



DEPAUL

Homelessness has no place



PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

Depaul UK's education programme for students and professionals

ABOUT DEPAUL UK

Depaul UK is a national homelessness charity with a focus on young people. We exist to end homelessness and change the lives of those affected by it.

We prevent young people becoming homeless by providing shelter and support in a crisis, rebuilding family relationships, and teaching children about the risks and where to turn for help.

For those already facing homelessness, we offer expert housing advice, supported accommodation, and programmes of support that develop life skills, resilience, and an achievable path to independence. We do everything we can to provide a safe place to call home, a chance to thrive, and the opportunity of a brighter future.



Portrait of a Depaul UK Education team facilitator



YOUTH HOMELESSNESS STARTS DURING SCHOOL YEARS

Family breakdown is the leading cause of youth homelessness, and tensions often begin years before a young person has nowhere safe to live. Housing instability can start a young person down this path too, as months and years spent living with their family in temporary accommodation can make homelessness as an adult more likely.

These pressures are growing. The number of school children and young people experiencing homelessness is at its highest level since records began. Covid, the cost-of-living crisis, and years of underinvestment in affordable housing have all contributed to this rise.

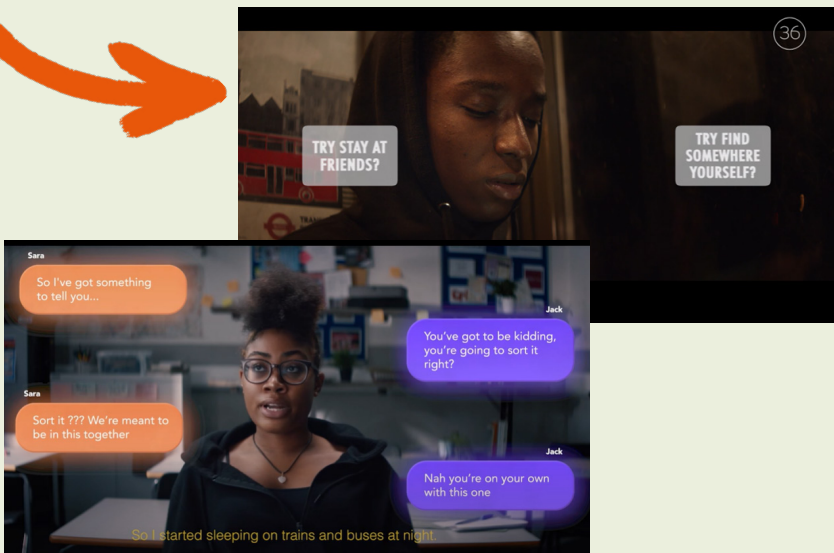
The impact is far-reaching. Homelessness affects a young person's health, their school attendance and educational outcomes, and their emotional wellbeing, eroding the skills and resilience they need to build a better future.

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We believe the key to ending homelessness is to prevent it before it starts. That's why we work with schools and other educational settings to address the issues that put young people at risk, before they reach crisis point.

We deliver bold, interactive and relatable workshops to young people across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, building their knowledge of youth homelessness and related issues. Using high-quality digital media and interactive discussions, we explore the realities and the risks young people face, ensuring they know when and how to get support at the earliest opportunity.

In partnership with the BRIT school, we've created a series of powerful short films that spark conversations and bring these issues to life. These workshops are aimed at being delivered in large group and assembly style settings.



Choices - Key stage 3: is an interactive session where young people make decisions for a teenager facing homelessness – exploring family breakdown, exploitation, risks and where to get support.

Missing - Key stage 4: Framed as a detective drama, this session explores why a young person might go missing and the dangers they may face. Covers family conflict, peer pressure, exploitation and safer choices.

Moving On - Key stage 5: Focusing on the transition to adulthood, this session looks at the realities of leaving home, changing responsibilities and relationships. Builds a deeper understanding of homelessness and the support available.



I learned how to decide if a risk is worth taking. How to weigh it up and how to make a tricky choice

- Student, Co-op Academy North (Key Stage 4 Targeted Workshops)



TARGETED INTERVENTION

We recognise that some young people are at greater risk of family relationship breakdown, and in turn youth homelessness.

That's why we work with staff to sensitively identify young people most at risk, then offer a series of targeted workshops for smaller groups of students.

These workshops delve deeper into key themes to help students stay safe and build healthy relationships in all areas of their lives, including:

- emotional literacy and mental wellbeing
- positive and healthy relationships
- managing conflict
- making safer choices



“I learned different ways of resolving arguments and what different situations to use them in”

**- Student, Co-op Academy Swinton
(Key Stage 4 Targeted Workshops)**



TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS

Professionals working with young people play a vital role in preventing youth homelessness. By training them to recognise and respond to early indicators and associated risks, young people can access appropriate support at the earliest opportunity.

Delivered either face-to-face or online, our CPD accredited training is aimed at professionals within the education and youth sectors, particularly those with specific responsibilities for safeguarding and student support.

Our training is usually delivered in a three-hour session, though we can be flexible to accommodate your needs.



“I could have supported a young person better if I had this training before”

**- student social worker,
UCLAN university**

SUPPORTING YOUR ORGANISATION

We aim to build meaningful, long-term partnerships with organisations in areas where youth homelessness is more likely.

We prioritise areas where we already offer support for young people experiencing homelessness, so your students and teachers know exactly where to turn.

Our programme also complements many of the requirements of the new RSE guidance, as well as several of Ofsted's Common Inspection Framework values around children and young people's personal development, behaviour and welfare, including:

- Positive and healthy relationships, and how to judge when a relationship is unsafe
- How to talk about and manage emotions, and how to critically evaluate when something has a positive or negative effect on their own or others' mental health
- Recognising risks, such as those from criminal and sexual exploitation, domestic abuse, and gang activity



Our workshops are delivered by skilled, experienced facilitators, who are DBS checked and have deep knowledge of youth homelessness and a strong track record of delivering workshops around sensitive topics.

We take a child-centred approach and operate under a positive behaviour management policy, delivering our programmes with the utmost commitment to safeguarding.

WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

We help young people to:

- understand the causes and risks of youth homelessness
- build emotional literacy and resilience
- foster healthy relationships and manage conflict
- make informed and safe choices
- know when and how to seek help.

We help professionals to:

- recognise the causes and indicators of youth homelessness
- understand its impact on young people, and respond to associated risks and safeguarding issues
- help young people understand their rights around housing and homelessness
- develop tools and strategies to support those at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness
- know where and how to access the right support services



I'd been homeless quite a few times and never knew where to go. Had I had these workshops, I would have known what to do.

- Sophie, supported by our services





OUR IMPACT

In 2025, we reached almost 15,000 young people through our large group workshops, almost 600 young people through our targeted intervention and trained almost 400 professionals.

88% of young participants said they would be more likely to ask for help

89% of young participants would know where to turn to for help

97% of professionals said they had a better understanding of what to do and where to get support



CONTACT AND ENQUIRIES

We're committed to reaching as many young people as possible and working with a wide range of educational settings and community organisations.

Our core programme is focused in London, the North West and the North East, but if you're based elsewhere please get in touch to discuss how we might be able to support you.

Email: education@depaulcharity.org.uk

Find out more: depaul.org.uk/education



Access support for homelessness:
depaul.org.uk/get-help



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