

roundabout
YOUR LOCAL YOUTH HOUSING CHARITY



Our impact

2024

roundabouthomeless.org
Charity Number 1061313





Here for young people At risk of homelessness since 1977

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A message from the CEO

As we reflect on the last year, I am proud to share Roundabout's Impact Report, which captures the progress we have made together in addressing youth homelessness in South Yorkshire. This year has been a testament to the resilience, commitment, and compassion of our staff, volunteers, and supporters.

At Roundabout, we understand that youth homelessness is more than just the absence of a safe place to sleep; it is the loss of security, hope, and opportunity. We are committed to ensuring that every young person who comes through our doors has the support they need to rebuild their lives. Through emergency accommodation, long-term housing, education, and life skills programs, we strive to create lasting change in the lives of young people facing homelessness.

This year also marks a significant milestone for us as we celebrated 10 years of our Prevention service in July. Through early intervention, advice, and support, this crucial service has supported thousands of young people over the past decade, helping them to avoid homelessness and giving them the tools to build brighter futures.

In 2024, we have seen unprecedented demand for our services, driven by the ongoing cost-of-living crisis and the lasting effects of the pandemic. Yet, despite these challenges, we have continued to expand our reach and deepen our impact. We have supported 1245 young people this year, offering not just a roof over their heads, but a pathway to independence and stability.

This year also saw the launch of the Roundabout Rose campaign, the largest campaign we have ever run, which truly embodies the heart of our mission. The steel roses, each symbolising the strength, resilience, and growth of the young people we support, have resonated with our community. It is a campaign that reflects the core of Roundabout's work: empowering young people to overcome adversity and flourish. The success of this campaign has been a powerful reminder of the collective belief in our young people's potential, and we are incredibly proud of what it represents.

Our partnerships with local councils, businesses, and other charities have been pivotal in this work, and we are incredibly grateful for the collaborative efforts that make our mission possible. As you read through this report, I hope you are inspired by the stories of the young people whose lives have been transformed by your generosity and support.

Thank you for standing with us in the fight to end youth homelessness. Together, we are building a future where every young person in South Yorkshire has a safe place to call home.

Ben Keegan

Ben Keegan,
Roundabout Chief Executive



You made this possible *in 2024*

(financial year 1 April 2023 - 31 March 2024)



1245

young people supported across all our services



57

young people with complex needs supported by Rapid Rehousing



171

young people helped to keep their tenancies in Sheffield



2107

students received Peer Education in schools



681

young people received advice at our drop in



70

young people received counselling



15

young people volunteered as Peer Educators



87

young people supported to access employment, education and training



92

families received mediation through our Talk it Out service



77

Care leavers supported through Group Living



136

young people supported in Rotherham

PLUS *in 2024*



Young people had their first ever trip to the seaside



Chloe

I was only 15 when I first found myself with nowhere to go, when my mum kicked me out after a big argument. We just couldn't get along, and things were no better with my dad. I tried staying with other family members, but that didn't work either, so my boyfriend, Sy, and I moved in with an older friend. It wasn't a good place. He never bought anything for the house, because he spent everything on drugs. He'd then want us to lend him money to get more.

I've always tried to be independent so have worked since I was 14 in all sorts of jobs after school. At this point I was working in a warehouse to get some income, but had to spend it all quickly. Otherwise it would get stolen.

Eventually, things got so bad that Sy and I decided we had to leave. We spent a night on the streets of Rotherham, just walking round because we had nowhere to go. I remember trying to keep up my appearance, with my nails and lashes on, and because of that, people didn't believe we were actually homeless.

Being homeless really showed me how some people end up relying on substances just to make it through. I get now why some homeless people turn to drugs and alcohol - it's a way to cope. I admit I smoked weed just to get through those nights.

I knew something needed to change so I reached out to Rotherham's homeless team, and my social worker put me in touch with Roundabout. They moved me into their emergency accommodation and at first, I hated it. I cried my eyes out because I was the only girl there, and I was scared, but soon enough, it felt like a little family. I had my own room, and we'd hang out together, checking in on each other. The staff at Roundabout helped build my confidence up so much. They were there if you wanted to find a job or work toward qualifications - they'd support you all the way.

Eventually, I moved out of emergency accommodation and into one of Roundabout's properties in Rotherham, where I continued to get support. From there, I finally found a home of my own with Sy and our two daughters, Heidi and Hayley-Rae.

