

Moving On Up Fund

Impact Report





“I have been able to make my flat my home.”
-Grantee

Moving on Up

to new homes and beyond...

We know that young people who can't live at home face specific financial barriers that make it hard for them to grow into a thriving future. In November 2023, young people responded to our Big Questions survey to tell us that the cost of living was their biggest concern and a significant barrier in moving on from Foyers into lower support or independent accommodation.

In October 2022, we partnered with LandAid on the Moving On Up fund, which provided 117 grants of up to £1000 to enable young people to move on from their Foyer and make the next step a positive and sustainable one.

Our impact data shows that sustainability and the desire to build a long-term 'home' was a top priority for young people and accordingly drove their spending choices and confidence to move on. Overall young people used their grant to ensure their next space was a reliable foundation from which they could build a thriving future.

This report shows that ultimately, freeing up bed spaces for others in supported youth accommodation must go hand in hand with ensuring that young people who do move on feel confidently set up for long-term stability.

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Impact snapshot

Grants awarded

262

Nominations

220

Applications

117

Grants awarded

Top spending choices

56%



planned to spend their grant on furnishings, carpeting or appliances like fridges and washers.

12%



planned to use their grant on moving costs- like van and packaging.

11%



planned to use their grant to pay for rent in advance.

Sustainability

100%

of staff members from across Foyers said the grant made young people's move on significantly **more sustainable**.

Confidence

88%

of staff members surveyed said the grant enabled young people to feel significantly **more confident** about moving on.

Speed

68%

of staff members surveyed said the grant helped young people **move on quicker**.

Impact snapshot

Qualitative outcomes

The Moving On Up grant really lifted the weight of my shoulders.

- Grantee

The Moving On Up Fund gave young people the opportunity to move to their new homes with a positive outlook.

- Staff member

The grant will give me more stability... and will mean that I can focus on my goals.

- Grantee



Reducing stress

Knowing they'd be able to cover various costs for their move reduced the overall stress and anxiety young people associated with their move on.



Increasing positivity

By reducing stress and providing young people the means to choose what they needed to move into a new home the grant helped to make move on less daunting and a more positive experience overall.



Setting up for the long-term

Being able to set up their new spaces with essentials like appliances and furnishings provided a solid foundation from which young people could focus fully on their longer term goals and ambitions.

Section 1

Readiness to move on



What did we learn about the needs of young people and their readiness to move on during the Moving on Up grant application process?

In this section

- Readiness
- Support in place
- Foyer Experience
- Future ambitions and hopes for the grant

Readiness

We asked: young people how well they felt they could manage different areas of their lives independently. The visual shows the percentage of young people who said they felt “most confident” managing different areas independently*.

The data tells us: that overall young people felt confident managing many areas of their lives independently. While social connections and personal development were areas of highest confidence, finance and housing were areas where confidence to manage things independently dropped slightly.

Why does this matter? this data highlights the need for additional support that might boost young people’s confidence in managing their finances and housing. Within the context of transitioning from the Foyer to independent housing, this is what the Moving On Up grant aimed to do.

***Other areas which sat in the middle were health (69%), employment (67%) and education (59%).**

Highest percentage of confidence



Lowest percentage of confidence



Support in place

We asked: young people to give us some detail about the support they already had in place to help them move on independently.

The data tells us:

WHO

was involved and in what role

The top two most frequently mentioned people supporting YP:

55% mentioned **professional support staff** like youth coaches, Foyer staff, Move on officers, social workers.

30% mentioned **family** members or networks.

Friends and partners were also important and other professionals such as mental health workers and health workers were sometimes mentioned.

WHAT

programmes or activities were supportive

The top two most frequently mentioned kinds of supports::

34% described continued support they would receive after transitioning into their own place. This involved 'floating support' and/or the ability to check in with workers or go back to the Foyer if they needed support with anything.

17% mentioned programmes focused on independent living skill such as budgeting, cooking, driving and getting into employment.

Foyer experience, future ambitions and hopes for the grant

We asked: young people if there was anything else they wanted to tell us in the application, in particular: their journey in the foyer, ambitions for next year and how they thought the grant would support them.

