



YMCA

CREWE

2019 - 2020

Changing Lives

YMCA Crewe has been changing lives and creating new futures in Crewe since it opened its doors in 1984.

Over the past year, we have done this through our accommodation and engagement services, and a range of community work with children and families.



We Value



the **unique potential**
of all people

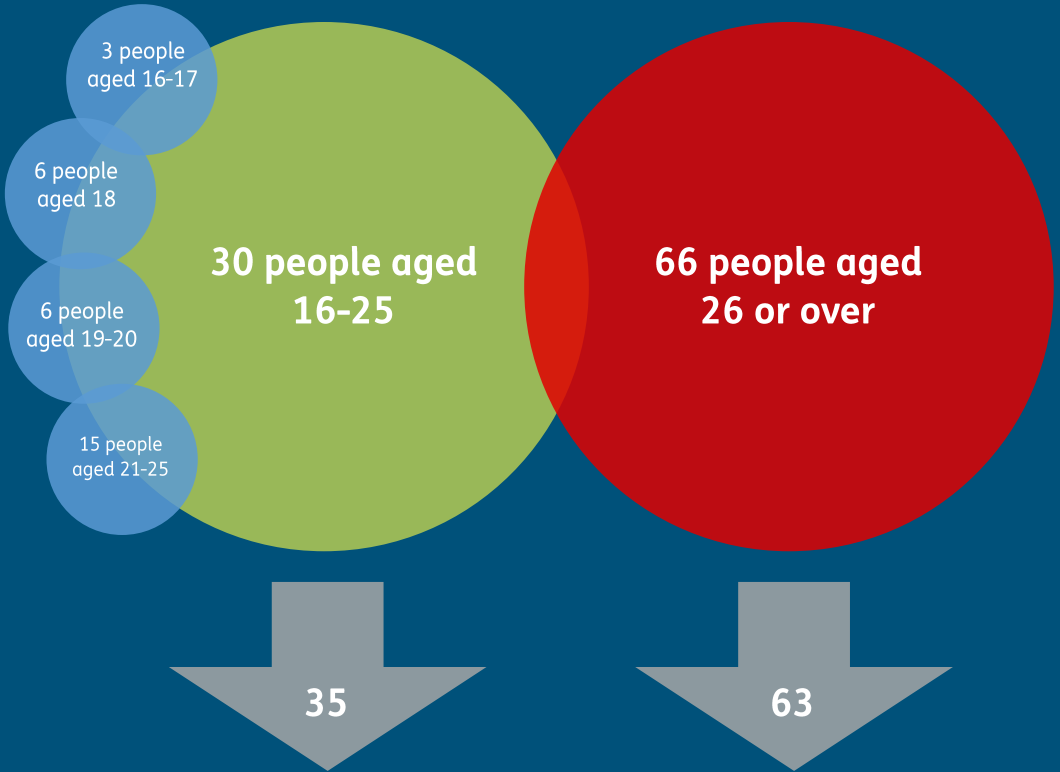


a **can-do approach** in
our staff and volunteers

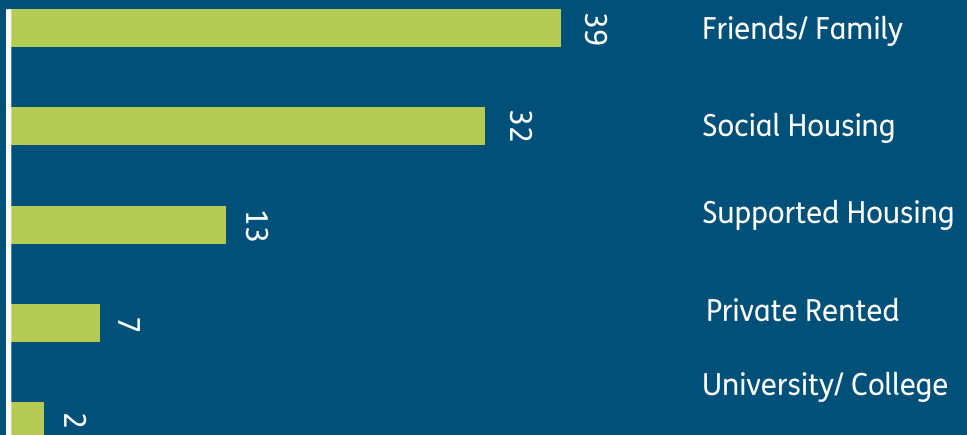


the **Christian basis**
of our organisation

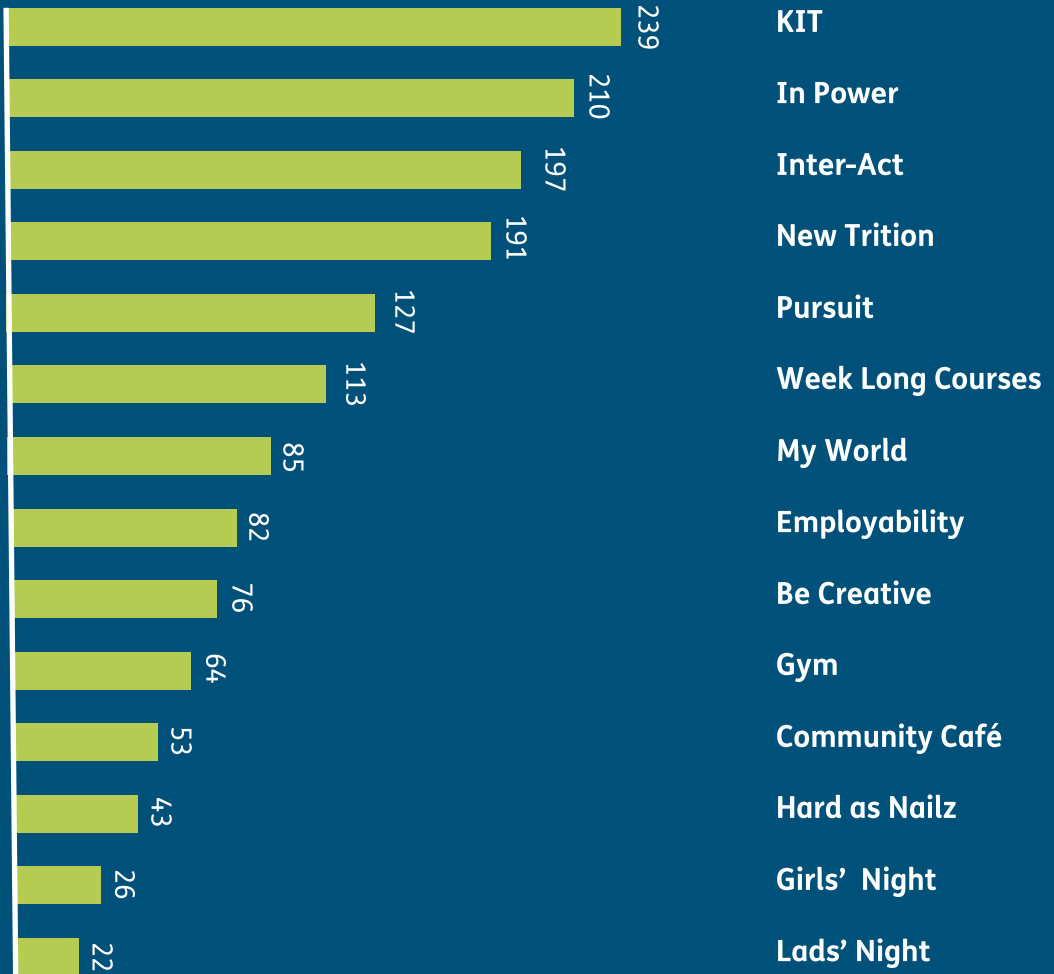
Between April 2019 and March 2020, **96 people** moved into our accommodation on Gresty Road and **98 people** moved out.



Where did they move to?



In total, 101 people took part in sessions in the GLO Academy. The most popular courses were KIT (Key Independence Training) and In Power (mental health).



25 people entered work

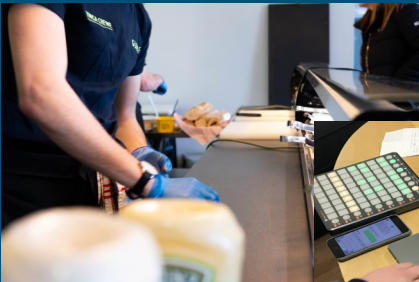
19 people entered training or education

25 people began volunteering

Resident Testimonial



“YMCA Crewe is a wonderful place to live. There’s always staff on hand to talk to if you need a chat, and they make you feel very welcome. In my time here, I’ve had so much help with my drug problems and my mental health. In fact, I wouldn’t even call them a problem now. There’s always something to do like walks, activities, arts and crafts. You name it, they do it. They help you set your future up, and they don’t set you up to fail.”



