



Future Roots
Herts Young Homeless

hyh

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Partner with Us to Prevent Youth Homelessness in Hertfordshire



Partner with Us

to End Youth Homelessness in Hertfordshire



Every young person deserves the opportunity to build a secure, independent future.

At Future Roots, we provide more than accommodation. We give young people who have experienced homelessness the stability, support and practical skills they need to move into employment, independent living and lasting independence.

Following the success of our first Future Roots home in Welwyn Garden City, **we are opening a second home in Hatfield**, creating life-changing opportunities for even more vulnerable young people.

We are seeking partners who share our belief that homelessness should not define a young person's future.

We invite you to partner with us over the long term, and every year **we will demonstrate how your investment is changing lives.**

A short film introducing Future Roots can be viewed [here](#)



Grace Devin
Accommodation Support Worker

About Herts Young Homeless (hyh)

Herts Young Homeless (hyh) is a registered charity that has been preventing youth homelessness across Hertfordshire since 1998.

We provide education, information and support to young people aged 10–24, reducing their vulnerability to homelessness and helping them build sustainable futures.

Our latest Annual Review and financial statements are available at www.hyh.org.uk.

The Future Roots Difference

Future Roots was created because traditional hostel accommodation does not work for every young person. One of the main barriers is the way support costs are funded. In many supported hostels, young people can access support while they are out of work, but if they start earning, they can become responsible for paying significant support charges themselves. For young people who are often earning only minimum wage, these costs can outweigh the financial benefits of working, making employment simply unaffordable.

At hyh, we believe this creates an unfair situation and can prevent young people from taking positive steps towards independence. Young people who are ready and able to work should be encouraged. Future Roots was designed to remove this barrier. Young people can take up employment while continuing to receive the support they need because we only ask for a percentage contribution from their income and cover the remaining support costs ourselves.

This approach enables young people to gain valuable work experience, develop independence and build a positive future. Rather than placing vulnerable young people in large hostel environments, we provide small, family-style homes where they feel safe, respected and supported. Each home accommodates five to seven young people and has a dedicated support worker who helps housemates develop the confidence, resilience and practical skills they need to live independently.

Housemates receive personalised support covering:

- **Careers:** Building their CV, setting goals, and exploring opportunities in education, training, and employment.
- **People:** Learning how to communicate effectively, resolving conflict, and building a positive support network.
- **Health:** Understand their mental health, building resilience, and exploring how physical health supports emotional wellbeing.
- **Home:** Learning how to manage a tenancy, look after their space, and preparing for their own home.
- **Money:** From budgeting to bills – we help housemates understand rent, income, and financial planning.





Thanks to the support of the 'Friends of hyh', housemates are gifted a deposit when they are ready to move on into their own accommodation. This ensures that there is no financial barrier to them moving on.

Support continues for at least six months after Housemates move into their own home, helping ensure long-term success.

"Future Roots gives you the space to focus on yourself and build your future."

Future Roots Housemate

"They actually deliver support—and go beyond it. It got rid of hopelessness."

Future Roots Housemate

A Proven Model

Since opening in January 2022, our Welwyn Garden City home has supported **22 young people**.

Of the 18 who have already moved on:

- **77% were in either education, employment or training**
- **95% moved on into permanent accommodation which suits their needs, eg private rental.**

When young people are given the right support, they thrive.

Helping Young People – and Society

Future Roots changes individual lives while reducing long-term costs to society.

Young people who remain homeless are significantly more likely to become long-term welfare recipients, experience poor health and remain outside employment.

There has been a well-publicised growth of young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) where it is estimated that the lifetime cost for each person is about £130,000 and where for every £25 spent on welfare for the young, just £1 is spent on helping them find work.

By helping Housemates gain employment and sustain independent tenancies, Future Roots reduces their reliance on benefits and instead enables them to contribute to the wider economy.

Our support focuses on helping young people become financially and socially independent.

Employment Matters

Employment is central to independence.

Our team works closely with each resident to prepare CVs, develop interview skills and access training that leads directly to work.

hyh has built relationships with employers across Hertfordshire, creating employment opportunities for Future Roots Housemates.

Where appropriate, we fund vocational training that enables young people to secure sustainable careers.

Strong Community Partnerships

Future Roots is supported by organisations that share our commitment to tackling youth homelessness.

Our corporate partner **McConnells** has generously committed pro bono support to redesign and redecorate our new Hatfield property.

Sustain Homes will once again install solar panels free of charge, reducing long-term running costs and improving environmental sustainability.

These partnerships maximise the impact of every pound donated.

Our New Home in Hatfield

Building on the success of Welwyn Garden City, hyh has secured a ten-year lease on a second Future Roots home in Hatfield, Hertfordshire

The property will accommodate up to seven young people.

Thanks to the generous support of partners, the initial start-up funding has already been secured.

To continue to operate the home sustainably, we are now seeking to raise **£60,000** per year.

Annual operating costs total **£148,000**, funded through:

- £88,000 from housing benefit and service charges
- £60,000 from charitable donations

Your support directly funds the specialist support that transforms accommodation into lasting independence.



Accountability and Safeguarding

hyh is committed to the highest standards of governance, safeguarding and transparency.

As part of our 2026–2030 strategy, we have introduced:

- enhanced safeguarding and risk monitoring
- strengthened management oversight
- improved reporting and accountability

Every resident has regular risk reviews and works through an individual support plan with monitoring against personalised outcomes.



Partner With Us

We are looking for donors who want to create measurable social impact.

As a Future Roots donor partner, you will receive:

- ✓ an impact reports every six months
- ✓ anonymised housemate case studies
- ✓ transparent financial reporting
- ✓ evidence of outcomes achieved through your support

Our ambition is simple: **to help more young people move from homelessness to independence.**

Together, we can ensure that more young people have not just somewhere to live, but every chance to build a successful future.

We would be delighted to discuss how you could become a Future Roots partner and answer any questions you may have.

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Case Study



Harry

When Harry arrived at Future Roots, he was homeless following a breakdown in family relationships. Living in temporary accommodation, he was anxious, withdrawn, and struggling to see a positive future. With autism and ADHD, low confidence, and no employment, the barriers he faced felt overwhelming.

With consistent support, Harry gradually built trust, developed new skills, and began to believe in himself. A key turning point came when he bravely shared his story at a fundraising event. His honesty and determination impressed a corporate partner, who offered him work experience that led directly to full-time employment.

Today, Harry is living independently in his own private rented studio flat, working full-time, and rebuilding relationships with his family. He has also chosen to give back by sharing his experiences to inspire other young people facing homelessness.

Harry's journey is a powerful example of how the right support, combined with resilience and determination, can transform a young person's future. It demonstrates that, with the opportunity to succeed and the right people alongside them, homelessness does not have to define a young person's future.



'The opportunities you get at Future Roots are opportunities you couldn't get otherwise. When I moved in, I never expected to be able to do all these things. Future Roots gives you the free space to focus on yourself and build your future'.

Housemate from Future Roots

'Going from accommodation where you're promised support and you don't get it, to then coming to an environment where you're promised the same thing and then it's actually delivered, and they go beyond, is pretty sweet. It got rid of a whole lot of hopelessness.'

Housemate from Future Roots