

**Marsha Phoenix
Memorial Trust
Annual Report
2017/18**





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*From Woodrow Phoenix, Chair
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust*

The Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is a unique organisation, not just in the borough of Lewisham but anywhere in the South-east, and looking further afield, in the whole country. There isn't another voluntary organisation devoted to housing young women—with a particular focus on the personal, social and family issues faced by young black women—that has been working with the community for as long as we have. MPMT's founder Sybil Phoenix began this house forty years ago, and while we can be proud of the achievements of MPMT in giving generations of young women the solid support they needed to begin their own independent lives in homes of their own, we are sad in some ways that there are not more organisations like ours available for young people to access, and perhaps also sad that there is still just as much a need for projects like ours as there ever was.

Working to house homeless young women and to enable them to find the resources within themselves to live fulfilling adult lives has always been our goal. We believe the best way to achieve this is not in an institutional, generic and official way but with a friendly, human, person-centred approach that remembers everyone is an individual with the need for love and respect, deserving of the opportunity to show that as well as receive it. Of course, it's a lot easier to write those words than it is to live them, especially with ever-more complicated problems and pressures increasing the demands on the residents we deal with today. In an ideal world, there would be no need for a project like ours to even exist. It may seem strange to think that our ultimate goal would be to make ourselves redundant but to quote Sybil Phoenix, 'if there was no need for a house like this, nobody would be happier than me. But for as long as we are needed, we shall continue to be here to try and improve the lives of young people who need us.'

The landscape that voluntary organisations face is completely unrecognisable from the conditions and support that existed when MPMT began in the late 1970s, but the challenges remain the same, and so does our response to those challenges: to provide the best service we can, without compromising our beliefs or cutting corners.

We can't do this alone, and so we thank all of you, our friends and funders, for helping us to do that. Let's hope we can continue to work together towards a world where we'll all be redundant!



Our Mission Statement

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust will provide housing, support and care, with the aim of creating an environment that gives young women a secure base from which to develop self respect, independence and purpose in their lives.

Equal Opportunities Policy Declaration

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is committed to equal opportunities in its provision of services, employment practices and management of this project.

As an organisation in a multi-cultural and diverse area of the inner city, the Trust seeks to actively oppose all forms of discrimination on the grounds of race, sex, colour, nationality, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, marital status, class and any situation where people are disadvantaged by conditions or requirements that cannot be shown to be justified.

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust declares that we are taking positive steps towards promoting equality and combatting all direct and indirect discrimination.



Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust 2016/17

Voluntary Board / Executive Committee

Chair Woodrow Phoenix

Vice Chair Councillor Alan Till

Treasurer Derrick Martin

Company Secretary Dionne McGregor

Executive Committee Members

Carol Smith

Esther Stanford Xose

Jenny Berbeck

Leticea Holland

Mrs Anne Grey (left March 2018)

Mewbourne Huntley (left October 2017)

Cllr David Michael (left October 2017)

Key Partners

Liaison Officer, London Borough of Lewisham Supporting People Team Lindsay Martin

Liaison Officer, London and Quadrant Housing Trust Gemma Carpenter

Staff Team

Director Rebecca Long

Project Manager Jackie Doyley

Project Manager, Erlanger Rd Ade Oputa

Health and Safety officers Adebimpe Oputa, Loraine Phoenix

Deputy Project Manager/Resettlement Worker Samantha King

Senior Project Worker Loraine Phoenix

Project Worker Noelle Kellett

Project Worker Jennifer Rose

Project Worker Alison Baker

Night Waking Staff Christine Grizzle, Natasha Parker

Weekend Night Waking Staff Panchita Golding

Cook Daisy Williams

Sessional, Saturday & Sunday staff Veronica Roberts

Sessional Staff Panchita Golding, Faye Gayle, Roseanne Hills, Joy McCalman

Volunteers

Gardening Suriya Pieris

Sunday craft club Lillith Campbell

(homework club tutor) Alex Humphries

Fair Share Tesco supporter Sarah Webb

Fun run organisers Kate Iles, Alan Hall

Contract cleaning by Adfen Contractors – Thank you, Peter and Kumba!

Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered Charity number 1063698

Registered Company number; 2552186

Auditor;

Hedley Dunk Chartered Accountants,

Trinity House

Bullace Lane

Dartford

DA1 1BB

Bankers;

HSBC Bank, Deptford High Street, SE8 4RQ (Branch now closed)

HSBC Bank, 38 Lewisham High Street, SE13

The summarised financial statement for the financial year ending March 2018 is separately attached to this Annual Report.

From Derrick Martin, Treasurer

The summarised financial statement included in this report is for the financial year ending March 2018.

The Trust had a very small operating surplus at the end of the financial year, March 2018 mainly due to continued fundraising efforts. Although we have not changed our expenditure much, our income declined with the grant cuts from our main funding sources of local authority grants. A summarised financial statement is included in this report. The main grant income continues to be from the London Borough of Lewisham Prevention and Inclusion Team. We also thank Comic Relief for their funding which helped with staffing and core costs. As ever we also try hard to ensure our rental income is run as efficiently as possible which includes fostering good relations with the benefits agencies as many of our clients are on a low income. Universal Credit has presented a new set of challenges regarding this activity.

We thank all donors for contributing to different areas of our work. The fundraising activities of the Trust and our supporters continue to play an important role in generating income especially to pay for food, as do the regular and 'one-off' donations from individuals including Clare Haddy and Camille Baldock. We again thank those who have run events; our neighbours Kate Iles and Alan Hall in particular for once again helping us with our very successful Fun Run in September 2017 and 2018, also Holly Walsh and Jo Petrie on that in 2018. We thank Rose Agnew and Steph Blackwell for support with the Open Gardens Scheme. Also St Peter's church, and everyone who attended the House of Lords tea. We also thank St Peter's church for their regular help (and their harvest boxes!). Every donation is welcome.

The challenge continues to make savings without compromising the service provided for the young women we house. We still focus how we can continue in our current form, as an independent charity which is adequately staffed and resourced. The Trust will continue to need to focus on fundraising activities as well as donations. A regular donation, however small plays an important part in securing the future of the service. The Trust benefits where a donor is in a position to Gift Aid a donation. Please enquire if you think this may be a possibility.

The statutory annual accounts were audited without qualification and approved by the Trustees on. A copy of the Accounts and Auditors' report can be obtained by written request from the Trust. I am pleased to submit the Audited Accounts of Hedley Dunk Ltd and recommend that the Trust retain their services.



From Rebecca Long, Director

This year has had its ups and downs as ever, but we have remained solid in our resolve to carry on regardless, providing a safe and predictable routine for our young people in a world that is sometimes chaotic for them. Most days we manage to have a good laugh and we try our best to get everyone moving in a more positive direction whatever stage they are at. Like all small charities we rely on everyone giving that little bit more to help keep us afloat to achieve our aims; staff and volunteers alike. We thank them all.

The spectre of universal credit finally caught up with us in 2018, and managing that has been quite a challenge, not least understanding the rules and helping people manage between the gaps in payments.

As at 31 March 2018, 85% of our residents had a mental health issue of some sort and this was combined with other high needs such as autism, self-harming, being ex-offenders, having learning difficulties or drug issues. There were ten care leavers across both projects and three of the ladies had experienced having their own children being taken into care more than once for two of them. This is all a picture of high needs being managed during this year.

Thanks of course to all our funders and partners, in particular the borough's Prevention and Inclusion team who we thank for our contract. We say goodbye to Mike Hammond the contract manager who has been a good partner to work with over the years. We also thank Mick Lear and the Housing Benefit team whose role is so important in making sure the young people's rent is paid.

We thank London and Quadrant, our partners with the Erlanger Road scheme, and our positive partnership continues. We thank the London Borough of Lewisham SHIP for being our partners in providing us with residents and move on for them when that time comes; they are to be praised for continuing to do this when so many other local authorities have removed this important facility which makes supported housing have a meaningful goal.

