



THE NATIONAL HOUSE PROJECT

Feedback from young people

Stoke:

"It was tough initially and I found the loneliness quite difficult. However, I got it together and with support, I settled down to the point where I have my dreams. I am now completing a long-distance Psychology Degree via Arden University in Coventry and I want to work with care leavers and support their mental health. I also wish to buy my flat in 3 years' time under the right to buy scheme as I have my savings ready as a deposit"

"It has put into perspective how close the real world is. They guide you through everything and it has made me realise how much I need to start preparing; I cook my own food now, do my own washing, have my own money to budget. I feel like my own person and I'm taking things by my own choice rather than waiting for people to tell me or confirm what I need to do. It's definitely allowed me to grab my independence and move forward with it better"

"We are normally put into this bubble when in care and you are not really taught about the outside world and then you are shoved into it. It is a massive change coming onto the project and not just been left out in the open or being forced to go out in the big, wide world; they ease you into it and teach you along the way"

Islington:

"The House Project is an opportunity that hasn't been done before. It is the best scheme for moving and being independent. I have never been so serious in attending meetings like with the House Project. House Project has made me more committed and clearer in my mind. I'm feeling happier as things make more sense now. I'm walking on a path towards something"

"Since joining the House Project I have felt really supported by my facilitators – they have helped me with finding Education and supporting me with applications. My facilitator helped me with my health and went with me to my doctor's appointment. I always have somebody to talk to when I am feeling low. My facilitator brightens up my day with her bubbly personality which makes me feel happy"

Oxford:

"If I was telling another young person about the House Project, I would say that it is a starting point for a brilliant future. The House Project offers young people a roof over your head and they teach life skills to be able to be independent after leaving the structure of fostering to become a care leaver and moving into your own place. What I like about the House Project is everyone is family and they support each other, you have a sense of belonging in a friendship group. So, the House Project offers you so much after leaving fostering. It has helped me so much in confidence and talking to other people and helping them on the same journey as me."

"it's made me think that to get something you have to earn and work for it and you have to make sure that you're ready for it"

Doncaster:

"I was anxious about moving into my own flat, but I know you guys will help and support me"

"I always thought I had no one to help but I know I can always come to you guys if there is ever a problem. You always help me"

"The House Project keeps me busy and gives me things to do to help me in my own home"

"I feel confident in moving back to Donny as I now know people and have support"

"I was given the chance to go to London and it was amazing. I will never forget it"

"I do not want to move into my property till I am 18 because I don't want people to party and trash it"

"You guys thrash my head, but I know I need to learn all of this. It's making me feel better that I know this stuff"

"I want my video to inspire other young people who are struggling, and I feel I can do that"

Warwickshire

"Inspirational time to bond – learn new skills to take with us in the future"

"A great opportunity for young adults to progress themselves for the future"

"Good life experience & a good chance to improve your independence skills and team skills"

"The house project is a chance to develop your personality, without the fear of being judged".

"Somewhere to make friends & enhancing my skills in a fun, informal environment"

"The House project has allowed to feel accepted somewhere without a place of judgement, whilst learning new skills"

"I am very thankful for all of my facilitators support as without it I would not be doing what I want to be doing now and would have been forced into a move that I didn't want to make"

"The whole project has really supported us in the prospect of moving into independence. It gives us a stable environment. We all come together & support each another"

Rotherham:

"Before the project I did not know what I was doing"

"Starting earlier is better by the time I'm 18 I will know it all! If I was not on the House Project, I would have to learn this at 18 with less support"

"If it weren't for the House Project, I would not get so much support"

"I'm going to have a job, own flat and hopefully be driving before I'm 18 and I don't know anyone else that has that at my age"

Young people's feedback contributed to films

"The House Project is a great thing to do. If you are offered a position to go on the project, do it - it builds a future for yourself... It's a very independent project that you do by yourself with as little or as much support as you want"

"I am on the YPNM. Members from across the Country get together to help improve the project. I help others, express my opinion & be part of a group that's making a change. It's a place where I feel I belong, and it has really helped me to develop"

"The relationships built on the project is one of the best things ... it creates your own family in the end. I don't have to rely on social services anymore, I rely on people in the project"

"I think it's just that I know I've got the support around me, if I ever do fall that I've got someone to pick me up and get me back on the right track"

"Since joining the House Project I have felt really supported by my facilitators - they have helped me with finding Education & supporting me with applications... I always have somebody to talk to when I am feeling low. My facilitator brightens up my day"

Various:

"We need pride. Coming from the care system it's difficult to find something to be proud of"

"I want to be standing up and people feeling proud of me"

"You're with other people so you don't feel alone"

"I'd compare the House Project to a tree; we've planted it and we're growing up. We're all together and we're all going up"

"I feel like I am not going out there alone now. That is different to how I felt before the House Project started"