The data tells us: through qualitative analysis of the responses shared by young people in their applications common experiences and themes were identified ----->

Why does this matter? Across these areas a prominent theme was young people's need for long-term stability and aspiration to build somewhere they felt was their home. Insights across these three areas also help us map out a basic journey from Foyer to independent move on and exciting futures. **(see diagram the end of the this section).**

FOYER EXPERIENCE

Most frequently spoken about was positive role the Foyer had played in a) building self confidence and personal growth and b) in equipping YP with various independent living skills

FUTURE AMBITIONS

Getting into employment, pursuing a career or going into further training and education were the most frequently mentioned ambitions. Making and owning a home was the other most frequently mentioned ambition.

GRANT ASPIRATIONS

The grant was most frequently seen as a) a springboard to reaching longer-term goals and b) as helping make young people's next place a long-term space to call home- to be safe, secure and comfortable- especially for YP that were parents.

Foyer Experience: Data in detail



My life would have been so different without [my Foyer] and I would not be the person I am now. -Grantee



This foyer has given me a new vision of my future. -Grantee

We asked: young people to tell us about their journey at their Foyer during their application.

The data tells us: Analysing the qualitative responses, **5 key areas** were identified relating to young people's experiences within their Foyers.



Independent living skills: Learning about things like budgeting, cooking, bills and tenancy management.



Personal development: Increasing self-confidence, self-belief and undergoing personal growth.

Support from Foyer:

Many young people made statements about feeling generally supported by their Foyer.

Involvement in youth power:

Advantaged Thinking training, being an ambassador within their Foyer and getting involved with advocacy.

Mental health support:

being supported at their Foyer to better manage their mental health.

Most Mentioned Impacts

Future Ambitions: Data in detail

We asked: young people to tell us a bit about their ambitions for the future.

Data tells us: Analysis of qualitative responses showed the two most frequently mentioned ambitions were employment & career development, education & training. This is not hugely surprising- we know that most Young People want to move into careers, employment and further education and training opportunities. More specific to the Moving on Up programme, a third ambition recurred across young people's response: 'making a home'.

Why does this matter?: This adds to the notion that long-term stability and comfort (enabled through high quality, long-term housing) is a significant ambition for young people moving on from Foyers.



Most frequently mentioned ambitions

1 Employment and Career Development

Many young people described their plan to pursue a specific vocation like doctor, tattoo artist, graphic designer, support worker, while others were eager to move from part time to full time work or from not working to getting employed.

2 Further Education and Training

Many young people mentioned a range of aspirations involving further study and training and learning opportunities.

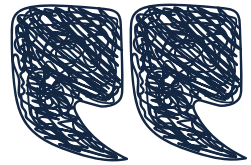
3 Making a home

Some YP talked about their ambition to 'make' or own a home in the future. This was mentioned more by individuals that were awarded the grant.

4 Raising a family

27% of grant recipients were parents and raising a family and 'being a good parent' was a frequently mentioned ambition.

In Young People's words: grant aspirations



This grant will enable me to buy the more expensive items I need to settle into a **forever home** for me and my daughter.

I will be going back to college in September to do my A Levels so **it will be great to have a fresh start in a new home ready for starting the next stage in my life.**

The grant will help me so much in settling my needs for a new home and helping me to sharpen my new life in a new dimension, **so I can focus on other things, as my career in nursing is around the corner.**

I want to get into **my new home** and make it my own I want to be settled and know that I will not be homeless again or have to find another place to move to.

Moving on to a place of my own will give me stability in the coming months which will **enable me to move towards my ultimate goal.**

This grant will help my son and I have **our own safe home for life.**

Overall: the Moving on Up grant provides a crucial boost in an existing trajectory of wraparound support.

FOYER JOURNEY

Foyers equipped young people with the practical skills needed for independent living and provided a crucial space for them to grow their self-confidence and self-esteem. Young people reported feeling confident and ready for independence across multiple areas of their lives.

MOVE ON

*** The Moving on Up grant** enabled young people to secure essential items to set up their spaces for functional living and/or to ensure their initial rent was covered and debts payed off.

Foyer staff also worked closely with young people to prepare for their move both emotionally and logistically.

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Young people started their new chapter of independence from a place of positivity, reduced stress and financial security.

Some young people access continued move on support after their initial transition ensured they could still access support if needed.

THRIVING FUTURE

Young people feel secure, safe and confident in their new independent living space and begin focusing on their longer-term goals like employment, further training and education and parenting.

"I am getting along great without too much money stress now and I am enjoying living here and working hard at my job and being able to pay my way without benefits"
Grantee

Section 2

Planning and Spending



What did young people budget and spend their grant on?

