



# Future Builders Impact Report 2019-20



OVO  
FOUNDATION

**END YOUTH  
HOMELESSNESS**

# About



## The OVO Foundation

We're OVO's charity: the OVO Foundation. In 2014, we set out to give kids and young people a greener, fairer world to grow up in – all with the help of amazing OVO members and their kind donations.

Right now, we're installing solar panels in Kenya through Project Jua, bringing hundreds of thousands of people clean, green energy to power schools and medical centres. We're teaching kids about fighting the climate crisis through our Climate Changers programme, as well as making schools more energy efficient and planting Tiny Forests across the UK – these will become outdoor classrooms and have a massive impact, absorbing up to 7,200 tonnes of carbon each year. We're working with young people at risk of homelessness to construct homes through our Future Builders project, where they'll learn new skills and get support in education and employment.

Thousands of OVO members donate to the Foundation each month and we match everything they give. So, together, we do double the good. Everything goes straight to our projects.

For more information visit:  
[ovofoundation.org.uk](http://ovofoundation.org.uk)



## End Youth Homelessness

End Youth Homelessness is a UK-wide movement of local charities that have joined forces to tackle youth homelessness together. It provides a national platform to raise awareness, share experience and generate voluntary income. The funds we raise help our members to increase capacity, services and sustainability in extremely challenging times. Our Member Charities house and support over 30,000 young people facing homelessness. EYH Member Charities: 1625 Independent People, Aberdeen Foyer, Amber Foundation, The Benjamin Foundation, Centrepoint, Llamau, MACS, Rock Trust, Roundabout, St Basils, Step By Step.

For more information visit:  
[eyh.org.uk](http://eyh.org.uk)

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# Introduction from OVO Foundation



“The Future Builders programme is built on our belief that the provision of affordable housing, in combination with training and job opportunities, can break the cycle of homelessness. From starting with a pilot with 1625 Independent People (1625ip) in 2016 to now working with four partners, it’s fantastic to see the programme changing young lives across England and Scotland.

It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year for everyone but it’s young people who face some of the greatest challenges. We’re extremely proud to see the hard work of the Future Builders come to fruition even during these difficult times, as the case studies in this report demonstrate. Through support from our partners, young people have gained professional experience, achieved qualifications, moved on to University and embarked on their careers.

We’d like to finally thank the brilliant partners that make Future Builders a success, not only our direct partners End Youth Homelessness, 1625ip, Roundabout, The Benjamin Foundation and The Rock Trust, but also the housing associations and local authorities who invest in the programme. The properties that have been brought back into use will continue to provide quality and affordable homes for years to come, and we’re looking forward to supporting more young people on the journey to complete independence.”

**Caroline Silke, Head of OVO Foundation**

# Introduction from End Youth Homelessness



“Young people have immense capacity to change – they can learn new skills and develop new habits very quickly – but they need to believe they will have a meaningful opportunity to put them into practise and live a better life. Young people know social housing stock is incredibly limited and renting privately often beyond their reach. In short, the most disadvantaged young people know the route to independent adulthood is often overwhelming and, frankly, inaccessible.

Future Builders is ground-breaking. By directly connecting skills training with a realistic and sustainable housing option, Future Builders provides a springboard out of a life of dependency and gives young people hope; a rare commodity in 2020.

The data and case studies in this report do two things. Firstly, they evidence impact and justify the continuation of the project. Secondly, they are positive stories that inspire young people to believe in themselves and strive for a better life.

There is no doubt Future Builders is an important addition to the support available for homeless young people wherever it has been established. Over the coming months, with the OVO Foundation’s continued support, EYH charities will bring more properties back into use and introduce Future Builders into new regions too. Watch this space.”

**Nicholas Connolly, Managing Director, End Youth Homelessness**

# Case Study

## 1625 Independent People



Jake participated in the Future Builders programme in Bristol. When the relationship with his family broke down he found himself between accommodation and unable to complete his A Levels. His local authority deemed him ineligible to move into supported housing but he was able to find support from 1625 Independent People.

Prior to joining the programme and moving into his Future Builders home, Jake completed Employability and Tenancy training. It was here that he discussed his goal to study Business at University. It wasn't an easy road but, through support from 1625ip, Jake planned ways to overcome challenges and make positive changes which included budgeting and finding a mentor who had started their own business. The opportunity to talk and be listened to with no judgement and scrutiny proved extremely helpful for Jake.