Today, we're settled and happy. We both have jobs and do normal family things, like taking the girls on day trips. I'm busy and happy, and focused on making my kids' childhood the best it can be. It feels good to be accepted by my family again, too, especially when I remember them doubting me, thinking I'd end up on drugs. But I knew I was capable of more.

Even through all that chaos, I still managed to get my GCSEs, and now I'm thinking about further education or maybe even an apprenticeship. I'd love to be a mental health worker, potentially working with young people or Roundabout. Without their support, I'm not sure where I'd be - probably still on the streets or sofa-surfing. But now, I'm building my own life and I'm grateful to them. It's good to know they're always there for me.



Forged in Steel, *Inspired by Strength*



Our Roundabout Roses campaign celebrates the strength, resilience, and growth of the young people who have received support from our charity. At the heart of the campaign are 1,800 steel roses, each symbolising the journey of a young person supported by Roundabout since the cost-of-living crisis began in 2021. These roses, handmade by James Sutton Sculpture and Spitfire Forge Blacksmith, both show the scale of youth homelessness in our region and the amount of young people supported by Roundabout, but also represent the young people's individual stories of growth.

“With Roundabout Roses we wanted to create something beautiful but shocking at the same time”, said Emily Jones, Roundabout fundraising manager. “Unless it affects you directly, homelessness can be overlooked. This powerful display shows exactly how many young people in South Yorkshire are affected. The flowers have the strength of steel, but the fragility of a rose, just like our young people. They have been through so much and yet they are resilient, they keep going. So many of them go on to work in jobs which support other people because they want to change the system. They want to be that bright light for someone else.”

The roses were launched at Art in the Gardens at Sheffield Botanical Gardens and were then on display at Sheffield Cathedral throughout October.

Every rose purchased is a step toward a brighter, more stable future for a young person at risk of homelessness.



Find out more – visit [roundaboutroses.co.uk](https://www.roundaboutroses.co.uk)



Making *The Roses*

Our beautiful mild and stainless steel roses have all been individually handmade by James Sutton Sculpture and Spitfire Forge blacksmiths.

This summer, a group of young people supported by Roundabout had the opportunity to enjoy a hands-on day at the workshop! They learned each step of the rose-making process and even tried their hand at creating their own.



in 2024
Young people from our hostel enjoyed residential adventures in the Peak District



Axol

I started my tenancy with Roundabout in 2022, after moving out of my foster placement. At first, I was really anxious. I didn't have any friends in the area, and although my new place was along my route to college, I was worried about getting lost and not being able to find my apartment. Roundabout reassured me a lot during that time, and I managed to get around using Google Maps for the first week until I got familiar with the area.

When I moved in, my mental health wasn't in the best place. I was starting my first year of university which was extremely daunting - I was worried that my foster mum wouldn't always be there to support me, especially since she was ill. Halfway through that first year, she passed away from cancer. Her passing was incredibly difficult, and I felt lost.

Roundabout really supported me through that time. They encouraged me to seek therapy, which has been a huge help. With their support, I've found a new sense of purpose, and I'm about to start a new course for music, something I'm really passionate about.

Over the past two years, Roundabout has also helped me get a part-time volunteer job, which I'm enjoying immensely. My support worker has been there for me through everything, even helping me navigate my diagnosis of a health condition.

They really helped me see that my struggles with depression and other trauma-based disorders don't define my worth. I used to have such a poor perception of myself, but with their help, I've learned to manage my anxiety and how I feel about my disabilities much better. They've encouraged me to stop using negative words when talking about myself, which has really improved my self-esteem.





Chester

At 16, a family breakdown left me with no choice but to take care of myself. Without any guidance, I became vulnerable to making poor choices and was exploited by my peers. I didn't know how to cope, so I turned to substances to get through the days and nights. My mental health really suffered - I wasn't sleeping, eating properly, or getting medical care, which left me constantly stressed, anxious, and exhausted from not having a stable place to stay.

Eventually, I decided to leave my home city to escape and made my way to Sheffield. I moved into a shared house but unfortunately, this fell apart when the landlord sold the property, leaving me homeless once again.

Now, I'm living in Roundabout's dispersed accommodation service, where I finally feel safe and have my own space.

This stability has given me the foundation I needed to move forward in a positive way.

Since being at Roundabout for the past eight months, I've stopped using substances and, with the support of my key worker, I've accessed medical services and regained control over my mental well-being. I've started making choices that are beneficial for me. I've attended several short courses, am looking for work opportunities, and I've completed the tenancy-ready program, getting myself ready to move into my own independent home.