What impact did the grant have on young people's overall transition into independent housing?

In this section

- Planned spending and budgeting breakdowns
- The need for long-term stability
- Stories of impact

Planned spending: Data in detail

This is a breakdown of what grant recipients planned to spend their grant on.

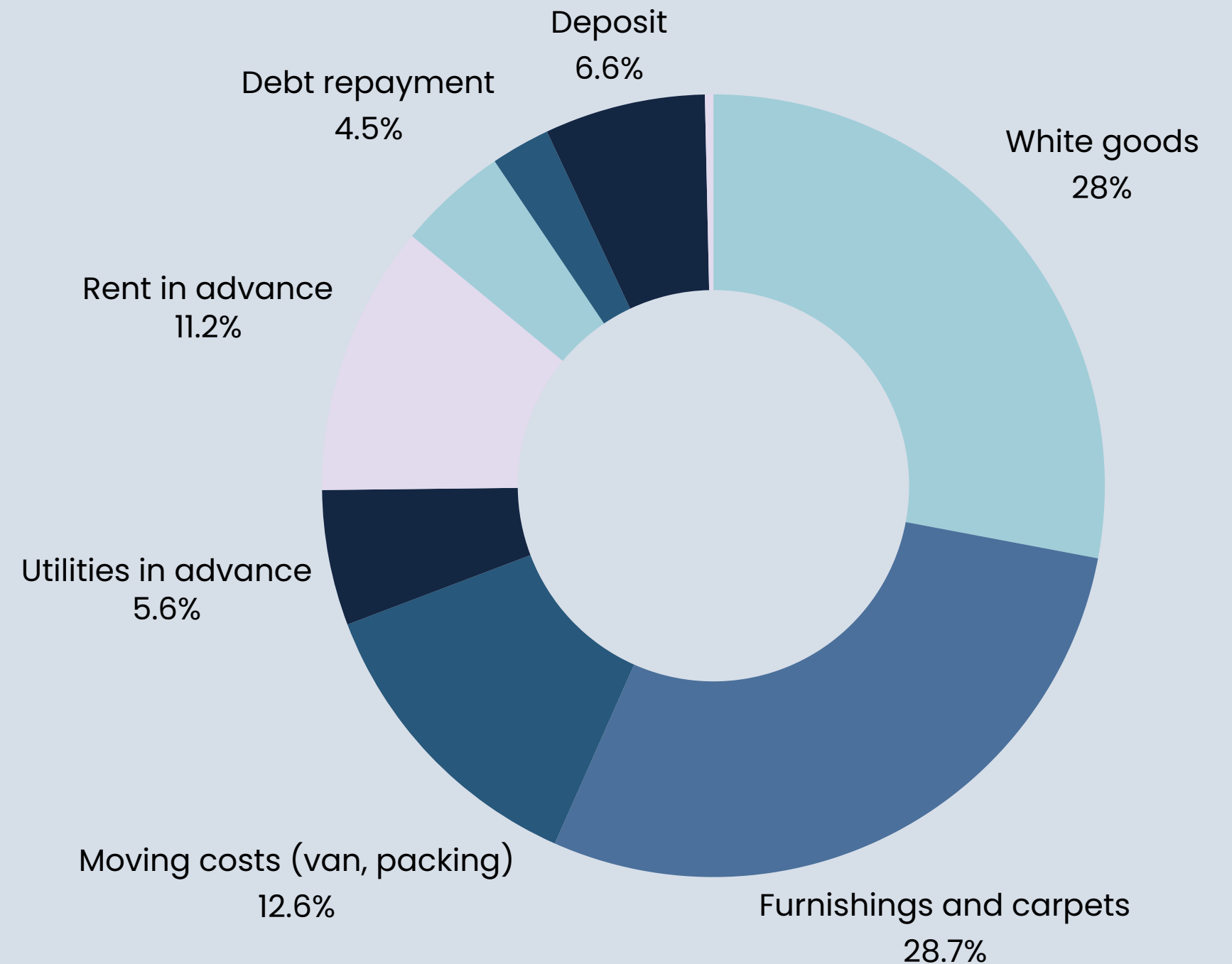
Most grantees planned to cover a range of costs whereas others spent their grants on one category.

The management of the grant allowed young people to change their spending decisions if necessary- for example if they found a free sofa or fridge, they could use the money budgeted for these items to cover other costs.