Alongside support to pursue his ambitions, Future Builders provided Jake with a stable and affordable home to live in. He felt more settled and was able to pass his exams, securing his place at university. Before he left Bristol, he spoke at one of 1625ip's organisational conferences, inspiring everyone with his story and sharing how the Future Builders programme had allowed him to get where he wanted to be.



# An Introduction to Future Builders

Future Builders is an innovative programme which helps young people break the cycle of homelessness. We work with local authorities and housing associations to acquire neglected properties and provide young people with key support:



Young people who are at risk of or have experienced homelessness team up with professional contractors to turn neglected properties back into quality homes that they can live in.



Crucially, the rent in Future Builders homes is very affordable (usually one-third of the local market rate), helping to remove a financial barrier for young people on low incomes to live independently.



Support is also provided for young people to access education, employment and training (EET) so they can study or work while living in their new home.

The Future Builders programme was jointly designed by OVO Foundation and 1625ip, two Bristol-based organisations who had worked together previously. Together we wanted to create an affordable housing and EET support model that can be scaled, replicated and embedded in youth homelessness organisations across the UK.

Future Builders was initially piloted with seven young people refurbishing and living in two properties in Bristol in 2016. EYH has supported the roll out, delivery and monitoring and evaluation of Future Builders since 2018, firstly with the programme's expansion in Sheffield with

Roundabout. The fourth year of the programme saw Future Builders expand to Norfolk through The Benjamin Foundation and to Perth with the Rock Trust.

To date, OVO Foundation has supported 193 young people through Future Builders and its support for St Basil's 'Live and Work Scheme' in Birmingham - a programme which inspired Future Builders. We have so far committed to renovating 20 Future Builders properties across four UK locations. This will create an affordable home for up to 42 young people at any one time, as well as bring the properties back into use for the future.



# Future Builders Locations

## The Rock Trust

The Rock Trust launched Future Builders in Perth in 2020, refurbishing three one-bed flats leased to them by Perth and Kinross Council. Seven young people have engaged in the programme this year. In addition to these, The Rock Trust will refurbish six further properties.

## Roundabout

Roundabout were the second charity to participate in the programme, launching in 2018. Three properties were leased from Sheffield City Council and have been brought back into use, with one of these refurbishments completed this year. The refurbished properties create a home for up to nine young people at any one time and 11 young people have been supported this year.

## 1625 Independent People

1625ip were the first charity to deliver Future Builders. Six properties have been brought back into use since 2016, creating homes for up to 18 young people. Two properties were refurbished and 42 young people supported this year. Future Builders provides affordable rental rates in a highly competitive housing market, as a result there is considerable demand for available rooms.

## The Benjamin Foundation

The Benjamin Foundation launched Future Builders at the end of 2019 with one large property being reconfigured into two three-bed properties. The properties have been provided by local Housing Association, Victory Housing. Lockdown caused a pause in the refurbishment and COVID restrictions have meant that young people have had to support the work in a socially distanced way. In total, 21 young people participated in the programme this year.



# Case Study

## The Benjamin Foundation



The Benjamin Foundation

“

I'm Cara, I'm 21 years old and the first tenant of the Future Builders properties in Norfolk.

My whole life I have lived at home with my family. The last two years have been the hardest years of my entire life. I have struggled with depression, anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as a result of an abusive relationship.

This August, I felt as though it was time to leave the nest. I knew that I would still need support managing my emotions and living independently - and that is when I came across The Benjamin Foundation.

I was very anxious at first but soon I plucked up the courage to contact The Benjamin Foundation about the properties. Michala interviewed me and, while I was extremely nervous, she settled my nerves instantly.

Michala told me that a Support Worker would visit on a weekly basis to support each tenant individually. This was perfect for me, as I knew I would need support with my social skills, relationship building, and cooking.

I was soon told that I had been accepted and would become the first tenant in the property. I was ecstatic! I was so proud of myself for taking this step, which would enable me to start the next chapter of my life. The home and The Benjamin Foundation have not only given me freedom, they've given me independence - and what more is needed for a person to flourish?