We also say thanks to the Cassels' centre who supply our weekly counselling service. Sarah, Donna and latterly Monique all contribute to running this service. Thanks to the NHS Homeless Health Inclusion team for Nurse Amy's monthly visits and those who cover the role as well. To have that added extra really helps supplement our effort towards managing a healthy environment.

Our kitchen run by Daisy continues from strength to strength and we are happy to retain our five stars for food safety again.

Suriya has kept our garden looking lovely and we thank the Tesco 'bags of hope' scheme for enabling us to help her develop the garden project, get more volunteers and also work towards one of her personal interests of a sustainable garden environment. Surprise involvement from the residents has made this particularly rewarding this year. See later in the report for details!

My thanks to our Executive Committee for their commitment to the Trust.



From Jackie Dooley, Project Manager

Time does fly when you're having fun. It seems like only yesterday I was putting pen to paper for last year's report. Well the last 12 months have been somewhat of a journey. We've faced a number of challenges but I am pleased to say that with a strong team these have been overcome allowing us to remain strong and unique in our mission to support our young women.

I am now in my third year as Project Manager and while I have seen young women and staff come and go I'm pleased that we boast a committed and dedicated team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of them for not just working but for going the extra mile and playing a significant role in keeping the ship afloat. Thank you.

Here at Marsha Phoenix we endeavour to mentor, inspire and empower each and every young person that come to us. Over the years our work has had a positive impact on hundreds of young women and has helped them to overcome the negative starts they have endured to adult life, enabling them to become successful young women.

Once again, thank you to all our staff including Miss Daisy for the lovely food you cook here for our girls I know they appreciate it. Also thank you to Phillip (our handyman) who is always at the end of the phone, and readily available to fix any problem we have.



From Adebimpe Oputa, Erlanger Road Project Manager

Another year another story but all is very good with Erlanger Road. We have had a good bunch of residents who are all working, in education or both so it is very motivating working with them. Two residents will be off starting University this September 2018, two on apprenticeships and two with steady jobs, all very impressive as they all know what is important to them.

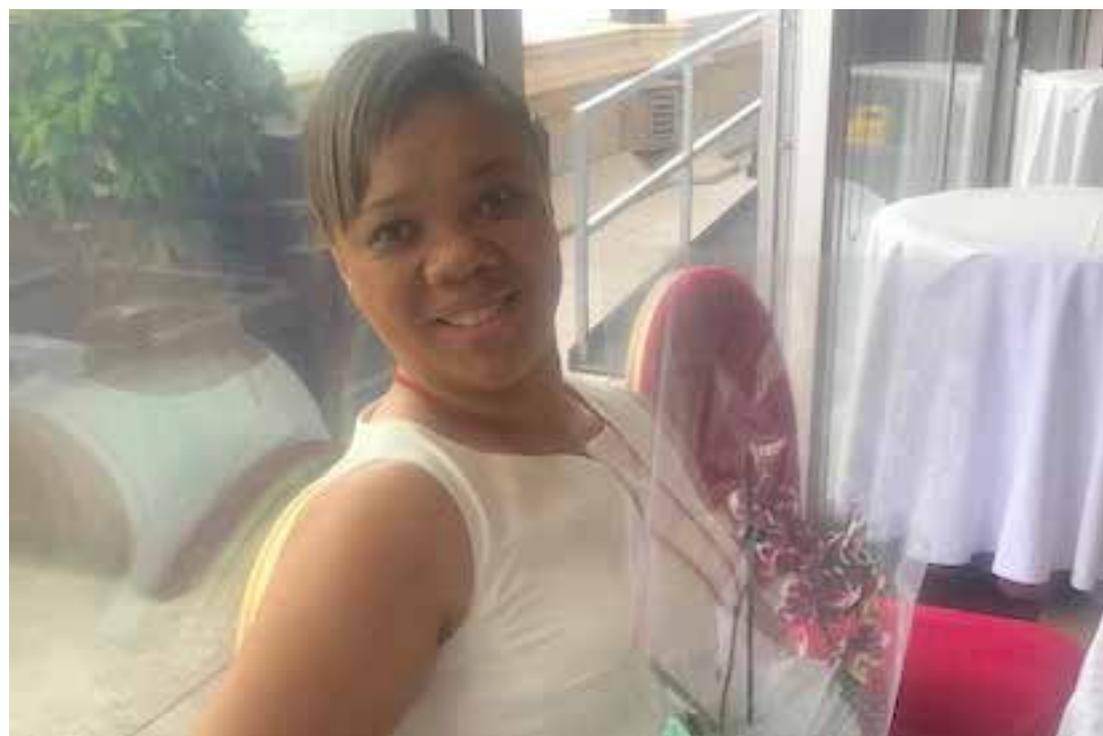
One person who got off to a slow start last year has been very steady now in her job and the challenges have been put aside. It has been the making of her. Early in the year there were some ups and downs but we have handled it very well.

