

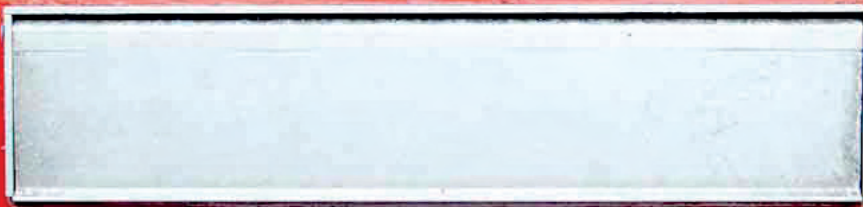


**BRADFORD  
CYRENIANS**

*Building stronger communities*

# 2022 ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT

The annual Bradford Cyrenians review report 2022



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[www.bradfordcyrenians.org.uk](http://www.bradfordcyrenians.org.uk)

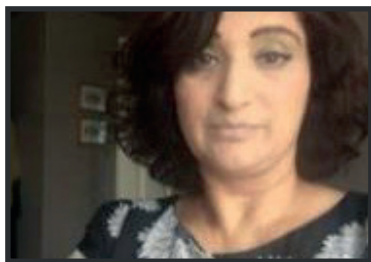
Working with diverse communities, who benefit in a fair, inclusive and supportive way that values individuality and recognises cultures, values and beliefs.



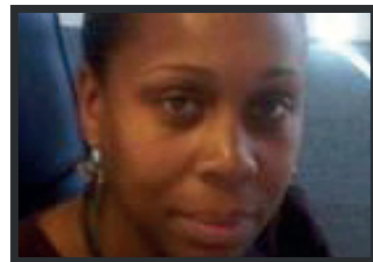
# Introduction

Emerging from the pandemic we are still feeling the effects of the unprecedented challenges we have all faced as a country. Unavoidably, we have taken a loss in capacity, growth & development and this has impacted on 2 consecutive years. Whilst Covid-19 emergency funding greatly helped in the first year, the last 12 months has been challenging to say the least. During the second half of the year we were notified that the Lotteries 'Reaching Communities' Fund would fund one of our non-commissioned services which was fantastic news for the service and the clients that we support. Like many charities and businesses across the country our financial situation has been affected. From an operational perspective it means our plans to work with and support more vulnerable clients stalled however we are now making positive strides to address this. Sadly, homelessness and the increased numbers continue to be a concern across the country and supported housing could never be more in demand as it is now. Bradford Cyrenians has an integral part to play in order that we help vulnerable communities turn their lives around and improve their health and wellbeing.

Our staff have shown great resilience and determination throughout the last 2 years. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that our clients receive an intensive package of support, whilst helping service users to maintain their accommodation. Their commitment to Bradford Cyrenians is a valuable asset and we are proud of their achievements.