In some cases this resulted in young people deciding to give some of their grant money back to Foyer Federation.

“ [This grant] has enabled young people to buy the big things they need to move into a social forever home, mostly fridge freezers, ovens, washing machine, sofa and beds. ”

-Staff member



Planned budgeting Data in detail

When young people first applied, we asked them to provide a simple budget of what they'd spend on each item needed to support their move on.

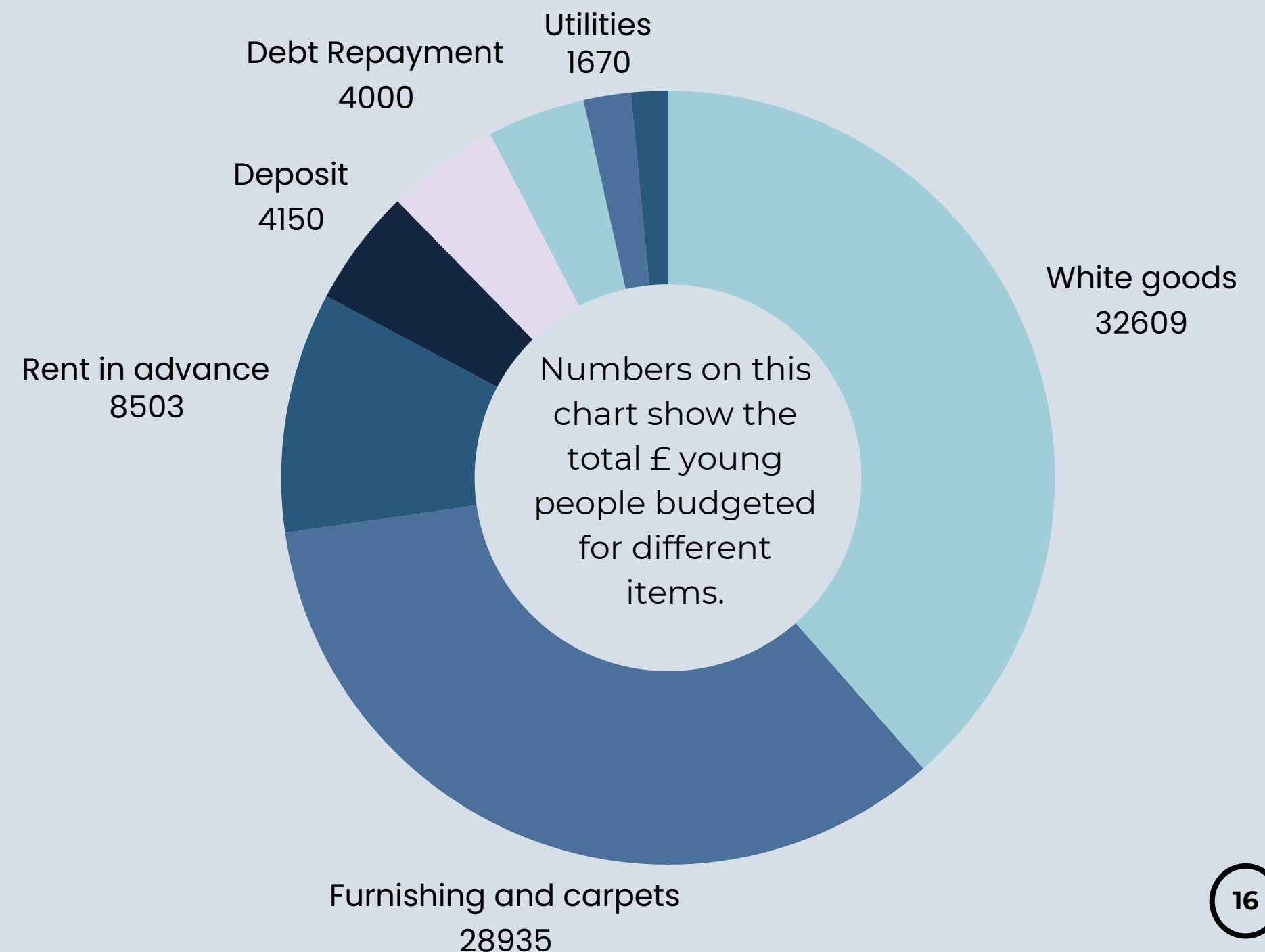
While not everyone shared this information, the breakdown from data we do have supports the significant choices to spend on white goods and furnishings over other items like rent and deposits.

