

Look what you did!

Impact Report **2025**



The **Benjamin** Foundation

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The **Benjamin** Foundation
Positive outcomes
for children, young people & families



Thank You...

Everything accomplished by The Benjamin Foundation is the result of the hard work of our brilliant staff and the drive of those they support to change their lives for the better.

The generosity of many individuals, communities, companies, grant makers and commissioning organisations makes all this possible. They entrust us with their money, believing in our commitment to make a difference.

The Trustees and Exec Team

would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for your commitment and support. We're excited to show you the impact you all had in 2024/25.

The Benjamin Foundation

aims for the people

it supports to...

**HAVE SAFE SPACES TO LIVE,
LEARN AND GROW**

**ENJOY GOOD EMOTIONAL
WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE**

**WANT AND BE ABLE TO
ENGAGE IN EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT**

**HAVE A SENSE OF HOPE AND
ASPIRATIONS FOR THE
FUTURE**



SO, HOW DID WE DO?

HEADLINES 2024/25

60,564

Safe Nights achieved

12,747

Emotional wellbeing
support hours provided

SAFE SPACES TO
LIVE, LEARN AND
GROW

EMOTIONAL
WELLBEING AND
RESILIENCE

EDUCATION,
TRAINING AND
EMPLOYMENT

HOPE AND
ASPIRATIONS
FOR THE FUTURE

42,916

Hours of housing support
delivered

31,808

Sessions available in our
Childcare services

3,880

People supported in all

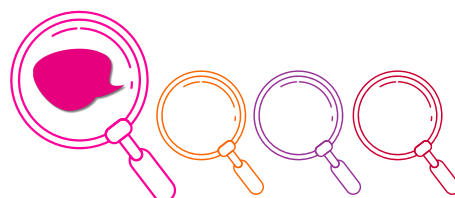




"This is the only hostel where I've felt safe, welcome and comfortable."



"Allows me the chance to make mistakes and learn from them without the fear of losing my home."



A closer look at...

**EMOTIONAL
WELLBEING &
RESILIENCE**

...in 2024/25

Young people
accessing our
emotional wellbeing
(EW) services...

532

Young people in
supported
accommodation
receiving mental
health support...

53

Percentage of
EW referrals
accepted...

100%

Families helped
by our Parent
Support Advisers...

121

Schools our
Time for You
teams work in...

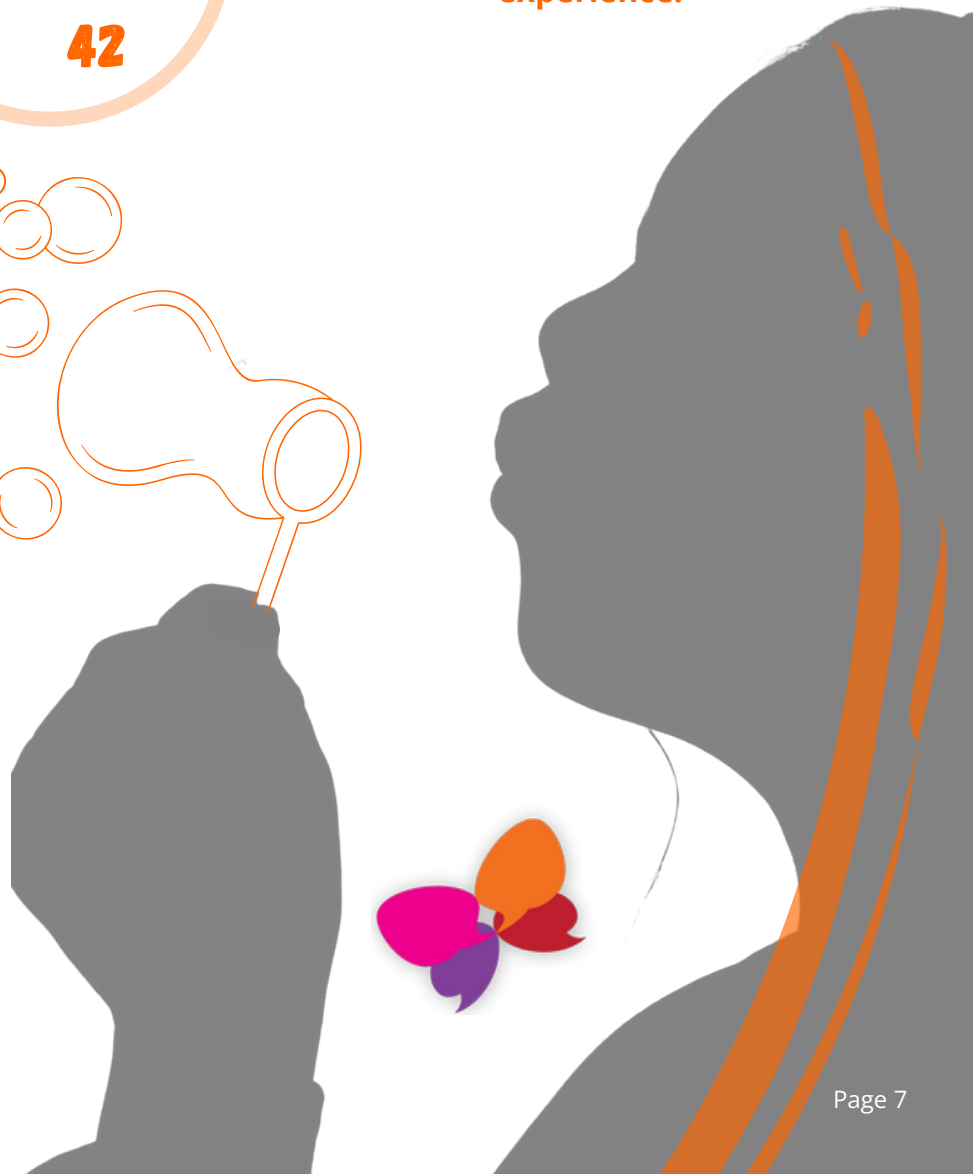
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Emotional
wellbeing
support hours
provided...