Rubina Bokhari  
Chief Executive



Paulette Johnson  
Chair - Board of Trustees

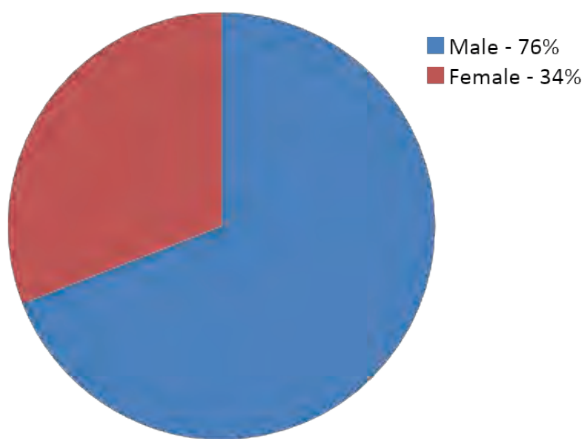




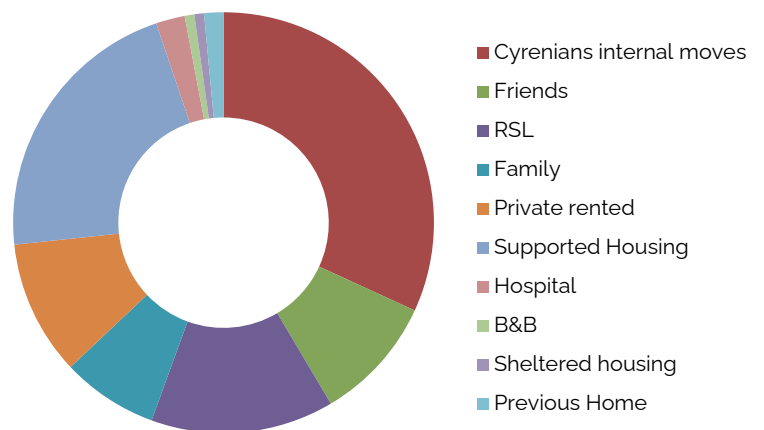
Going forward, our concerns relate to the increasing cost of living and how this will impact on the communities we serve. With inflation close to 10% this is having a negative effect on managing household bills, which will only be further exacerbated in October when fuel costs are expected to go up again. With the government's commitment to 'levelling up' we look forward to finding out what initiatives will be developed to tackle poverty and health inequalities.

Our staff have shown great resilience and determination throughout the last 2 years. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that our clients receive an intensive package of support, whilst helping service users to maintain their accommodation. Their commitment to Bradford Cyrenians is a valuable asset and we are proud of their achievements.

### Gender of service user accessing services



### Planned moves





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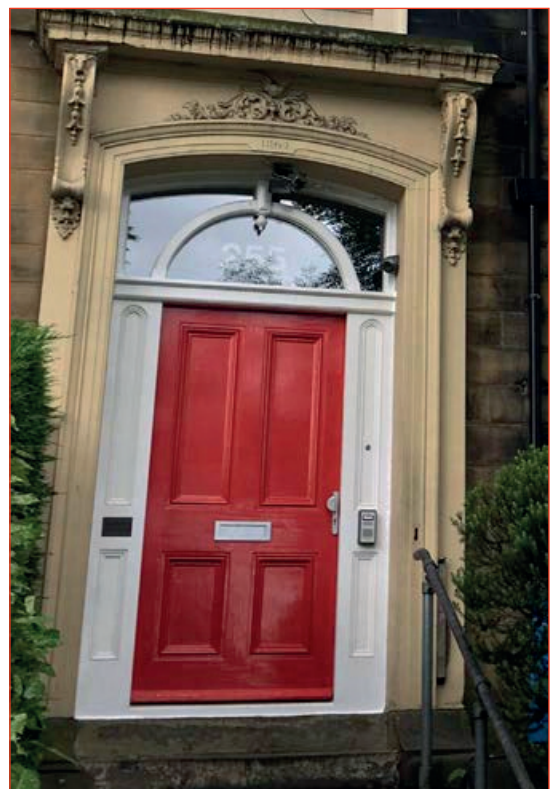
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# Homes 4 life




## How does Homes4Life change lives?

Many of our service users come to us via our hostel. Because of the intensive support package we offer service users, we can see that change has already begun to happen by the positive way they engage with us. They have already begun to work on their personal goals through our joint working with other support services such as drugs agency, mental health professionals and other health related services. This means that we can focus on developing life skills and ensuring that service users learn from whatever led to them becoming homeless in the first place – whether this is rent arrears, anti-social behaviour or just not maintaining their properties and leaving it in disrepair.

At Homes4Life we ensure a smooth transition from temporary accommodation into their own homes, where we work closely to make sure they can live safely and independently. We work with each service user and show them how to take care of their property and themselves, simple things like using a washing machine or reminders for self-hygiene, soon this all becomes routine.