£32,609

Budgeted for white goods (fridges, freezers, cookers, washers and dryers)

£28,935

Budgeted for furnishings, carpeting and flooring.



What does spending data tell us?

Young people are often moving into 'empty shell' spaces

Spending and budgeting data highlights that essential household items like fridges, ovens and carpeting were not included in many of the properties available to young people. This prompts questions about who should be responsible for ensuring housing is safe, comfortable and liveable - particularly for tenants who do not currently have a high income or significant financial safety nets. If properties came ready and liveable - could the grant be used to ensure even longer term stability covering costs like rent or utilities? Would it be needed as urgently? Structural implications are discussed more in section 4.

Young people want to ensure their move to independence is reliable and sustainable.

Young people's spending and budgeting choices show us that they are thinking diligently about how to ensure their move was sustainable. While items like carpets and fridges don't necessarily secure a property like a rent payment or deposit, they were crucial in ensuring that young people knew they were moving into a place they could functionally live and therefore thrive independently. The importance of continued move on support and language used around finding or making a 'home' also reflects young people's desire to ensure their move was successful in the long-term and provided safety and stability.




Sade's Story

Breaking down financial barriers

Having lived at her Foyer for over a year, Sade had made huge steps, in particular growing her self-confidence. With the positive momentum building, the next natural step was to move on to her own independent space. As Sade began working with her support worker to move into a social housing property, the main barrier standing in the way was financial: how was she going to afford all the things she needed to make a new space liveable?

That's where the Moving on Up grant came in. Sade used her grant to invest in a carpet for insulation and essential furniture items for a flat that would have otherwise been empty.

With delays in her move-out process due to the condition of flat, the ease and quickness of the Moving on Up grant meant that once the flat was ready, Sade could move in and enjoy her new place right away because she had everything she needed to make it functional and homely.



“I like [my new space] I feel better and free.”

Grantee

Daniel's Story

A new home for a new family

When Daniel and his partner found out they were going to have a baby, they soon decided it was time to move out of the Foyer and find their own place.

All the different costs associated with moving were daunting at first: hiring a van to transport belongings, getting essential appliances like a cooker and fridge and ensuring a safe and cosy living space with proper furnishings and carpet. At the same time Daniel and his partner were working hard with social services to demonstrate that they could take care of their new baby.

The Moving On Up Grant gave Daniel and his partner the financial backing they needed to set up their new home with everything they needed for their new baby. Because of the grant they were able start their journey into parenthood with confidence and financial security.



"The Moving On Up Grant has really helped us set up home and get ready for our baby's arrival. It's helped us make our new home more suitable for our baby to live in and it has helped us keep it a nice environment."

Nick's Story

A new chapter in independence

Nick has always valued his independence. Living at the Foyer he overcame many challenges to flourish and enjoy his autonomy- in particular being employed at a local school in a job that he loved.

After 5 years of working, Nick was determined to take the next crucial step in his independence by securing a space outside the Foyer he could call his own. He identified a private rental flat in a nearby community and worked diligently with his Foyer manager to tackle some of the challenges that came securing a private rental i,e a lack of guarantor and the general distrust/stigma attached to young people who have experienced homelessness.

With the support of his manager and a considerate estate agent and landlord, Nick was offered a place and able to secure it by using his Moving On Up grant to pay his rent in advance and clear some debt repayments.

“The Moving On Up Fund provided me with money that I would never have been able to save up to without”.

