ANNUAL REPORT, JANUARY 2025

Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP) is a charity established to provide accommodation for homeless young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who come from the Cirencester area. We purchased our first house in Stratton Heights, Cirencester in 1989 and accommodated 4 young people.

In the years following we became increasingly aware that many of our residents needed so much more than just accommodation. In 1992 we leased a house from the Cotswold District Council in Ashcroft Road which could accommodate up to 7 young people. It was supervised round the clock and key workers were employed to provide support for our young residents.

Currently, we have two houses: 29/31 Querns Lane (combined into one house) and 26 Ashcroft Road. 29/31 Querns Lane is where our offices are located.

Querns Lane can accommodate up to 7 residents, each with their own room but sharing a communal kitchen, living space and bathrooms. At the time of writing, the house is fully occupied.

Querns Lane was bought with a mortgage from the CDC and is being repaid over 25 years. There are 19 years left on the mortgage. To date, the CDC has provided a grant to CHYP, equivalent to the mortgage repayments.

CHYP owns our other property in Ashcroft Road. It is empty and has been put up for sale. It needs a lot of work done on it and the cost of repairs would be exorbitant and not an appropriate use of CHYP’s funds.

The core activity of CHYP is the work we do with our residents in Querns Lane. That is where our support staff are based. The key worker team provide support, tailored to each young person’s individual needs, in a caring, family-style environment. The team provide emotional support, practical advice, a sense of direction and hope for the future.

CHYP makes a big difference to the life chances of all our residents. We keep in contact with them long after they have left us and well beyond the age of 25. Many visit just to say hello or ask for advice, while others continue to support CHYP in the wider community. CHYP is family for them.

CHYP’s work this year

During 2024 CHYP has taken in 8 new residents. Two have moved on this year into their own accommodation. Of our current residents, 3 are in work and 2 are combining part-time work with going to college. They are young – 4 are 16 years old and 3 are 17.

Activities which have been organised for our residents over the year include:

* A supper club every Wednesday evening.
* Involvement with the Barn Theatre, which began in 2023, has continued and is much enjoyed.
* Weekly musical sessions, either in the CHYP house or, recently, in Gloucester, are provided by Holly. Much of the music is modern and digital.
* Funding has also been received for a trip by our residents to the Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Additional to these, the key workers make frequent trips to the shops (and occasional visits to restaurants) with individual residents with the aim of helping them learn how to budget and how to conduct themselves in social situations. Being young, many of our residents have little or no experience of these essential social skills.

Staffing

As part of our commitment to our young people, and to local residents, CHYP provides 24-hour cover. When there are staffing shortages, there is a care-line residents can use at weekends and on some evenings. There is always a member of the housing support team on call on these occasions.

The house team is led by Millie, House and General Manager and Luanne, her deputy. Kim is the third member of the House Support team. At the time of writing there is a vacancy for a fourth member. Tom, who retired in 2023, still helps and advises the team as a volunteer over matters for which he has considerable experience and skill.

Our Support Assistants and night-cover staff are Caroline, Charlie, Jason, Jennifer, Julie, Lisa and Roi.

Day staff and night-cover staff together provide a caring, structured, family atmosphere for our residents.

Claire is our Policies and Procedures Manager. She works from home. Becky, our fund-raiser, works with Charitable Foundations, Corporate Organisations and organises and represents CHYP at Community events. Manny is our house Maintenance Officer. Alison is our bookkeeper.

Fund raising

Our fund-raiser, Becky, has been very busy through the year and achieved many successes.

* We mentioned last year the wonderful fundraising efforts of the Ladies of Minchinhampton Golf Club including fashion shows and stained-glass workshops which resulted in the amazing donation of £5450.
* There was great fun at the Classic Car Show organised by the team at the Antiques Centre, a wonderful fundraising opportunity. Our thanks go to all involved.
* Rendcomb College chose CHYP as their charity this year.
* Cirencester College’s Media Students raised vital funds at their end of year show: ‘It’s a Wrap’.
* Local Freemasons and Bibury with Winson and Barnsley PCC also continue to support us.

To all those local organisations who have been able to fund-raise or donate to us we are extremely grateful.

Support also came from local companies including:

* SML Solicitors,
* The Old Spotted Cow who held a quiz night,
* Tesco’s Superstore where we had a bucket collection,
* Co-op Local Community Fund,
* Moore, Allen and Innocent (Auctioneers) who continue to auction, free of charge, more valuable items donated to the shop,
* Waitrose Community Matters Fund from which we received £2000,
* Walter Bull and Sons, Jewellers who generously donated £5000,

We are always humbled by the number of donations received from numerous private individuals, many who have supported CHYP year after year.

It was the generosity of Trusts and Foundations we relied on once more to keep us going. We would not be able to look after the young people in our care without them and would like to thank them all for their vital donations, with particular thanks to

* The Temperance Trust,
* Cirencester Girls Club Trust,
* Oliver Borthwick Memorial Fund,
* Notgrove Trust,
* The Barnwood Trust,
* The National Lottery Community Fund,
* Albert Hunt Trust,
* Lloyds Foundation National Benevolent Fund,
* Gloucestershire Community Foundation Trust,
* The Sabina Sutherland Trust,
* The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust,
* Souters Charitable Trust and
* The Gilbert Lane Trust.

**The Shop** is our other main source of income. Located in the Waterloo, Cirencester, it relies entirely upon donations from the local community for the goods it sells. As well as income, it provides a visible presence of CHYP to locals and visitors alike. Feedback from customers is very positive. Receiving support from our local community really makes us feel that our work is still valued by the town.

Open 10am – 4pm Tuesday to Saturday, it is staffed by Diana, Jason, Paul, Sharon and Star who all work part-time – Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Wednesdays, Jane, Pippa, Anne, Trish and Andrew (all volunteers) look after the shop. Other volunteers who help in the shop are Jamie and Steve on Fridays. Together they make a great team, running the shop efficiently and skilfully and making it a welcoming and popular place for customers and donors alike.

And thanks to all the members of the Management Committee, volunteers all, for the time, commitment and loyalty they have shown CHYP over the years.

Andy Johnson,

Chairman of Trustees.