

# Case Study

## Concrete Rose

To provide first-class care to the most 'at risk' young people (16-23) including loving, therapeutic, supported accommodation placements that engender long-term transformation.



### Room to Spare

Concrete Rose received £6,000 from CCF's Outlook Fund to establish a 'supported lodgings' scheme for 10 young people offering post-care placements within the homes of host families, individuals and couples alongside significant wrap-around support.

Project Duration: 13 months

Project Delivery Area: Cambridgeshire

Primary Beneficiary: Children & Young People

Primary Age Range: Young adults (19-25)

Vital Signs Category: Fairness (disadvantage)

Impact Category: Advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety

**“This grant has enabled us to pioneer and establish a new, innovative housing provision in Cambridgeshire that can make a meaningful difference to the lives of young people in the local area. Having established the foundations this year we are confident of being able to grow in scope and area”**

# Case Study

- **Laura had just turned 17 when referred to us.**
- She had a history of care, having suffered abuse from her step-mum, but had been sofa surfing for a few years.
- When, due to a breakdown in relationship with a college friend, she was made homeless, she was moved by social care to an adult homeless hostel in Wisbech.
- This was a traumatic experience. Not only did Laura feel frightened and alone – with risk-taking behaviour all around her – but she was also isolated from, and unable to take part in, important elements in her life including work, college and friendships.
- This was despite the fact that she was currently in college three days a week (studying a level 3 course in engineering) and also working part-time.

We moved quickly and, within a week, moved her into an available host family. This proved transformative. Laura was immediately (the next day) able to return to college. She could reconnect with friends and again start work.

Concrete rose provided:

- weekly check-ins
- assistance sorting out her college bus bursary, and universal credit applications.
- a coat, bag, helmet, laptop and bike lock to aid her studies
- ID including passport and driving license
- CV writing support
- a visit to the skills academy at Marshall Aerospace which gave Laura an insight into a career in aviation (her particular area of passion) and enabled her to meet inspirational female role models in the industry.

Her hosts have supported her to:

- access guitar lessons
- attend local music gigs
- find a work experience placement with a local engineering firm.

**I didn't get time to study as there would be toxic arguments every day.**

**"I am currently 17 years old. I moved to England with my dad when I was 3 years old. Unfortunately, I never got the chance to meet my biological mother as she had a bad alcohol addiction, which is why my father chose to leave her. Once we arrived in the UK, a few months later my father met another woman, a woman I never thought that would ruin my childhood. She was emotionally and physically abusive which caused a huge impact on my mental health. I developed depression, it was really difficult for me to focus in school. and I didn't get the grades that I wanted. I lost a lot of confidence in myself. I would constantly overthink everything.**

**I finally had time to study in peace and work towards my goals**

**"Ever since I have moved in with Gavin and Liz [the hosts], everything began to get easier. Gavin and Liz are very nice and respectful people, and I cannot thank them enough for helping me. I am currently studying level 3 Engineering at CRC (Cambridge Regional College) and I really enjoy it. I am on my final year of college. In the future I want to be an Aerospace Engineer. I am hoping to get an apprenticeship with aerospace Marshalls next year. I also want to thank Concrete Rose as they have helped me through my struggles and motivated me to never give up. The way Concrete Rose work is they help Teenagers like myself who is having trouble at home or end up in a situation like I did and had nowhere to live. They are honestly an amazing team and they have improved my life by a lot."**



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### More hosts are in the process of being approved

"It is very satisfying to feel that we are making a difference in her life. It is encouraging to see how she is starting to relax and to be able to focus on things other than simply surviving - such as her mental wellbeing and plans to visit her relatives overseas".

**"Our experience has been easier than expected, largely due to a good match with our lodger who engages well with us and our wider family, and who appears to have settled well."**



### Welcome back pack

“ It keeps us youthful. Yes it is risky but life is so much more exciting when we move out of our comfort zones and it is especially satisfying to do so in a way which can make so much positive difference to someone else.”