Section 3

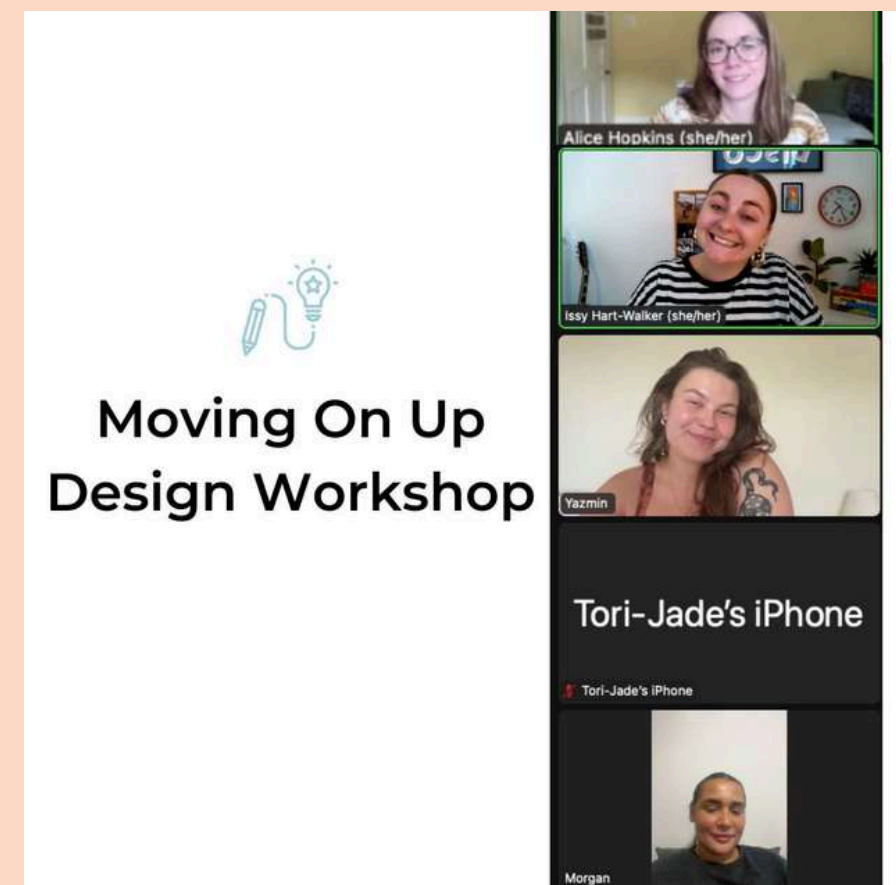
Programme Design



In June 2024 we met with some of our young consultants including previous grant recipients and asked how we might change and improve future versions of Moving on Up grant programme.

In this section

- Grant amount
- Criteria
- Spending cards
- Staff support
- Staff voices

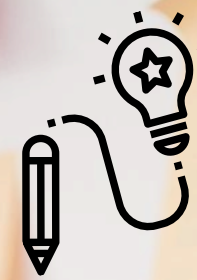


Grant Amount

We asked: whether £1,000 was the right amount for potential future programmes.

Young people said:

- Sometimes £1,000 isn't enough: one young person reported using their entire grant to buy flooring for their social housing property and not all rooms were covered.
- Grant amount should increase: grants should be increased to around £2,000-3,000.
- A case by case basis: budgeting should be done efficiently and grant amount determined on a case by case basis.
- Grant increase = less grants: a key concern was that by increasing the grant amount the overall number of grants available to young people would be reduced.



Design considerations

Could future programmes...



Provide grants of **up to** £2,000-3,000 per young person and encourage young people to budget according to their specific individual needs?



Provide grants of **up to** £1,500 per young person, with an additional urgent fund for those with special circumstances to request extra funds from?



Seek ways to apply other Foyer resources to offset costs (for example Foyer staff helping young people move instead of hiring a moving van)?

A wider question...

Shouldn't councils or landlords ensure that essentials like flooring are up to standard so that new tenants aren't left with this cost? **Read more in section 4.**

Criteria

We asked: If they were managing the next Moving On Up fund scheme what would they change about the criteria list? Would they add anything? Would they get rid of the criteria list all together?

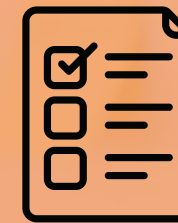
Young people said:

- Criteria should stay: In future programmes a list of criteria should be maintained. Presented with the idea of having no criteria, young people felt this wasn't a good idea as for many young people structure is supportive.
- Additional criteria: Property damage, maintenance and decorating should be added to the criteria.
- Flexibility: There should be some flexibility in the fund usage and items not on the criteria list should be considered on a case by case basis.



Design considerations

Could future programmes....



Include the following new costs on the official criteria list:

- Painting, decorating and repairs
- Food for when you first move in
- Childcare costs

A wider question...

Why, in some cases, do basic upkeep and maintenance issues like mold and wall damage become the financial responsibility of new tenants? **Read more in section 4.**

Payment cards

We asked: How should payment cards be managed between staff members and young people? Whos name should the card be in?