10 Years of *preventing homelessness*

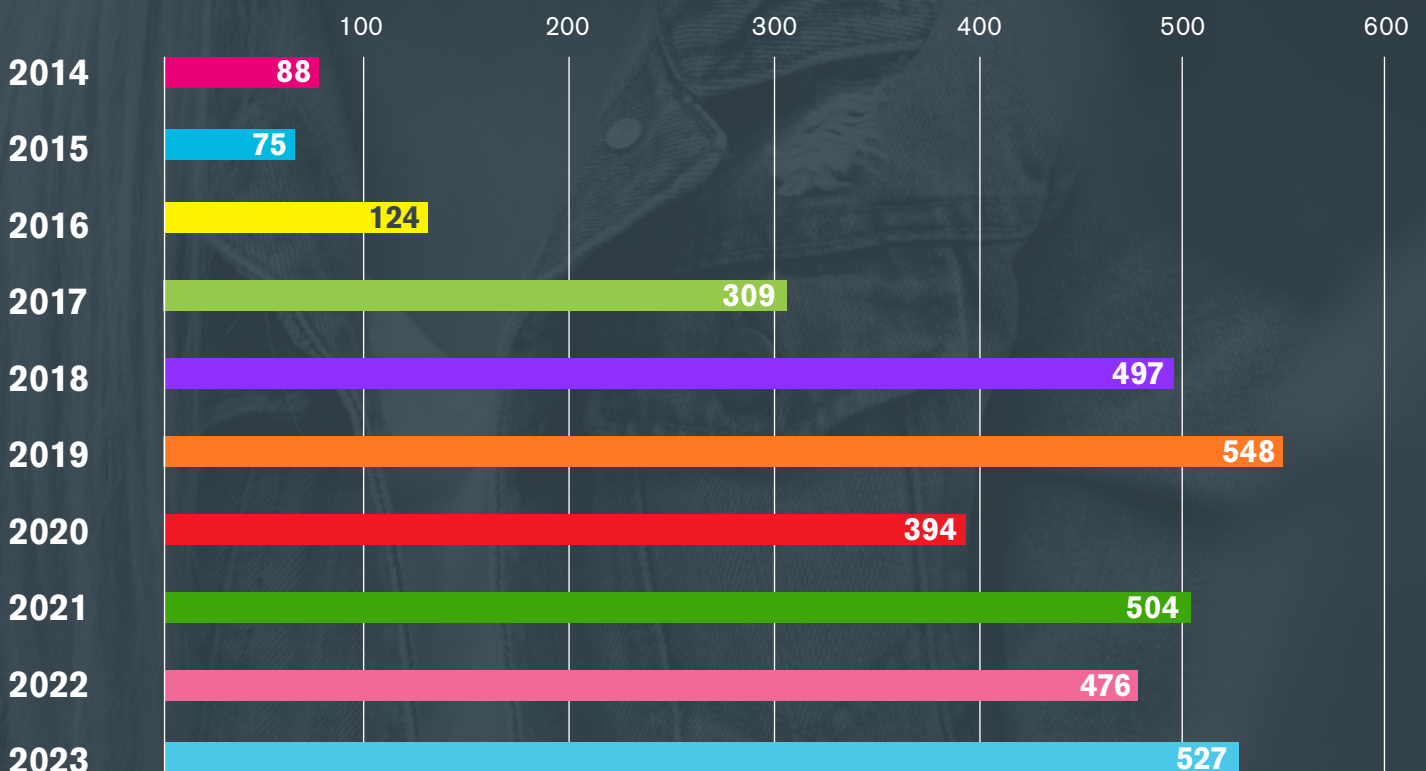
Roundabout has been supporting homeless young people in Sheffield since 1977, providing shelter, support and life skills to help them break the cycle of homelessness and live independently.

In 2014, we launched our Homeless Prevention Service, enabling young people to come to us for help before they became homeless. 10 years later, our Homeless Prevention work has expanded significantly, offering a range of support for young people who are at risk of homelessness.

Fewer young people were supported in 2020 due to lockdown, when face to face support was limited and our drop-in service closed temporarily. However, since then, the amount of young people and families who require our support continues to grow.



Number of young people supported in 12 months



Peer Education

We believe in the power of early intervention to prevent homelessness. Our ground-breaking Peer Education project delivers eye-opening sessions in schools aiming to prevent young people from becoming homeless.