BRIDGES

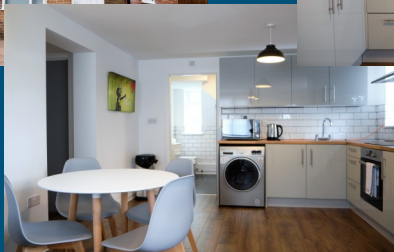
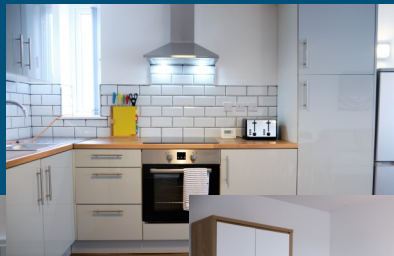
FOYER PLUS

STARTING POINT

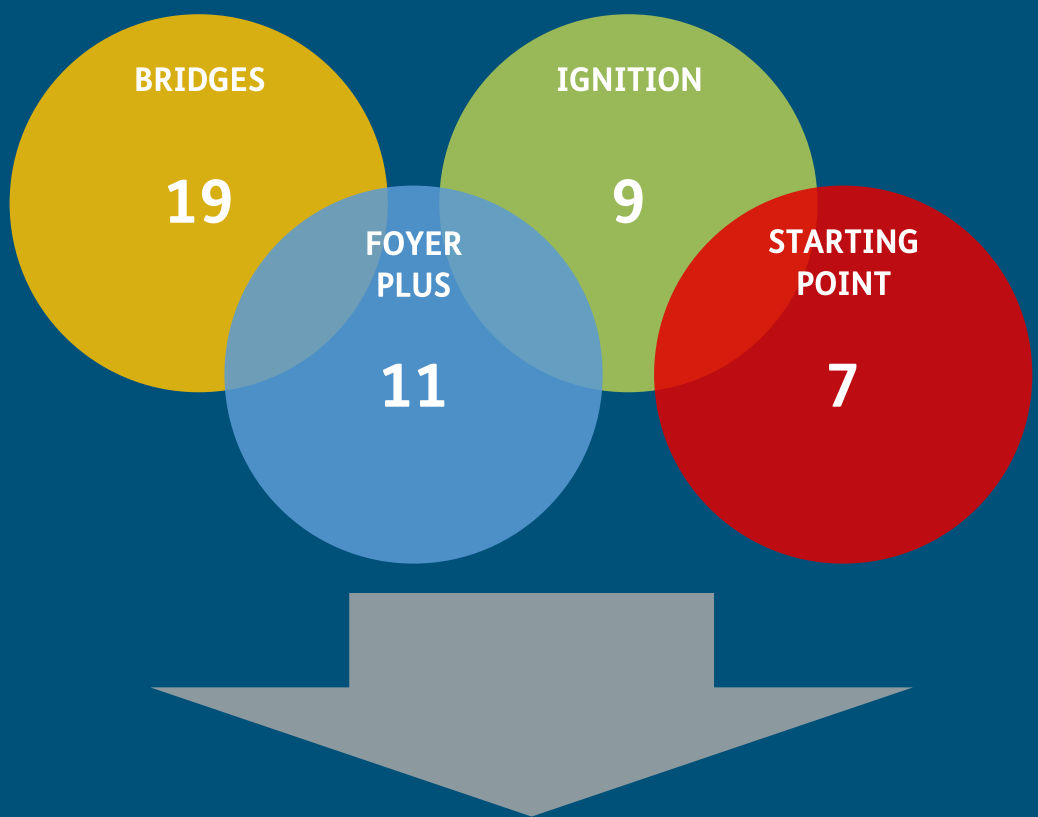
IGNITION

Services for Ages 16+

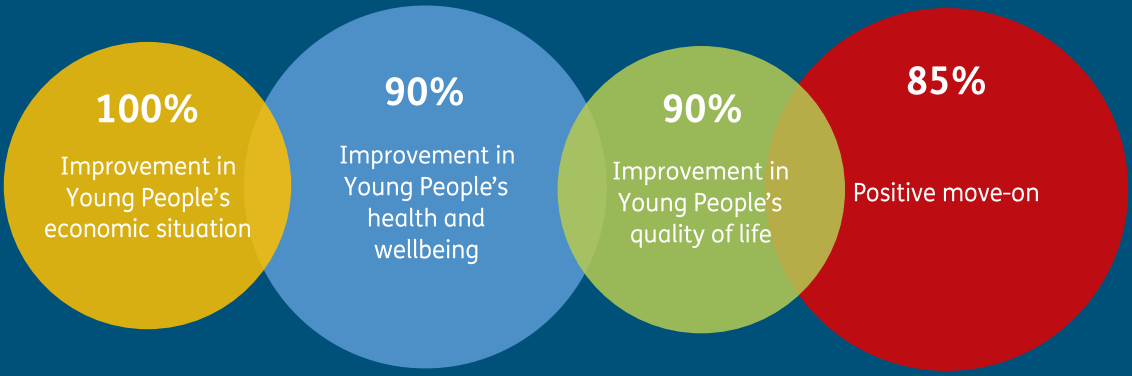
This year has been very successful for our emergency and dispersed accommodation services for young people aged 16-17. We have seen expansion to our work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children and a high level of improvement to the economic situation, quality of life, and health and wellbeing of the young people on this service. We have also taken on some great new properties. Take a look:



Between April 2019 and March 2020, we accommodated **46 young people** through our Bridges, Foyer Plus, Ignition and Starting Point services.



This service saw...



A Message From Tracey Bentley

Last year our work with the schools increased significantly as the schools recognised the success and added value community workers brought to supporting families with the diverse issues in their lives. We were told that due to this support family stress was reduced, families connected better, confidence and self-esteem increased in both children and parents due to our services, families were getting out in their local community, accessing new services and setting up their own support networks. As we know this preventative work helps to reduce homelessness in the future.



We now have a wider community programme than ever before, and have developed services on the Sherborne Estate. Our children's clubs acted on the mental health crisis in young people, remaining informal and friendly whilst introducing circle time into the settings for targeted conversations that teach resilience. This helped young people to talk, express themselves and cope better at home, school and in society. Finally, our relationships and partnership work in the community are growing. My team and I are delighted that this year's hard work and dedication has paid off.

After School Clubs

Underwood:	14
Bethany:	9
Sherborne:	7
Gresty Rd Tues:	12
Gresty Rd Wed:	10
FUSE West St:	7

Average Weekly
Attendance at
Groups

Holiday Villages

Week 1:	720
Week 2:	562
Week 3:	609
Week 4:	715

Parenting Groups

Underwood:	20
Maybury Centre:	20
YMCA/ Pebblebrook:	11
Sherborne:	16
Alex House:	13
Mablins:	10

VOLUNTEER STORIES



Gill

'I walked in feeling like a bad parent who couldn't cope, and left feeling like a great, loving parent with new exciting resources and ideas'

I was at my wits end with how angry my 8 year old son was getting at home, and went into his school to see if his teachers were seeing the same frustrations. While I was there, Tracey invited me to join the YMCA parenting group. I was open to trying anything that would help, and so started attending every week. We learnt methods for communicating with our children, and being able to talk freely with like-minded parents was reassuring. Tracey was a great listener, and really interested in us as people. Towards the end of the course she asked if I would like to volunteer for another parenting group, and I was honoured when this developed into a paid role. I've increased in confidence, and feel I'm making a difference in my community. I have even had the opportunity to extra training and receive certificates for my achievements. YMCA Crewe isn't just a fantastic organisation to work for, it's a FAMILY.

Emma

'My son started to find his confidence and place in the group, and so did I'

I had recently moved to the area, and was feeling vulnerable and isolated. A lady on my street gave me a leaflet about the YMCA family groups and I gathered the courage to attend with my one year old son. I was worried I wouldn't fit in, but immediately felt welcome. If anyone was sitting alone or looking lost, Tracey and the other staff would help them feel included. I started to build friendships with the other mums, and we connected on social media.

I spoke to Tracey about some of the hardships I had experienced, and wanting to help children and families in crisis, just like had been. She offered me the opportunity to volunteer at one of the YMCA's after school clubs, which has given me a way to contribute positively to my community. The family group has been the foundation for the connections and friendships I have built over this year, and provided my son with the opportunity to socialise and play with other adults and children. I now feel like I have a sense of purpose and I'm starting to feel like an individual, not just a mum.



Thank you

Without the support of partner agencies, funders, church groups and volunteers, none of the work described here could take place. Lives would not be changed.

We are grateful for their ongoing support and belief in what we do.

The picture above is of participants taking part in YMCA Crewe's first sponsored sleep out. 'Sleep Easy 2020' raised over £3,000 to support our work with people who experienced homelessness.



189 Gresty Road
Crewe CW2 6EL

01270 257673

www.ymcacrewe.org.uk

admin@ymcacrewe.org.uk

YMCA CREWE

Crewe YMCA Ltd | Registered Office 189-197 Gresty Road Crewe CW2 6EL
A Limited Company Registered 2875065 | Registered Charity No 1030782 |
Registered Social Landlord No H4058 | VAT No 453 6368 33