5,688

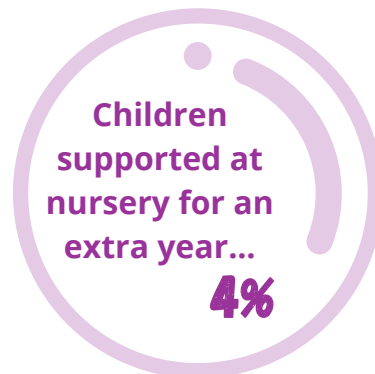
"I cannot express what amazing support
has been given to our students and the
impact this support has had on making a
real difference to their lived
experience."

"Without the service I would
struggle with my mental
health."





"Every single one of the staff at The Old School Nursery is caring, attentive and professional. They always take lots of time to tell me about his day and have put in lots of effort to make him feel at home and settled."



"I never believed I could do it and now I've done so much more than I hoped, I feel really proud of myself."



A closer look at...

**HOPE AND
ASPIRATIONS
FOR THE
FUTURE**

...in 2024/25

Number of people
the Sustainable
Housing Partnership
Service (SHPS)
supported...

308

People SHPS
helped find
housing suitable
to their needs...

196

People SHPS
helped avoid
needing temp
housing...

137

Ave. boost in
Outcome Star "How
I Feel" scores for
Young People
accommodated...

20.3%

Young people
taking part in the
positive activities
programme...

581

Young people
actively engaged
in consultation
and outreach...

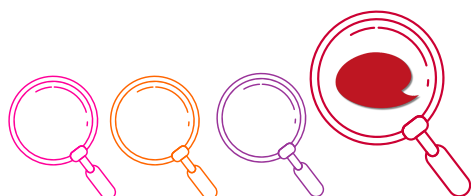
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Young Carers
supported over
the year...

363

"I got my independence living at
Forward Court. This gave me the
confidence to have a voice."

"I don't want to think about what
would have happened without my
caseworker being involved. The SHPS
service has made me feel like I have a
purpose."



ABOUT THE BENJAMIN FOUNDATION

The charity was founded by Richard and Vanessa Draper in 1994 as a positive response to the tragedy of losing their young son Benjamin. They wanted to create something special to commemorate his life and provide others with opportunities they might otherwise not have.

What started as a small youth outreach project in North Norfolk has grown into one of East Anglia's largest charities, focused on tackling youth homelessness, providing Early Years education, youth and family support, and emotional wellbeing and mental health services. Everything we do is driven by the needs of people in Norfolk and Suffolk. The charity's work remains rooted in Richard and Vanessa's commitment to providing people with hope, opportunity, stability and independence.