Financial difficulties cause pressure and DWP can often be a minefield to navigate. We empower our service users to maximise their income and we help put into place achievable budgeting plans which are regularly discussed. This intervention means our service users develop money-management skills, understand the importance of paying their bills on time and avoid getting into debt. They can build on this as part of long term life skills development.

Homes4Life enables change to happen and service users who were once homeless and in need, become settled in their home, confident and comfortable managing independently.



"Living in homes for life has allowed me to have a more independent life, the staff have supported me in everything I've needed and I'm grateful for their help"

"I have always been happy with everything I've received and always got the help I need. I'm happy with the service from Bradford Cyrenians"

# Hostel

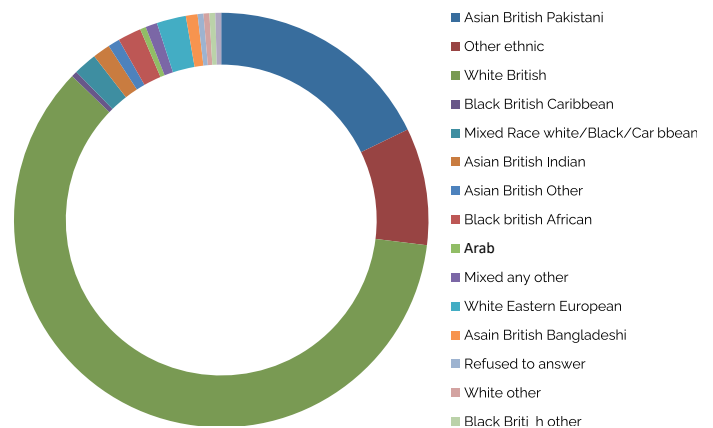


## How the Hostel facilitates change, independence and promotes confidence building

The Hostel helps facilitate change by adopting a holistic approach with service users, recognising them as a whole person with individual support needs. We accommodate those with high support needs and risks. The vast majority of our service users have complex needs and behavioural issues, this means our hostel is often the last accommodation option available for them. The majority of service users present with mental health, physical health substance/alcohol abuse issues. Through mutual respect between staff and service users we work to break the cycle of homelessness.

We pride ourselves in working with men with challenging behaviour, giving them a second chance where others may not. Staff work to ensure the essentials' are completed, such as a health assessment and that they are signed up to a GP, getting their benefits in place and making sure they have eaten and have clean clothes. The team collaborates with all key agencies such as drugs, alcohol, mental and physical health to ensure that all service users access specialist treatment. We work with men from diverse backgrounds and because of our communal facilities we encourage service users to take part in decision making including menu planning and group activities.

Ethnicity of Bradford Cyrenians service users



"Bradford Cyrenians are committed to making our services inclusive to all communities. We celebrate diversity and promote inclusion in all aspects of service delivery".

"It has helped me to break the cycle of homelessness"

"My support worker has focussed on my support"

"House meetings are good and staff listen to my opinions"

"The hostel staff have helped with my mental health"



# Men standing up



## How Men Standing Up (MSU) supports male victims to survive

In order for us to facilitate change and enable mens voices to be heard, we adopt a holistic approach with each service user. MSU consults each service user, working with them to focus on their strengths, needs and what their short and long term goals are. In order to achieve their goals and aspirations service users work closely with staff either 1-1 or in group settings to help increase their confidence and develop skills that will help them live independently.

Male victims inform us that they often feel isolated and unrepresented in society. They present at our service with little or no support from their families or friends. Service users tell us that talking about male domestic abuse is still a taboo subject and one that carries a stigma. Isolation and feeling alone is why MSU runs monthly peer support sessions, to encourage men to support each other, recognising they are not alone.

One of the many ways MSU has facilitated change is through networking. Bradford Cyrenians has established excellent working partnerships throughout the sector and beyond. This means that we can offer robust packages of support in partnership with other specialist services including the Police, Criminal Justice system, solicitors and LGBTQ organisations.

