

Press Release

Thursday 1 December 2011



New service for marginalised young people exceeds expectations

More than 75 young people have been supported by Mayday Trust to maintain their own tenancies over the past twelve months

The Trust's new Young People's Floating Support Service, based in Northampton was commissioned by Northamptonshire County Council in November 2010.

By September 2011 the service had supported 75 vulnerable individuals aged between 16-25 within the Borough to gain and/or maintain a tenancy and address various other support needs. Mayday Trust has supported these young people, who have come to us for a variety of reasons, to successfully maintain tenancies and prevent repeat homelessness. None of those supported by Mayday lost their homes.

Pat McArdle, Chief Executive said: *"The greatest success of this new project is in the young people seeing their own successes and achievements and progressing in ways that they previously did not see possible."*

She added: *"This service provides evidence that even the most challenging young people can turn their lives around: get into training and employment, become active citizens and reduce harmful and destructive behaviours with minimum support from a professional team using a proven assertive outreach approach."*

Becoming Independent:

In addition to tenancy sustainment, staff have worked with clients to develop the life-skills that will enable them to live independently. These skills include: budgeting, cooking and shopping as well as support to access health and education services.

With media headlines reporting that 900,000 young people, a quarter of 16-24 year olds, are not in employment education or training (NEET), Mayday Trust can state that almost half of all the young people supported by its Floating Support Service have been helped into education, employment or training.

Over half have been supported to successfully apply for grants to assist with furnishing their homes, purchasing equipment for college or bicycles to get around. Three quarters of all those that the service has worked with have been helped to tackle mental, physical or sexual health problems, substance misuse or to develop their parenting skills.

Building Futures:

Four young people from Northampton have recently starred in a short film, highlighting the new service. The film, which will be formally unveiled at a special celebration event next week, is also available to view at <http://vimeo.com/channels/maydaytrust#32666465>

During the film, Hannah comments: *"I feel like I'm getting more independent. If I look back to two years ago I wouldn't really have done anything for myself. I didn't really want to do anything at all. I wanted everyone to do stuff for me whereas now I will do stuff for myself."*

Another client, Chris, added: *"I wouldn't have learnt about bills that well. I'd get the letter; I'd put it in the cupboard and forget about it until I got another one. Since living on my own I've come to grips with that you have to pay your bills, you have to keep up to date with your bills. Now my paperwork's all up to date, it's all sorted and in order."*

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Successful Outcomes:

- During delivery of the service no individual has become homeless or had to leave their accommodation unwillingly
- Three young people were served with eviction orders. In each instance Mayday staff supported them to successfully appeal and then worked with them in order to ensure that they were able to remain and live independently in their tenancies
- Fourteen young people (100% of those who had this support need) were supported to find accommodation
- Six young people (100% of those who had this support need) were supported to address their offending behaviour
- Five young people were supported to report crimes against them
- 57% of clients have been supported to participate in meaningful activities within their communities

Mayday Trust works with and for people from all backgrounds and experiences but who need support to live independently. The charity has two strands to its work – providing long term housing and services to people with learning difficulties and offering transitional supported housing and outreach services to homeless people, people experiencing family breakdown or people moving from prison, care, or hospital.

The charity works with people who may have issues with drugs and alcohol, who experience mental health problems, eating disorders, young mums and people who have experienced homelessness. Anyone can access Mayday's services if they consider they want or need help to live independently.

The Trust offers individual one to one work as well as advocacy, mentoring and group programmes focusing on life skills for independent living. Clients are supported to volunteer and get involved in Mayday as well as accessing education, employment and training through our partnerships and focus on community integration.

Ends

Editors Notes:

1. You are invited to send a photographer/reporter to the launch event at 4.30pm on Wednesday 7 December.
2. Address: The Guildhall, St Giles Square, Northampton, NN1 1DE
3. Interviews and photo calls can also be arranged on request.
4. The Building Futures film, and other short films about Mayday Trust can be found at <http://vimeo.com/channels/maydaytrust>
5. For more information please visit maydaytrust.org.uk or contact Lisa Carroll, Marketing & Communications Manager on 01788 534961, 07801 387959 or communications@maydaytrust.org.uk