Another important development at Erlanger Road is when L&Q carried out inspection of the building and now we are going to have a new roof and double-glazed windows. The old sash cord windows really are draughty so that is good news. The double-glazed windows have been a battle to achieve but we are pleased they have finally been considered.

The monthly house meetings this year have been well attended. One of the residents was chosen as the House Representative and our current lady has been very articulate and supportive in making sure things are going well in the house. We had our summer outing in August and Christmas. We went to the Odeon Cinema to see the film Christopher Robin, and afterwards to one of the Wetherspoon's chain restaurants to have a meal.

L&Q has always been our best partner and we are happy to continue our work with them.

Yes. It has been a good year overall.



From Samatha King, Resettlement Officer

OMG (Oh my goodness)!!! Is it really that time of year again already? The time sure is flying by.

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the whole team at Marsha Phoenix for their continuous hard work and support. I know that all the keyworkers and the rest of the team work hard every day, day-to-day, getting the residents ready for independent move on. From life skills, giving advice on how best to wash certain clothes to showing them how to handle difficult situations between themselves and other people, these are all very useful skills to have.

It is always very nice to see ex-residents when they come to visit. We love to see you and hear about your journey since leaving the hostel.

The best part of the work we do is seeing the young ladies move into their properties and set them up. This year the young ladies have been very proactive and have achieved a lot in a very short period of time. I would like to say well done as the best feeling is when you have your property to a level where it really starts feeling like your home. Motivation all round has been good as the ex-residents have continued to stride forward with their lives whether it is in education or employment. Well done and I know it's not as easy to do once you have less support but this is all part of the process. Just keep moving in the right direction! For the young ladies that are working towards their goal of move on, just remember the key is always to ask if unsure and to SAVE, SAVE SAVE!!!

From Noelle Kellett, Project Worker

I joined MPMT in 2012 as a Waking Night staff. I became a Project Worker in October 2015. Transitioning from Waking Night role into a Project Worker was very challenging as it's a different role altogether.

I've always had the passion and wanted to work with young people to support them into independent living. Since joining MPMT, I have met young ladies with complex needs and challenging behaviour on one side but have equally optimistic, confident and ambitious young ladies with whom I've enjoyed working with and supported with relevant help, providing contacts with outside agencies to obtain additional support for them in order to meet their respective needs.

I'm in a fantastic team of four who are very experienced and knowledgeable in homelessness and support. We encourage and support each other whenever the need arises (it helps us avoid burn out to share!). The job itself is challenging, but on the other hand a very rewarding one when residents move on to independent living, knowing that there is hope and a brighter future out there for them.

I have really enjoyed working as a Project Worker in MPMT for the past two years and 11 months, and I will continue to help and support all the ladies who come to MPMT and to continue to help them to be independent in their future homes.



Residents' Feedback from various surveys: 2017/18

Quotes from residents; a mixed bag!! We try to keep up the standards of the positives and address the negatives.

I'm very grateful for all the support and love I got and I'm getting. Marsha Phoenix helped me grow as a person

People use each other's things without permission

Jen was there for me even when we didn't have a meeting and Jen felt like my 2nd mum

All residents should interact together and do fun things

I would like to thank my keyworker Alison for her support also Jen, Loraine, Rebecca and

Jackie for their encouragement and their efforts

Staff help me know what I need to focus on

Hygiene is disgusting in the bathrooms and kitchen

Keyworker; it is someone to help guide you in the right direction

The staff are polite and do help people when they need it

Staff need to consider how they speak to us

Best food ever!!