Young people said:

- Name on card not important: Having their name on the card doesn't impact how much freedom or control is felt over spending the grant.
- Trusting staff relationships are key: the relationship with the staff member young people are working with is much more important than the name on the card. One young person shared that in their case, they had a highly positive and trusting relationship with their support worker so even though the staff's name was on the card, they were allowed to take the card and spend independently whenever they needed to.



Design considerations

Could future programmes....



Use the management of the payment card as an opportunity to improve trust between young people and staff members and for a young person to build their independence and responsibility?



Have the cards in staff member's names but explore ways for the young person to have a freedom and control over when the card is taken and used?

Staff roles

We asked: To tell us more about the role of staff was like during their Moving On Up experience and what they thought the main role of staff should be.

Young people said:

- Everyone should know about the grant: it seemed unfair that the grant wasn't advertised openly to all residents in Foyers . Young people felt they were entirely dependent on staff to hear about it and apply.
- More open information needed: When young people first arrive at a Foyer they should information about The Foyer Federation and what's on offer- this could include information about any current programmes/opportunities like the Moving On Up grant.



Design considerations

Could future programmes....



Ensure all young people living in Foyers are fully informed about the grant scheme and are given the opportunity to discuss it with their worker.



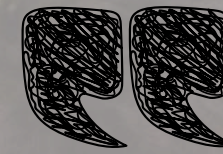
Ensure Foyers advertise the grant scheme in youth friendly ways in and around the Foyer.

Staff Voices

We asked: 18 staff members were surveyed about design elements of the Moving on Up programme.

Staff said:

- Timing: the grant was particularly supportive because young people could receive it quickly and **before** their move in.
- Integration with existing support: the grant fit well with wider move on processes and made it easier and more positive for both staff and young people.
- Incentivisation for move on: Simply knowing the grant was available (regardless of whether they received it or not) was a motivator for young people to more proactively initiate planning for their move on.
- Amount: 100% of staff agreed that £1,000 was an appropriate and impactful grant amount. One staff member echoed young people's recommendation about having a pot of extra funding for individuals with specific circumstances.



Staff Testimonies

The grant added an extra element of support we were able to offer, it also gave me an opportunity to encourage some of the young people ready to move on to apply and sit down and talk about possibilities that the money could provide.

-Staff Member

Having the Moving On Up fund allowed the whole process to be positive and easy flowing, allowing staff and young people to work together well and make it stress free and enjoyable.

-Staff Member

It complemented the move on process and assisted in helping young people to afford some of the items they needed for their homes.

-Staff Member

Section 4

Wider Context



What does this grant programme and what we've learned tell us about systemic gaps and issues?

In this section

- The cost of living without
- Housing conditions
- Moving on Up in a wider system of support

[The cost of living] without



When young people accept their new homes, they are just empty shells.

-Foyer Staff Member

Beyond wanting their new homes to be set up for functional, long-term living, the popularity of spending on essential household items amongst young people highlights a significant gap: **that social housing* in particular is often not set up with even the most essential household appliances.**

In 2020 charity Turn2Us released a report demonstrating the significant impacts of appliance poverty on UK households. According to their research 4.8 million people across the UK are living without at least one essential household appliance.

*100% of staff surveyed reported that social housing was the most common kind of property young people moved on to.

Impacts of appliance poverty



FINANCIAL: It can be 43% more expensive to do your food shopping without a fridge or freezer.



EMOTIONAL: People Living Without had lower life satisfaction, felt less worthwhile and had more anxiety.



PHYSICAL: Living without essential cooking and food storage appliances has a negative impact of diet and nutrition.

[The cost of living] without



Who should be responsible for ensuring housing is equipped with essential appliances and infrastructure that ensure a minimum quality living standard?

Housing sector

The Turn2us report puts forward a range of recommendations to the housing sector including changing policies on void properties that cause properties to be rented appliance free, creating in-house grant funds for tenants, implementation of appliance and furniture rental schemes and increasing the provision of fully or part furnished properties.

Charity sector

Given that policy change and wider sector shifts take time, there is currently a pressing need for grant programmes like Moving On Up that provide people the means to access essential white goods grants as easily accessible.



When we are moving young people on from our supported flats one of the biggest problems is the likelihood that the place they move to will be unfurnished, and also without carpets, curtains, cooker, fridge etc because of the way landlords treat their voids.

-Staff member

Housing conditions

We know that many young people move into social housing properties when they move on from the Foyer.

100% of surveyed staff reported that social housing was the most common kind of property young people moved on to.