Our Vision

... is that support services for children, young people and families across East Anglia:

- are tailored to their individual needs.
- are easily accessible, regardless of where they live.
- impact positively on their lives in the ways most important to them
- account fully for their personal circumstances
- build on their positive qualities and characteristics
- focus on their inner strengths and aspirations

Our Mission

... is to ensure those the charity supports are safe, become independent and thrive throughout their life.

Our services are based on a deep understanding of people's needs, and a resolute commitment to inspire hope, create opportunity and build stability into their journey towards independence.

ABOUT BEN'S SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Our Furniture & Electrical Stores

...sell good quality furniture donated by our supporters and a mixture of new and refurbished white goods like fridges, washing machines, cookers and other appliances.

Our stores are also part of Norfolk County Council's Norfolk Assistance Scheme, whereby people in need receive vouchers to help purchase essential household goods which they would otherwise go without. We have also helped a range of local district councils set up similar schemes in their area.

Our Re-use Shops in Suffolk

...have a wide range of goods for sale, including Electrical items, Furniture, Children's Toys, Prams, Highchairs, Sports Equipment, CD's, DVD's and books, Bicycles, DIY and garden tools...and more!

All the goods sold are perfectly useable, so no need for them to end up in landfill. We work in close partnership with FCC Environment, who run Suffolk's waste management facilities, and Suffolk County Council in delivering this service. We are active members of the Reuse Network.

OUTCOMES IN 2024/25



24,487 households were helped including 955 via the Norfolk Assistance Scheme



Households saved £3,224,095 by buying goods from our stores and re-use shops



1,425,011 kg of carbon dioxide emissions prevented from entering atmosphere



8,596 items of furniture donated by 3,338 people. 961 tonnes of goods prevented from going to landfill



More than £300,000 raised to support the charity's work

Research commissioned by Barnardo's estimates 1 million children in the UK live in bed poverty, which means either sharing a bed, using a broken bed or sleeping on the floor. In 2024/25, our stores sold 1,366 low-cost, high quality beds in Norfolk and Suffolk.



Supported Housing in Norfolk & Suffolk

...comprises our accommodation-based support services that ensure young people are housed safely while they develop the skills needed to thrive and move on to live independently. They cater for young people with support needs who are homeless or at risk of becoming so.

The Benjamin Foundation is a core member of Every Youth, a national partnership of charities dedicated to ending youth homelessness. We provide a wide range of housing options for those aged 16 - 30, from 24/7 supported accommodation through to affordable move on housing, plus various specialist services. In 2024/25 this included mental health supported living services in Swaffham and Kings Lynn. A range of extras are also on offer for those we house, including education and employment support, mental health support and Tenancy Transition Support. You can read more about these on the opposite page

Sustainable Housing Partnership Service

...focuses on helping people in Breckland, North Norfolk, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk, Great Yarmouth and Broadland & South Norfolk.

SHPS is about providing tenancy support that helps 18+ singles, couples and families to successfully maintain a tenancy or find suitable accommodation.

SHPS

Sustainable Housing Partnership Service

Heart & Home

...comprises a network of Hosts across Norfolk and Suffolk who offer a bedroom, support, empathy and understanding to young people aged between 16 and 18.

Hosts and H&H Support Workers provide young people with stability and a safe place to live. Support includes equipping them with important life skills, such as cooking, shopping and budgeting, as well as supporting their education, training and career aspirations.

UASC Service

...is our Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) accommodation service based in Suffolk.

It is tailored specifically for young people aged 16 to 18 who arrived in the UK seeking asylum or those aged 18+ who are care leavers awaiting a Home Office decision as to whether they can remain in the UK.

Anchorage

...serves as the next step towards independent living for young people in our supported accommodation services or those supported by other providers.

We work with private sector landlords to set up shared housing tenancies for young people aged 18 to 30. We also have a few properties of our own. This makes renting and running a household affordable, with light touch support provided to continue building the skills and knowledge needed to secure and sustain a tenancy.



Supported Housing



Emotional Wellbeing & Support



Move On Support



Youth Support & Activities

Rent Deposit Scheme

...helps young people aged 18-25 who have previously faced homelessness but are now ready to live independently to access private rented or social housing, financing their deposits and helping them understand their legal obligations.

The scheme helps young people overcome the financial barriers to independent living, offering financial advice and dedicated support to help build their life skills and confidence. It benefits both landlords and tenants.

Job Coach

...helps young people explore the options available to them to get back into education, employment or take up new training opportunities.