Nice meals to end your day

Staff; love them all and I will miss you

People complain about things that they (themselves) make worse

Thanks to everyone who helped me during my stay. Big up Loraine my key worker!

From our annual 2018 surveys:

94% of our young ladies felt "safe" at both projects

88% felt they were achieving their goals to some degree

94% said they benefited from their key work meetings

81% were in training, employment or Education.

Their ambitions include the following:

- *Nursery manager*
- *Beautician*
- *paediatric nursing*
- *an advocate for young people*
- *events manager*
- *lawyer*
- *own my own business (2)*
- *get a job – non-specific (2)*
-

We hope to support them all to achieve those goals.



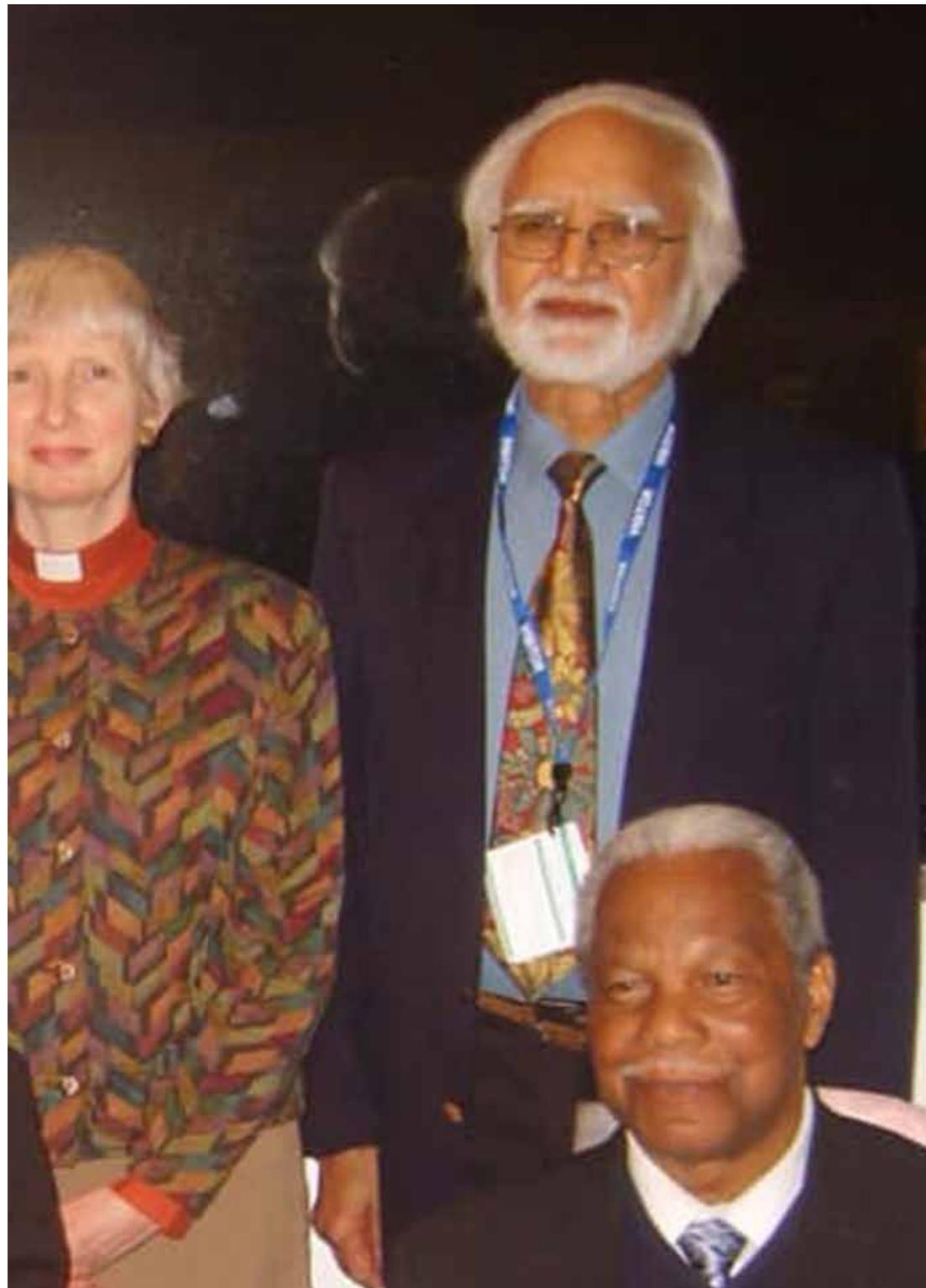
Fundraising Report

Our tea at the House of Lords in June 2018 went well and was ably organised by Loraine and Rebecca who we thank for all her efforts. Sir Herman Ouseley was our host as usual and our guest speakers the ladies from the Believe UK team outlining the work they do with young women in our community. As the costs of this event have risen it becomes harder to raise funds in this way, and this year we reluctantly decided this lunch would be our last to be held here, ending a tradition started by Sybil Phoenix so many years ago. We put on our hats to mark the occasion and enjoyed giving out a best dressed prize and welcoming all our friends and supporters.

Our other big event is our Fun Run first held in September 2017, and this year we are now gearing up the fourth one. Each year we raise a bit less for the food service but we still appreciate the input of friends and neighbours in helping us put on the event and drumming up support for it.

DONATE!! (Please!)

You can make a donation by going to <http://www.justgiving.com/mpmt/donate> or by cheque made payable to the Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust. Also some of our supporters make a regular monthly donation set up by direct debit; contact Rebecca Long for details.



In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that we saw the passing of one of our long-term supporters, ex-committee members and friends this year. Gurbakhsh Garcha passed away in September 2018. He will be very greatly missed for his wonderful and heartfelt contributions to our service and across the wider community in Lewisham and beyond. Our thoughts are with his family too.



*From Loraine Phoenix, Senior Project Worker
Report on Health & Safety and food service*