On average, we receive 400 calls per month to our confidential helpline – a service that is accessed by victims nationally. We have seen increased demand for support for men with no recourse to public funds . In addition, male victims with UK citizenship issues are also presenting at MSU. These are areas that our staff have accessed training on in order that we can help support victims and help them overcome these obstacles.

"I was so scared before I came to this service. You have supported me to obtain my indefinite leave to remain... which is something I have been trying to do for the last 10 years".

'I had never heard of this service up until now but I feel like I have finally come to the right place. Thank you.' I thought I was on this road alone only to realise after seeing all the other men at the peer support group that there are others in my situation.'



# Parent plus



## How does Parent plus help change to happen?

The Parent+ service is the only provision within our organisation supporting and accommodating homeless single parents and their child/ren. Our dedicated Supported Housing Officer provides a package of holistic support where the whole family approach is integrated into the support planning and risk management process. Our ethos is based in delivering one to one, whole family and inter-agency support to equip families with the tools and social support to strengthen their relationships, establish stability, achieve realistic positive changes and plan for the future together.

Families we work with are empowered to regain and maintain control for themselves and their child/ren following the trauma, upset and upheaval caused through homelessness. Parents are supported and encouraged to work towards achievable positive changes and realistic outcomes for themselves and their child/ren. Adopting a multi-agency approach we work closely with health, education, early help, social care and other specialist services to meet family needs and:

- maintain family safety
- empower and build resilience
- retain and improve familybonds
- promote positive parenting
- encourage positive behaviours provide information and support to parents to make healthy lifestyle choices for themselves and their children.
- We work on life skills with all our service users to equip them for an independent future.

“You’ve been great, you help me a lot. Me and my kids are happy now and if it wasn’t for you I’d probably be on the street with my kids”



“Thanks so much for getting me the donations for my baby, doing everything for my new home and making sure me and my baby are safe”



# Re-start



## Re-Start Project (RSP) a unique service that helps to facilitate change

RSP believes a home is a fundamental right. A safe home is the foundation on which our lives are built. It opens the door to employment, health, education, and is the basis for developing strong communities.

As a team we are excellent at multi-tasking, working in crisis situations and thinking outside the box. RSP has a dedicated, knowledgeable team who empower service users to reach their potential. Adopting a person-centred approach, we help and support our service users to break the cycle of rough sleeping and develop life skills that will enable them to maintain a home.

We have excellent relationships with our partner agencies throughout Bradford allowing us to signpost our service users to access more targeted support. Joint working with other agencies enables us to provide a holistic approach to each service user as many of our clients have complex needs. We work hard to build good working relationships with our landlords, both private and social housing, so we can offer our service users the best standard of housing available.

Once a service user is ready to move on into their own home, support continues via our Floating Support Service. This seamless approach proves invaluable when setting up and maintaining new tenancies. This approach reduces isolation and promotes mental wellbeing, factors which often lead to failed tenancies.

"I had been homeless for some time, in and out of hostels for a lot of my life. RSP gave me not just a home but help me to rebuild my life. When I moved into my own home my support didn't stop as I was moved on to floating support. I had nothing and the worker supported me to furnish my flat, set up all my bills and settle into my place... thank you".