The project is transformative not only for the students it reaches but also for the Peer Educators themselves. Each Peer Educator - someone who has experienced homelessness

and now volunteers to share their story - gains a powerful opportunity to build in confidence, improve their communication skills, and earn an accredited qualification.

As Peer Educators share their own journeys with young people in schools, they're able to use their individual and unique experiences as tools of empowerment. Through the sessions, Peer Educators help students understand the complex causes of homelessness, challenge stereotypes and show empathy to others.

This meaningful role gives Peer Educators a chance to make a difference in their community, showing them the positive impact of their story.



"Volunteering with Roundabout's Peer Education project means a lot to me. I want to use my past experiences as a positive way to help other people, who might be in the same situation I was. I want young people to know that it's okay to ask for help and that there are adults who can and will support them."

Charlotte

"I feel like this role gives meaning to everything I've been through. If I had received this kind of information earlier, maybe I wouldn't have suffered for so long. I've had so many amazing experiences since joining Peer Education – I even had the opportunity to travel to London and be photographed for an exhibition at Saatchi Gallery!"



Lydia



"Despite leaving school with no GCSEs, volunteering with Roundabout gave me the confidence to apply for jobs. I've worked for the university and now I work for Roundabout as a Peer Education Assistant, helping organise and lead sessions in schools. I want students to know that if they ever go through what I did, there's a way out. I've been there – I had the drugs, the friends, the lifestyle – but I was never truly happy. It was Roundabout that helped me find my purpose and gave me a reason to actually live."

Brittany

"I hope my experiences can help them understand what homelessness really means. I wish I had this kind of support when I was younger as it could have made a huge difference. I used to think homelessness was just about people making bad choices, but now I know it's much more complex. By sharing my story, I hope to help others see that too."



Andrew



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Over the last
10 years



4050

young people

have been supported through
our drop in advice service



16,807

students

have attended our Peer
Education sessions



512

young people

have received mediation
through our Talk it Out service



We've held sessions in

32

schools & colleges



We've worked with

44

volunteer Peer Educators

Meet the Team

Meet some of the wonderful individuals who are part of our Homeless Prevention Team!



Homeless Advice Worker

Steph

I'm based at Roundabout's drop-in service - I offer housing advice, do assessments of the young people's housing needs and sign post them to where is best for those needs.

I might help explain the housing pathway and help them find the help they need from the council, or make referrals into other organisations, but really it's all about finding the solutions that can improve their current situation. Sometimes expectations of what's available don't match reality but we're here to be honest and give the best help we can.

I have experience of what it's like to be out there on your own because I was in supported accommodation myself from the age of 16, and was a young mum too. I know how stressful it is and how it can be quite overwhelming.

I've worked in children's homes before I came to Roundabout and I have a mental health background, working with children with learning difficulties and mental health issues.

The young people we work with can be quite desperate when they first come in and it can be

quite distressing to see them like that. There are often many forms to fill in and so many personal questions that can be hard for our young people to answer. That's why it's so important to have the right environment for them at Roundabout, because they are at their most vulnerable when they first walk in.

It can sometimes be quite difficult, there are so many barriers to accessing services and it is becoming more complex all the time but that's why we're here to help them through it, and advocate on their behalf. The lovely thing is that once that stage is completed, you really do see the young people start to grow.

I take so much time for every young person who comes through the door because I don't want them to be rushed - I want things to happen in their own time and for them to be at ease.

We're here to help them through their crisis and move on to brighter things. A lot of them will keep in touch with me after they've moved on, which is a really wonderful part of the job.

Peer Education Worker

Will

I started working at Roundabout three years ago and was originally part of the fundraising team before moving over to Peer Education.

I'd been in a series of jobs I didn't have an emotional connection to and wanted to do something I was passionate about. I wanted to dedicate my time for good, which is exactly how I feel about Roundabout!

I enjoyed my time in fundraising, but wanted to work more closely with the young people we support. I love the job I do and I have a lot of fun.

Peer Education is a fantastic project. Any young person who is being supported by Roundabout is eligible to be a peer educator. They volunteer their time to help prevent homelessness from occurring in the future where possible – we believe prevention starts with education.

I provide training sessions and support so they can go into secondary schools and colleges (that's Year 8 up to sixth form) where they will take part in a one-hour session, talking about youth homelessness and the work that Roundabout does. The aim of these sessions is to demystify homelessness, talking about the different reasons that young people become homeless, what that might look like and where they could go for help if they need it.