Wow yet another year has gone by! I have still been trying to keep up to date with any changes that may take place to do with the health & safety and the wellbeing of the house, and yet again we are very much on point. During our health inspection this year we have achieved yet another 5 star rating in our kitchen environment. I have to take a bow, in the fact that we are succeeding with all our health & safety issues which is something I take pride in. I have to thank everyone for helping us to achieve this. Also I need to send out a big thank you to all who continue to support us with the kind donations of food, making it possible for us to fill in our DIY days for the girls when Miss Daisy is away.

In particular we must thank the Lewisham Food Bank and especially Carol Bostridge for donations which are always a welcome addition. This year we would also like to say thank you as usual to our local churches; St Peter's and the Brockley Baptist church for the harvest boxes which provides a variety of food we can give out. Also thanks to Fare Share who in partnership with Tesco facilitate a weekly excess food collection. And thanks to Sarah Webb collecting from Lewisham Way on this, as well as Rebecca from her local store.

Health and Safety-wise we continue to work hard to ensure this is a safe environment. We had training on manual handling, fire safety and food safety as well as first aid for all staff. We monitor fridge temperatures, water temperatures, food temperatures, check gas safety, electrical appliance safety, we risk assess everywhere formally every six months and informally every day.



11

DINO

TRUCKS

TRACKS

MSK

Statistics

Referral source	
Lewisham SHIP including via Centre point Assessment Centres	100 % (33 referrals)
2.Outcomes of Referrals	
Housed	24 (72%)
Applicant refused offer/ did not turn up	3 people
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust refused	2 (needs too high)
Agency/client withdrew application	4
3.Reasons for Referral top	%
Family breakdown General	53
Care leaver	33
Relationship with; Mother	27
4.Ethnicity	%
Black Caribbean	22.5
Black African	13
White British	25.8
Mixed race	32
Asian (Indian)	6.45

VOIDS and ARREARS

Our rental income is very important for our cash flow and we performed quite well in these areas:-

average letting time was 3.16 days at Tressillian Rd out of 25 lettings, and 1.85 days at Erlanger Road. Total lettings were 25 at Tressillian Rd and 7 at Erlanger Road. We averaged 25.5 lettings per month.