The support is available to all young people housed in our supported accommodation and supported lodgings services across Norfolk and Suffolk. Job Coach provides advice, guidance and support that helps young people grow their confidence to engage in the opportunities identified.

Future Builders

...provides young people opportunities to learn construction skills as they work on renovating houses that become their homes, plus the training needed to secure an apprenticeship or full-time work.

Newly refurbished properties are offered as affordable accommodation to young people who are vulnerably housed or have been affected by homelessness.



Mind the Gap

...was a campaign we ran on behalf of those benefitting from Housing Related Support services and SHPS in Norfolk.

We don't just deliver services. We fight for them too. Budget pressures on local authorities are leading to cuts in services across the board. The Norfolk HRS service and SHPS were put on the table for budget cutting in 2024. We helped young people, young adults and families who rely on these services to make their voices heard as part of our 'Mind the Gap' campaign. The cuts are still happening, but people got to have their say on the impacts this will have on their lives.

Tenancy Transition Service

...provides young people with the practical, one-to-one support they need to set up and sustain a tenancy.

Workers support young people when they first move in, helping them set up their utilities accounts, access any benefits they may be entitled to and help mediate any early teething problems regarding the property with the landlord or letting agency.

Parent Support Advisors

...are on hand to help parents deal with any worries they may have, from helping their child get the best from school life through to preventing difficult behaviour from becoming a more serious problem.

They also signpost to other services and agencies for help with more specialist issues and concerns.

Time for You*

...is delivered in schools across Norfolk and Suffolk. Support, advice and guidance is provided for children and young people to strengthen their emotional and social well-being and help them recognise their 'inner wealth'.

By offering support at an early stage, the service aims to avert the emergence of more severe issues in the future, particularly those related to mental health. Children are referred to the service by their school, with parental consent.

***Our Butterflies Emotional Wellbeing Service offers the same support but is accessed by families independently.**

Childcare Services

...comprises Town Tots Nursery, (North Walsham), Old School Nursery (Shelton, South Norfolk), and Kids Zone After School & Holiday Club (North Walsham)

Our childcare services are suitable for children from just a few months old to 13 years of age. Our safe, supportive environments are designed to give parents peace-of-mind. All settings are Ofsted-registered, providing a warm welcome for all children and their parents and carers.

Youth Work

...ranged in 2023/24 from Youth Outreach work and the combined Youth & Young Carers group in the Watton area, 'Time Together' project in West Norfolk, our Youth Ambassadors project 'Routes to Community Success', sponsored by the National Youth Agency, and Meet Up, our flagship Youth and Community Service in Thetford

The services are a mixture of fun, emotional wellbeing and practical life support, informal learning, family support, tackling social isolation and overcoming life challenges.

Young Carers Support

...happens via our BOOM! Young Carers service and our role as a delivery partner in the Young Carers & Family Support Service as part of Carers Matters Norfolk

BOOM! helps young carers to get a break from their caring work at home, make friends and have adventures while getting support for any school, health, or wellbeing issues they or their families may have. The Young Carers & Family Support Service provides 1:1 support, mentoring, transition, and carer assessment support, plus help with school engagement and mentoring.

Children with Disabilities

...commissioned by Norfolk County Council and delivered by The Benjamin Foundation, our Specialist Short Breaks group sessions are available in 3 locations in Norfolk.

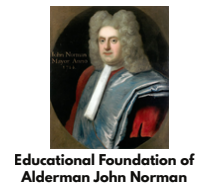
We have groups in Attleborough, King's Lynn and a third in Fakenham. We use complex need schools premises in each location with access to soft play, sensory room, outdoor space, library, cookery room and so much more.



Appendix 2 - Finances 2024/25



Alongside our community of fabulous individual fundraisers and donors, we'd like to thank...



Income

£128 K - Donations, Legacies & Fundraising
 £6.8 M - Charitable activities
 £1.8 M - Retail and trading
 Total - £8.72M

Expenditure

£6.8 M - Fundraising & Charitable Activities
 £1.5 M - Retail and trading
 Total - £8.56 M

Balance

Total funds carried forward
 (Restricted & Unrestricted)
 Total - £1.56 M

Thanks for reading our

Impact Report **2025**



The **Benjamin** Foundation

Positive outcomes
for children, young people & families

**23- 27 St Andrews Street
Norwich
Norfolk
NR2 4TP**

Charity Number: 1124936
Company Number: 03825425



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