A lot of people don't realise that 60% of homelessness is caused by family breakdown and with that in mind, we spend a lot of time talking about Talk It Out, our mediation service. We want to make sure that young people are aware of these services so that if they're experiencing trouble at home, they come to us before they reach crisis point and leave.

The peer educators often come to me with fairly low confidence at the start. They might not have gone to college or even engaged with school very well, but I hope I can give them the skills and experience they need to share their story and realise their worth.

It's great to see their confidence grow so much when they go into schools. The work I do with them gives them a way to share their story in their own words, using their individual experiences to help others, which is so important and empowering for them.



I am very proud of all our peer educators – whether they're at the end of their journey with me or just starting, they have all made incredible achievements and I just love seeing their transformation.



Mediation worker

Cheryl

Mediation is all about making connections and supporting young people to reconnect with their families. As a mediator, you work with the whole family, getting them together to talk about their issues, giving them a chance to explore what those issues are and what they want to be different, giving each person the opportunity to speak and be heard.

Hopefully, what happens by the end of the process is that everybody has heard each other, everybody has listened to each other and been able to say what they want to say so they can work out what to do to move things forward.

As a mediator I don't give advice - I am there to support individuals to find their own way.

Another part of the job is conflict coaching through Roundabout's Talk It Out sessions.

These are one-to-one sessions that give our young people the opportunity to process and reflect on the issues they have experienced, a chance to think about how they want things to be different and



explore their responses.

Conflict can happen in any home and people find themselves in conflict for lots of different cases but having the Talk It Out service helps them to become more in control of those feelings.

I really do mean it when I say I absolutely love this job - it's so rewarding to see people develop strategies and be able to get on with their loved ones in different ways and maintain important relationships, coping with the impact that their problems have had on their emotional wellbeing.

I know that if it feels like hard work, I'm not doing the job properly because it's the young people and their families who are doing the hard work and all I am doing is facilitating that.

Young persons' counsellor

Nick

I qualified as a counsellor in 2020 and when I started at Roundabout it was a completely new role, working with young people who had never been able to access this sort of support before.

I see young people who are already Roundabout service users - perhaps through our accommodation or tenancy support - and there is so much potential in them.

They each have a key worker who is able to refer them for counselling for issues that may include mental health problems, depression, low self-esteem, guilt, relationship issues and trauma.

Every young person referred for counselling is offered around 12 sessions but I can also make a case for them to have more depending on their circumstances.

I really do enjoy it because I am passionate about helping young people - if you can work with them and give them time to talk about their lives in the right environment, it really is rewarding.



Being a counsellor means you have to be non-judgmental and have some empathy, then you start to see a tangible difference and it's great to see the contrast between the first meeting and the person you are talking to further down the line.

There's a huge range of problems, often something that goes right back to childhood or rows with partners or relatives - somebody in their life who causes them stress.

Whatever the reason, counselling gives them to opportunity to talk about their frustrations and their anxiety - we even do work on things like breathing techniques.

There are different challenges with every person I meet but the work is so rewarding.



Mental Health & Wellbeing Worker *Will*

I've been with Roundabout just over a year now and am part of the new Mental Health and Wellbeing Service, Mind Over Chatter.

Anybody who is supported by Roundabout can access our support, which offers a one-to-one focus on all kinds of mental health issues including anxiety, stress and anger. It gives the people I support a chance to sit down and work towards resolving any issues they want to focus on.

Every session is unique to the person I am talking to but that's what makes it so special. I love to be able to say that my job is very people focused.

I really enjoy sitting down and talking to people to get to know them and, once you have established that level of trust, I get an enormous amount of job satisfaction from the people I support.

I feel so lucky and so blessed that Roundabout are able to support me and give me the space to get out there and talk to people about whatever they want, to help them progress on their journey to independence.

These young people want help but often it isn't there and we aim to provide a service that fits in with their needs at a time when they need it most.

I have a case load of around 14 at the moment - some people I might see twice a week, others I'll see just when they get in touch and ask to meet.

And nobody is penalised if they don't turn up for a meeting because that's not what we're about. We're here to offer support when it's needed, when the young person is ready.

I can honestly say that I genuinely look forward to going to work and that I have never had a job like this before.

I have sessions all over Sheffield and I love the flexibility of being able to see somebody either in their own space, at our Prevention Service, in a cafe or even on a walk - it really doesn't matter where you are so long as they feel comfortable and safe.

Employment & Skills

Hayley

I have been with Roundabout for three years, initially as their peer education worker before moving on to Employment and Skills a year ago.