Stories and suggestions we heard in our Moving on Up Design workshop highlighted an unfair responsibility that can fall on tenants when moving into these properties. For example young people suggested adding 'fixing property damage' to the list of criteria. Another young person reported using all of their grant plus some of their own savings to put down basic flooring in their council property.

While we know that the responsibility to ensure that council properties are liveable should be that of local authorities, severe funding cuts have made this increasingly difficult. As they note in the Turn2Us Cost of Living Without report: **"The current system does not give local authorities the backing they need to administer financial support."**



This highlights another gap that prompts some important questions.

Should charitable grants be covering costs like property damage and basic infrastructure like flooring in social housing?

Why aren't local authorities ensuring basic housing conditions like flooring and maintenance issues are in place in council properties?

Moving on Up grants in a wider system of grant support

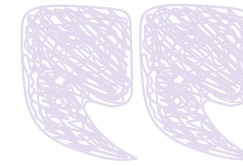
We know that the Moving On Up fund is not the only grant that covers essential living costs when young people move on. Across different regions and authorities grants to cover these costs have increasingly become available as cost of living has risen. However feedback from staff and young people highlights that sometimes other grants were harder to access.

The Moving on Up grant often provided an option with much less red tape: providing cash quickly before young people's move in and an eligibility criteria that catered to a wide range of circumstances .



How might the design and delivery of the Moving on Up Fund grants provide a blueprint for other housing providers and local authorities/governments to ensure payments are easier to apply for and quicker to access?

Should the use of DHP be reviewed?



Because my baby is still unborn I am not eligible for a fridge/freezer from the council which I will need.

Grantee

If [young people] are working they do not qualify for the local Help scheme that provides [household] goods for people on universal credit.

Staff member

The grant was flexible and didn't seem as fixed as some of the grants that are provided by the local authority.

Staff member

I can only apply for two items from the council and I need to fully furnish my home with essential items including fridge/freezer, cooker, washer and also a bed.

Grantee



Continued Move On Support

Qualitative analysis of young people's application responses showed the value of having continued 'move on' support after they'd left Foyer.

The reality is however that **many Foyers are not commissioned to provide this transitional support** and many go above and beyond to provide it anyway given it's value and impact on young people during such a crucial time.

Support doesn't necessarily end or stop at the point of move out and if anything is particularly important at a time where settling into a new home and independent life successfully could be a vital part of breaking the cycle of homelessness.



Should commissioners be better recognising the value of transitional support and reflecting this in contracts?

How might Foyers better measure and evidence the significant impact 6-8 weeks of transitional support has on young people after move on?

Final takeaways

“Moving on from a Foyer is already a massive transition, so the added pressure of the financial implications makes that move much more challenging. **A grant like the Move On Grant is often what tips the balance in their having the confidence to move”**

-Staff member

Overall the Moving On Up grant:



Integrated positively into a **wider toolkit** of move on support used by Foyer staff.



Incentivised and motivated young people to work towards moving on, shifting the culture within Foyers.



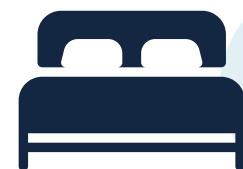
Reduced stress and anxiety associated with moving on, boosting confidence and outlook for young people.



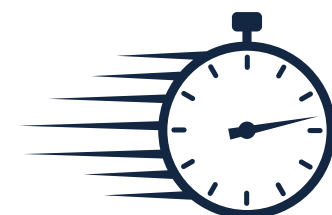
Improved the move-on process, leading to **long-term stability and enabling focus** on broader ambitions such as employment, education, and parenting.



Helped **prevent negative impacts** associated with moving into unfurnished properties.



Freed up Foyer bed spaces and decreased the likelihood of young people returning to supported accommodation.



Provided **quick and easy access** to funds, avoiding bureaucratic hurdles.



What now?

While the wider structural causes of housing conditions (both physical infrastructure and provision of essential living appliances), access to housing and lack of accessible financial support should not be overlooked, in the immediate future **there is a clear need for more young people to access Move-on grants**, especially given the immediate challenges they face with the cost of living.

Finally, we'd like to thank LandAid
for their
generous support

“I am currently still living in my move on property. The grant helped me in so many ways! It genuinely helped me and other people be able to move on debt free and feel comfortable in our new homes”

Kayleigh Long, young person