This is a .59% void loss at Erlanger Rd and 1.02 % at Tressillian all year.

Arrears ran at a 2.80% average across both schemes as at 31.03.18 (the target was 5%).



Resettlement Figures and Thank You's

In all we managed to move on 14 people this year, helping them move into their own permanent homes. This was three more than last year. This means we have in fact rehoused 160 people into permanent accommodation since 2002 and 31 March 2018, and resettled 33 people in total this year between March 2017 and April 2018. This is a 122% turnover of our capacity with existing residents. Two people were asked to leave this year, and both cases were due to physical violence including staff members getting hurt. However they were rehoused and we helped plan that for them. We calculated the average stay was about 50.5 weeks, across both projects, which is about comparable with last year and again we did see a couple more longer-standing residents move on.

Our ex-residents continued to call in for help, support and to socialise all year. We had 36 contacts from 17 ex-residents and helped with things like university applications, and money issues. We did our best to support them all. They phoned, emailed, texted or mainly came to see us. It was lovely to see Natasha and her family over from Panama after 15 years.

The local support scheme has helped our residents on benefits buy essentials once they move on. We continued to help our residents find small grants particularly from the Frank Buttle Trust. Lorraine Edwards ran her resettlement courses again, which we hold to ensure people have the knowledge needed to manage on their own and be prepared all the challenges they need to run their own home successfully. These are completed by staff member Panchita Golding, using her money management skills to run separate workshops aimed at improving skills in this area. A shortage of money continues to be the major reason why people struggle in independent housing. Towards the end of the year this was supplanted by the introduction of the "Money House" project to the borough. Attendance being a pre requisite for all seeking to move on from supported housing.

Our thanks for our move on allocation to SHIP and to the London Borough of Lewisham for their help with move on. We also thank our partners at one housing, Single Homeless project and Centrepoint for helping us with move through with this year which is an alternative for those not quite ready for independence but not in need of such intensive support. We appreciate their efforts and partnership. Also thanks to London and Quadrant for enabling us to move Erlanger Road residents into their housing out of borough as a permanent housing option.



Social Events, Education and Welfare
Health and Wellbeing: Healthy relationships training programme

The Hub and Spoke project focuses on strengthening and supporting the excellent work that already exists within the voluntary sector, building on existing skills and knowledge through staff workshops, consultation support and the co-delivery of group work. Initial consultation at Marsha Phoenix took place on 3 August 2016. Rebecca was clear that she wanted her staff to have a greater knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse (CSE). Therefore, a series of workshops were delivered to staff on: Introduction to CSE, Trauma and CSE, CSE Skills and resources.

Thanks to the ongoing positive involvement and support from Rebecca and Jen, our partnership work was able to develop under different strands (including staff training, group work for young residents and consultation). As young women/residents might be vulnerable to CSE, they would benefit from group work empowering them to make healthy choices and exploring healthy relationships, gender stereotypes, consent, expectations and how this links with grooming and sexual exploitation (but also providing a safe space to talk about anything related to these topics that they wish to bring). Kasia planned the sessions with Jen Rose to enable Marsha Phoenix to run sessions in the future, should they wish to do so or use the resources in 1-1 sessions.

Young People's sessions (consisting of three sessions: session 1 healthy/unhealthy relationships, session 2 consent and session 3 grooming and sexual exploitation) were delivered twice during this year and another is set is being planned.

Group sessions were well received by the residents.

We also offered consultation in relation to a Young Person with a learning disability to discuss the ways of supporting this young resident and share resources adapted for young people with learning difficulties in relation to healthy/ unhealthy relationships and sexual exploitation.

Jen Rose, our Health and Wellbeing champion continued activities to benefit and support the residents. She has continued her healthy eating cookery club run monthly to teach the residents how to cook simple nutritious meals. Our in-house counselling service in partnership with the Cassels centre has continued which is important as the number of young people we see with mental health issues continues to increase each year. Jen also helps to coordinate our monthly Nurse Service with lovely Amy from the outreach service. Amy also ran a couple of session for the residents on sleep. We continue with our membership of the condom distribution scheme 'Come Correct' run by Brooke in order to improve safety and education in this area.