My role is to support young people at Roundabout with finding their passion and encourage them to pursue new things, and that can mean helping them with any kind of training, volunteering or employment opportunities.

I'm there to support with vocational courses, going to college or university and applying for work or volunteer placements. Sometimes they're not ready for work, so in this instance I will help them to build their skills, get them enrolled in employability courses, help them explore the importance of team building and ultimately prepare them for the working environment.

It's always very interesting - it's the sort of role that gives you the chance to know a bit more about the young people you're supporting, trying to work out what makes them enthusiastic. They really do have some very varied interests - so there is always a surprise in store!

It can be quite difficult to encourage interest at first and it's not unusual for them to disengage. But that's because they don't yet have the confidence to go out into the workplace but that's okay - I tailor the support to their individual needs and we keep going, we keep trying.

With some of the things our young people have been through there is a real lack of self-belief and confidence. They don't imagine they can have that working life style. They feel they don't have much to offer.



But when they do get enthusiastic about something, it really does make you want to help them even more and half the battle is finding the something they will enjoy.

Another key part of the job is making connections with companies who are keen to improve their social responsibility and offer opportunities to young people. Sometimes there can be a lack of understanding - naturally, business owners want their staff to turn up on time and be capable, or have previous experience of a role. As our young people have been through so much, and are still building an understanding of their expectations and capabilities, there are often ups and downs with their progress.

That being said, there are a lot of success stories which we don't celebrate enough. They are happening all around us every day - whether it's a young person taking their CV to a business for the first time, visiting a college open day or graduating from a course, I celebrate all the positive steps that they're bravely making towards their future.



Fundraising *Highlights*

Roundabout's fundraising team had a hugely successful year, and we are grateful to all businesses, groups and individuals who help to make such a huge difference. Whether taking part in challenges, supporting pro bono or being involved with events, together we are changing the lives of homeless young people in our region. Here are just a few highlights from the past year!



Daisy ran the London Marathon for us, raising £2,886



A Night at the Musicals was once again a sellout success, featuring 182 performers and raising £19,400



Our Bangers and Cash car rally culminated with an auction dinner, selling all painted bonnets created by local artists. The event raised a total of £156,000!



Our fundraising manager took part in Tough Mudder



We had our biggest team EVER in the Sheffield 10k – 38 runners!



2 Game Swap events organised by Patriot Games and Treehouse Board Game Cafe raised £4,417

The Christmas presents and donations we received totalled over £25,000

A team from Gripple, Razor, Threads management, Pete McKee's office, as well as some Roundabout staff raised £9,500 in Ride London



Manor Operatic invited us to collect at their performances of Robin Hood, raising £1505



A new sleep over event at Sheffield Wednesday stadium attracted Night Owls from across the city to raise over £12,000



Break a Leg and Friends ran 4 charity concerts for us and raised £1255.40

111 people enjoyed trying to solve a murder at the Mercure Hotel

Sheffield High School for Girls held their own sleep out and a Christmas concert for Roundabout

Chosen as Abbeydale Road Beer Festival's charity, we raised £1,497



Lydia went to London to be photographed for a homelessness exhibition, as part of the Royal Foundation's Homewards scheme

Thank you!



Evolved Digital Agency

SheffMed

Nuclear Institute Young
Generation Network

Castle Owen

Arup Sheffield

Objective Creative

SDE Group

Turbo Precision Components

Goo Design

D&G Motors

Tarrant's Garage

Claws Consultants

OSL Group

Mechantech Installations Ltd

Sheffield BID

Sheffield Council Events and
Parks Team

Interpersonal Property and
Construction Dinner

Razor

Number Crunchers

Site Bulb

Bank Park Parking
Management

Rebecca Allen Yoga

Tyack Consulting

Westpack

China Red

Gravitate

Victoria Crowne Plaza

HSBC

Kennedy's

Sheffield Property Awards

RLB

Loadhog

Eurosafe

Grocutt Gardens

Hamnett Wealth Management

Threads Management

Paperclip

PM Law

Totally taped

ACW Medical Services

Fragomen

Pellonia Security

Thank you to trusts and foundations

We are thankful to all trusts and foundations who supported us, and have helped to improve the lives of vulnerable young people in South Yorkshire.

