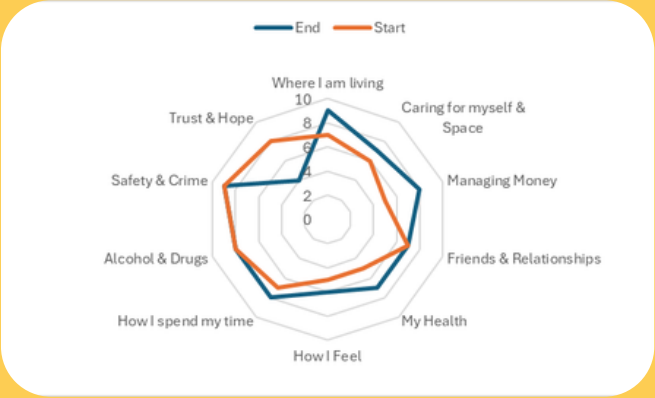

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Greg's Story

Action for Children's Guernsey Youth & Housing service aims to reduce youth homelessness on the island and to develop programmes that target it's root causes. Thanks to your support we are able to help people like Greg each year.

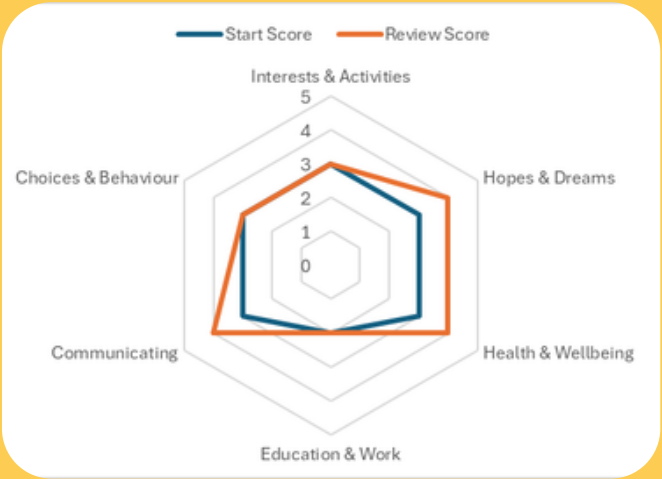
Greg was referred to Action for Children by social care due to concerns about his cannabis use and the impact this was having on his ability to engage in education. Alongside this, Greg had been experiencing ongoing challenges with his mental health, and rising stress levels were creating tension at home.

To support Greg, Action for Children delivered one-to-one sessions focused on understanding cannabis use which covered the effects, associated risks, and harm-reduction strategies. In addition, Greg and his mum took part in a mediation session facilitated by a trained member of our team, which helped them recognised and validated their concerns and their shared desire to spend more quality time together. They agreed on a social contract for the family home and both feedback that had noticed a positive shift in their relationship.

Following the completion of mediation and substance use support, Greg was introduced to our mentoring service. He was paired with a volunteer mentor who provides ongoing listening support, life guidance, and a trusted adult presence. Greg has built a strong rapport with his mentor, enjoying sessions that include cooking or catching up over a meal in the community.

"I knew about cannabis, but I've got a new insight and it was nice to talk to someone about it. The mentoring is good, really easy to sit there and have a chat about whatever I want.

I find it quite beneficial just to rant about day to day things, and its just nice knowing that on a Thursday I can go out and get something to eat and talk with someone, and its my decision whether I want to do it or not that week."



The quote is from Greg and the outcome change diagram above evidences how their life improved following his engagement with our services.

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Stacy's Story

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Stacy is 20 years old and has a history of challenges with her mental health. When she was younger she worked closely with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and received support for self-harm and Emotional Dysregulation. She was asked to leave further education due to ongoing issues with behaviour and attendance and found herself not in Education, Employment or Training and was referred to Action for Children to attend their drop in groups to limit Isolation.

She suffered an assault when she was 18 which has had a significant impact on her health and wellbeing. She's also struggled with a bereavement and at times experienced some challenges with substance use as she tried to cope with her emotions. She was referred to a number of other services for support for mental health but feel through the net due to differing services thresholds of risk.

Stacy was referred to the service for mentoring and has had 11 sessions so far with her volunteer. Sessions have included a visit to a local art studio, cooking lesson, listening support and going for walks in the community.

"Mentoring has helped me by giving me the ability to try new activities that I might not necessarily do or take myself to do and have someone who can navigate me through situations I'm not sure what to do with."

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