”



# Impact of COVID-19 on Young People

While 2020 brought exciting expansion, many plans have had to be altered due to COVID-19. Despite the challenging situation that all charities and young people have found themselves in, Future Builders staff across all of the sites have gone above and beyond to ensure young people are supported.

While contractors were prevented from entering properties during lockdown, staff went in to complete painting and decorating to ensure any delays to the programme were minimal. Staff continued to support young people over the phone or via video calls, young people have been given food parcels where needed and have been provided with support to claim Universal Credit and to search for jobs when furloughed or made redundant.

The pandemic has affected all young people disproportionately; 1 in 6 have seen their income fall, they are more than twice as likely to have lost their job and youth unemployment is set to reach its highest level since the 1980s. Homeless young people are likely to be adversely impacted as they do not have the emotional and financial security that a family can often provide. Future Builders is needed now more than ever.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

In late 2019, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19, we revisited the programme’s aims and objectives and reviewed the monitoring and evaluation arrangements in place to ensure our impact measurement is robust and consistent. A key part of this process was developing a Theory of Change which was created, in consultation with EYH, by the Centre for Education and Youth.



EYH facilitated meetings with senior leaders of the Future Builders charities to discuss the programme’s objectives and methods for capturing outcomes and measuring impact. A workshop was also held in January 2020 for delivery staff and managers working on Future Builders to review the overarching monitoring and evaluation framework and to ensure that charities were well equipped to report on the programme’s impact. The results of the monitoring and evaluation framework have formed the basis of demonstrating our national and local impact on the next page.

# Case Study

## Roundabout



At the beginning of 2020, Peter's fractured relationship with his mum made living at home extremely challenging.

Peter moved into Roundabout accommodation over lockdown as a result. Due to Peter's quick progress, it was suggested that he move onto Roundabout's Future Builders programme.

Whilst the house refurbishment was nearly complete when Peter moved in, he was still keen to get stuck into some DIY.

“ There are just some finishing touches that need doing, but the Future Builder Co-ordinator, Ray, is going to work with us on that to help us complete it! ”

Since moving in, Peter has continued to flourish. He has learnt how to live with other young people, is learning how to maintain his property, and has just started a brand new job. Having a safe and secure place to live as part of the Future Builders scheme has created a solid foundation for Peter to rebuild his life.



# National Impact

October 2019 – September 2020

81

**Young people taking part in Future Builders during this period**

Not all young people live in the Future Builders properties but may participate in the training and refurbishment elements.

62

young people achieved a qualification which represents 77% of the young people participating in the programme.

55

young people gained professional experience, 68% of those participating.

36

young people were housed across all Future Builders properties. 82% of whom have maintained their tenancies successfully.

## Long-term outcomes

14

young people moved on

12

young people moved on to a positive accommodation pathway\*\*

7

young people moved into a home of their own

\*\*Young people who have moved on to accommodation that is considered a sustainable and positive step for them.

# Case Study

## The Rock Trust



Originally from Lithuania, Kaia moved to the UK with her family when she was 14. She had a troubled relationship with her father and things between them got progressively worse. As their relationship broke down, Kaia ran away from home and took refuge in a homeless unit. Kaia wanted to study a Higher National Certificate, but studying full time as an 'adult' meant she wouldn't be eligible to stay living in the unit or access housing benefit to help her pay rent elsewhere.

Kaia was referred to the Future Builders programme in Perth where she began to build her confidence and independent living skills, and in September moved into her new home. As part of the move-in process, Kaia got to pick her own carpets, furniture and paint, and learnt DIY skills to help do-up parts of her home. Kaia has now been able to pursue her NHC in childcare so she can work in a nursery.

Her next longer-term goal is to live completely independently in her own flat and to get a pet cat.



Future Builders will help me to learn things that I need for independent living. This will help me to be more confident in the future. I love living in my own home, I feel safe and secure. The support that I am receiving from Rock Trust is helping me to settle in and I can feel my confidence growing.





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This report was designed by Foyer Graphics, a design studio offering professional design services for branding, design for print and multimedia. It has operated as a social enterprise for over 22 years and its profits go to Aberdeen Foyer Charity, an EYH Member charity who support individuals experiencing unemployment and homelessness across Aberdeen City and Shire.

All young people photographed are models and names in case studies have been changed to maintain the privacy of the young people taking part in the programme.