Unrestricted/Core Costs

Dixon Pitchfork
Hyman Winstone Foundation
Jongen Trust
Maurice & Hilda Laing Trust
Spencer Charitable Trust
Swire Charitable Trust

Rapid Rehousing

Evan Cornish Foundation
Violence Reduction Unit

Mental Health

Department of Health and Social Care
Sheffield Church Burgesses
Burngreave Road Refurb
B&Q Foundation
James Neill Trust
May Hearnshaw Charitable Trust

Activities to Support Mental and Physical Health

Austin & Hope Pilkington
Company of Cutlers Charitable Trust
National Lottery Awards for All
Sarah Nulty Foundation

Education, Employment & Skills

HSBC
John Lewis Partnership Foundation

General funds / cost of living

Cash for Kids
South Yorkshire Community Foundation

Fundraising Support

JG Graves Charitable Trust



& Thank you!

To our
supporters,

who have given their time to help
fundraise or donate items to support
young people

To our
**regular givers and
major donors,**

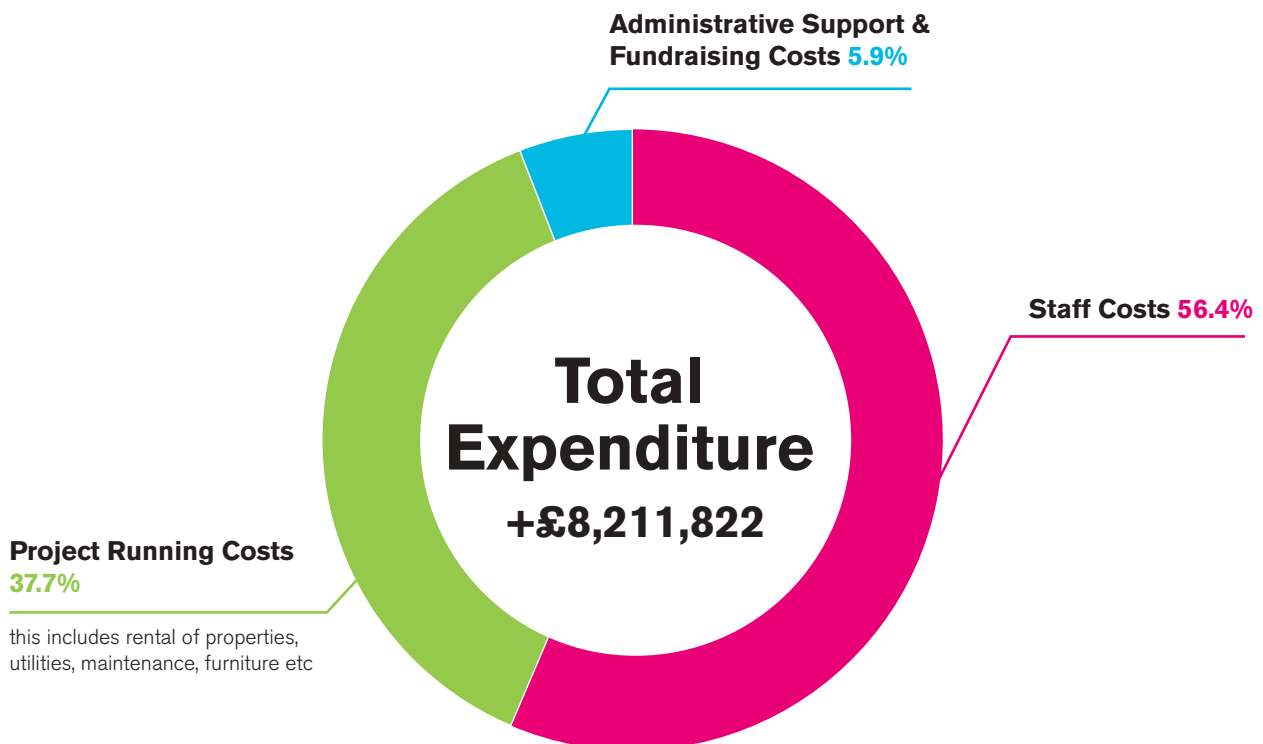
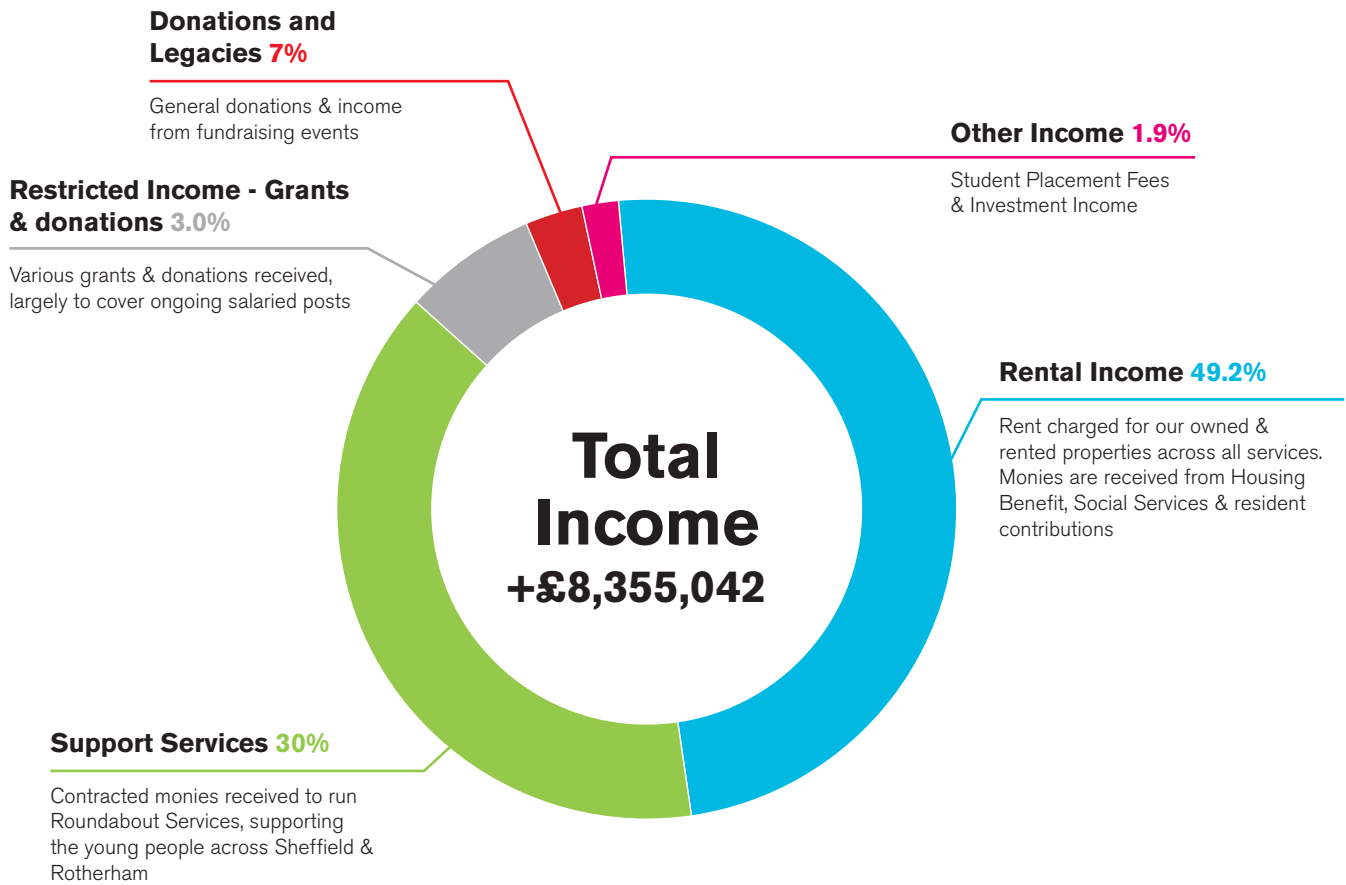
who enable us to plan for the future,
remain flexible to change and adapt our
services to the ever-changing needs

To our
**staff, volunteers
and trustees,**

for going the extra mile to support
young people on their journey to
independence

Financial Summary

For year end **March 2024**





Reflection *on the year*

Yet again we have seen another year of exceptional growth and development of our offering to young people in need of support. Annual income has exceeded £8m for the first time and we have managed to enhance our financial reserves. Consequently, we continue to maintain a solid foundation for long term sustainable service provision.

Against the background of such a busy year of expansion, on behalf of my fellow Trustees, I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team and all our staff and volunteers for their commitment and efforts over the period.

I would also like to thank our donors, supporters and all who have contributed to the phenomenal fundraising efforts during 2024.

John Caldwell, Chair of Trustees





roundabout
YOUR LOCAL YOUTH HOUSING CHARITY



Get in touch to help us make sure no young person has to experience homelessness in South Yorkshire.

0114 253 6753

fundraising@roundaboutltd.org
www.roundabouthomeless.org

Charity Number 1061313