



Annual Report

For the year ending 31st March 2021

Our Centres

Rothesay Court and Catherine Court provide 24-hour supported accommodation for up to 33 homeless families: single dads, single mums, pregnant women and couples with children. Both sites have communal areas, where families can socialise and take part in various activities, and their own key worker for 1-1 support.

"I came to Gingerbread this place has really saved my life. Every member of staff is just brilliant in their own way, because they all give you different types of support."

Resident

From 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, **52 parents** and **58 children** were housed at Rothesay Court and Catherine Court supported **25 young parents** (aged 16 to 19) to gain the skills necessary to move into their own home in the community and maintain their own tenancy.

"I do feel that the best thing is having staff available 24 hours per day so that I can call and ask them things at any time. In my last relationship I suffered domestic violence but I feel safe in my house because I have cameras on the front and the back so that staff can see the outside if anything happens. The house rules are easy to follow and there aren't that many, I really enjoy living here."

Resident

Outdoor Play Area

One notable achievement, in early 2021, has been the £27k refurbishment of the outside space at Rothesay Court. The project involved a complete revamp with all new surfaces, fantastic new play equipment and new seating. What was once a dull, dismal and unexciting space is now a vibrant and exciting place for our families to enjoy. It features brand new equipment and new surfaces.

The main feature is a twin tower climbing frame with a slide, rope ladder, rickety bridge and fireman's pole surrounded by a soft, safe surface. One tower includes a small, vertical climbing wall and a safe seating area underneath. Other features of the play area are a moveable mud kitchen and wall mounted play consoles.

Sincere thanks to the funders and contractors who have made this possible, we are very grateful.



Thank you to the Denise Coates Foundation, Synectics Solutions, B&Q Foundation, Screwfix Foundation, Co-op Community Fund, Barratt Homes Legacy Fund and Persimmon Homes for funding this fantastic development.

Activity Club

We are delighted to say we have been successful in receiving continuation funding from Children in Need for a further 3-years. Our Activity Club is a place where children can learn about themselves, and the world, in a safe and stimulating environment. Most importantly, Activity Club brings families together, providing a safe and happy environment where children have the opportunity to spend quality time with parents and siblings.

Sadly, when Covid-19 started we had to close the Activity Club. However, staff adapted quickly and put together activity packs which were given out to families. The activity packs included; modelling kits, colouring books, cake and bread baking, and Halloween, Christmas and Easter activities.

Our new outdoor play area enabled us to deliver more involved activities with the families than we could provide indoors with Covid-19 restrictions. The children and parents have been able to enjoy the play area together and socialise with other families.



I have lived in Gingerbread for almost 2 years, it was quite scary when I first moved in as I didn't know what to expect. The Staff were all really friendly and supportive, the children felt safe. I felt annoyed at first as the staff were always around but I understood that the staff only had our best interests at heart.

The activity club is amazing for the children to get some time out of the flat as they are only small, and I gave them the chance to develop. I like the fact that Gingerbread is staffed 24 hours a day, I know that there is always someone there if I needed them and the staff are always consistent. There was never any pressure from the staff to open up, they were patient with me and were there when I was ready.

The staff have supported me to stop smoking cannabis which has improved my life dramatically. Gingerbread have supported me to get a bicycle so I can get my children to school. My children really enjoy living here they like the staff, Gingerbread have helped me to access a food Hygiene course as I would like to be a Chef. The Staff have helped me to secure my own accommodation which hopefully we will be living there in time for Christmas.

J Woolley, Resident



A Note From The Chair

We are thrilled to welcome Dr Ann Ewens to The Gingerbread Centre who joined us as our new CEO on 1st July 2021. On joining The Centre, Ann said:

"I am delighted and privileged to be joining such a highly regarded local charity as The Gingerbread Centre. My goal as CEO is to continue the good work and standing the charity holds in the Stoke community, by building it further to ensure it continues to make an increasingly positive and bigger impact on the community and the families it serves."

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been one of the most challenging times we've faced at Gingerbread since The Charity began, with both staff and families having to adapt quickly to restrictions and new ways of working. Our priorities, as always, were to keep families safe and maintain the family's well-being.

As an organisation, we were successful with a number of emergency funding bids to enable us to change the way we worked with families and to provide much needed PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to staff and families.

Through grants, we were also able to provide IT equipment to families and staff to ensure that we could still have face-to-face contact via video calls. This reassured families that staff were still on site to support them and also helped reduce isolation during the worst of the restrictions.

*Ele Morrissey
Chair*

"The huge strength and one that provides professionals with reassurance, is the availability of the service and its staff. As a professional that works jointly with the team at Catherine Court, I honestly do not know what some of these families and their children would do if it wasn't for Gingerbread and the dedication of the team."

Stakeholder



**We supported
77 Families**

From Stoke on Trent and the
surrounding area

£66,920.36

Is the total of Covid
specific grants received,
during the Pandemic.

Board of Trustees

Adele Wakefield
Anne-Marie Tierney
Catherine Crockett
Ele Morrissey
Emma Williams
Farah Mendlesohn
Fiona Miller
Jack Brereton
Jacqui Riley
Keith Davis
Leanne Kerry
Nick Bowyer

1470

**Well-being Sessions
Completed**

£1,074,837
Total Income

108

under 18's supported
at Gingerbread

£27,000

The cost of our new
outdoor play area



44 Years

Supporting families in need

4,015 Activity Packs
given out

*"I loved completing the activity
packs it helped me a lot when
we couldn't get out."*

Girl, Age 8

24

Hour a
day
Support
at our
Centres

18 – 40

The age range of
adults supported at
Gingerbread

40%

Of adult residents were at risk of
Domestic Violence



39%

Of residents had Mental
Health Challenges

118

Referrals Received

£1,053,815

The Annual cost
to run
Gingerbread

100% of families...

- maintained their own tenancy
- reduced debt
- were supported with mental health and well-being

45

**Families successfully
moved into their own
property**