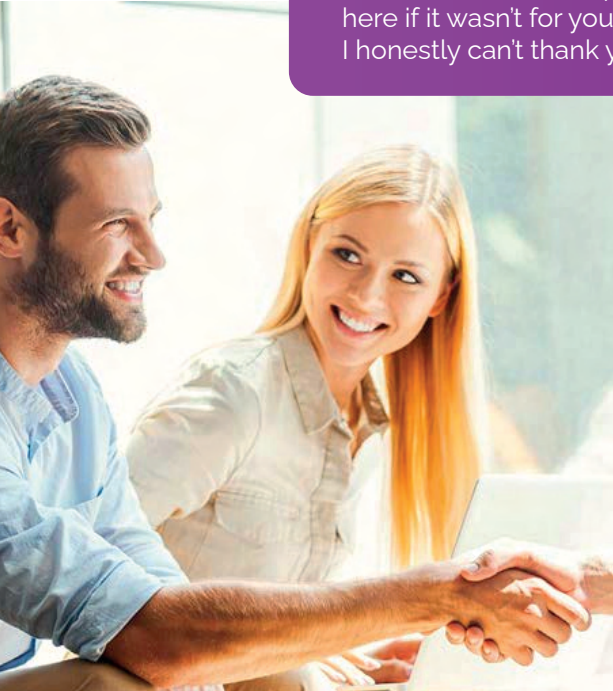
# Supported Tenancies Offenders Project




## How does STOP encourage positive change?

STOP helps change happen through the provision of holistic and user led support, open honest, effective communication and robust Service User consultation, feedback and involvement. Ex-offenders and those at risk of further offending are more often caught in a cycle of chaotic, unstable and complex high risk lifestyles that requires a level of trust and non-judgemental approach to be established before any positive changes can happen. Research into offenders shows that having access to a stable home on leaving prison can often prevent reoffending. Our provision of fully equipped and furnished safe and stable supported accommodation enables service users to break free from transient homelessness and have their own safe place to call home which is a foundation for them to move on. With this in mind, STOP service ensures prospective Service Users are given the information they need regarding their rights, options and choices available, the requirements of service engagement and tenancy sustainment in a way that they understand and in order that they can make informed decisions. This approach is embedded from the point of referral, through needs and risk assessment, transition into our service and throughout their time with us.

Staff adopt one to one key working sessions to support, encourage and promote Service Users to take ownership and control over decision making, set realistic and achievable goals, engage in multi agency support to meet needs, promote a solution focused approach to dealing with challenges. Service Users are encouraged with healthy risk taking whilst taking steps to reduce high risk behaviours and actions in order to assist positive change and with the aim of breaking the cycle of offending and homelessness.



"I know I've messed up big time but I honestly wouldn't even be here if it wasn't for your help and everything you've all done for me. I honestly can't thank you enough"



"Without STOP I would still be on the streets and nowhere near where I am now. I've got a lot better than I was, and have started to go out, as I couldn't before because of my panic attacks. I have my own place and that's all with the help of STOP and my support worker. If I need any help, they're on it and go the extra mile for me."



# Supported Tenancies



## Supported Tenancies – Facilitating Change Through Encouraging Involvement

As a Service providing housing and housing related support we are keen to involve service users, staff and stakeholders in making changes, moving forward and improving service delivery. As a small but effective staff team we hold regular scheme meetings and also have open and informal meetings around anything that needs discussion on a day to day basis – this can be anything from 'how can we use those notice boards better' to 'how can we mobilise resources to keep voids down and who is best at doing A, B and C and getting that done fast. We work well together and know each others strengths, so planning and communicating our ideas is not too difficult. It can be challenging working with such a diverse service user group and a wide range of other professional agencies but several heads and ideas are better than one.

The main way, in which we as a service impact and facilitate change is with our Service Users. We aim for and encourage full participation from our Service Users in the support offered. We make sure, from the start, that they have a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities and that their involvement in their journey is key. Our referrals are often very vulnerable people, many of whom have lost confidence in themselves and their ability to live and be part of society. Our role is not just to house our service users and look for more permanent accommodation, but to support them and help them to find those lost skills that they most likely have had and used in the past. Sometimes we just work 'with' a Service User in a way that makes a big difference to their lives and helps them change in small but important and meaningful ways.

'I can't thank you guys enough, I don't think I could have done it on my own and so quickly. I feel like a new person with things to look forward to.'

'Staff have made the support around me and it has made a big difference to my life. Thank you.'





# BRADFORD CYRENIANS

*Building stronger communities*



## MISSION STATEMENT

- Bradford Cyrenians is committed to delivering the provision of safe and secure housing, advice and support to vulnerable communities.
- Using an empowering approach we will work towards enabling vulnerable service users to find positive solutions whilst respecting their individual rights and choices.

**Thankyou**