**PRACTICAL DRIVING
TEST PASS CERTIFICATE**

FRAGILE



Education and Welfare

Our education programme continues and the demands for it have continued to over the year. This year we worked with partners both old and new to achieve a varied programme

We held our regular classes in resettlement skills which have dwindled towards the end of the year as less people are ready to move as a group at present.

However we have participated from April 2018 in the Money House project which was introduced in the borough and has proved to be popular providing young people with money management skills.

Alex our volunteer tutor still runs a weekly drop in providing support and help with a number of issues including exam preparation and organising assignments. We have healthy eating classes run by Jen. We have run a successful self-development programme with Believe UK which we repeated in 2018. Many of the girls received support and direction from the 5 sessions they ran.

Our ex-resident Lilly has joined us volunteering with mentoring and running regular Sunday activities which have ranged from cosmetic making to games afternoons and film nights.

We have maintained our computer room facility which remains well used in spite of most people having their own devices. We took steps as well to improve the free wi-fi we provide at both sites.

People attending university post-Marsha Phoenix continued too and many of our ex-residents are now at university. 29 have started or indeed completed their courses from the 2010 to the 2018 current crop of residents and leavers! As ever we are proud of all our residents' successes in whatever they undertake to educate or train themselves and when they start work. Our aim of ensuring everyone at least tries to do something to build for their future in these areas remains a constant theme...

Additionally we provided some funds for support workers to take their groups on outings and these included a trip to Weatherspoon's restaurant, Nandos and to the pictures.

Our Christmas party went well as usual. Daisy with some of the residents and staff helping her did a great job and worked really hard to make it a success. Thanks too to Loraine for her work on this, shopping and decorating and including everyone. A thank you to Derrick Martin from our Executive Committee who was our Father Christmas. We also thank our friends and supporters for all the donations that went towards the Christmas gifts, in particular St Alban's Girls School who really overwhelmed us with a lovely selection of gifts and toiletries which were very well received.

For the garden to be more... U.S. cultural practices

Just think... for inspiration

Revive the meaning of...

Edible structures (like a garden structure)

Garden layout (color & shape)

anything else

To get an idea for the garden...

Bees Beehive

To think of a garden... using the...

More inspiration... to get an idea...

TABLE + SEATING

garden... that are... & things...

Workshops on how to use... from... ideas...

COW + SHEEP

EDUCATE THE WALL

HERBS

SKINNER

GARDEN FURNITURE

ROOSTER

...

Position of influence

...

HOSE... SOLAR... SYSTEM

HEY EVERYONE!
Please write any ideas you have for the garden on a post-it note & add it here.
Let your imagination fly! (We may not be able to do all of them. But you never know!) 

talk to... to...

Use more... for...

Use the wall... to...

Red... bush

...

Post-it notes &...

Small pond made from an old wine barrel

Plant &... smoking area

...

PEOPLE

ANIMALS

STRUCTURES

EDIBLES

OTHER

(ie ornamental plants & flowers & any other ideas)

...

...



From Suriya Pieris, Garden Project Volunteer

This year, Rebecca and myself made more plans for the garden. To try and summarise, the aim is to create a sustainable, beautiful edible garden for the beneficial use of the residents, staff and local volunteers.

Although more volunteers have not yet come along, some of the residents did come to the gardening sessions. They cleared an area and planted vegetables they said they'd like to grow and eat: beans, sweet corn and butternut squash. They also planted companion flowers such as nasturtium, sunflowers and marigolds.

Rebecca applied for the 'bags of hope' grant which was awarded to the garden project. Following this, residents and staff contributed more great ideas and requests for the garden in a brainstorming session.

Made from recycled bricks, I created a herb spiral. It's a growing and abundant resource to be used by Daisy, the residents, staff and future gardening volunteers. Speaking of herbs, after some hard winter pruning, the bay tree has thankfully made quite a good recovery since last year.

Claudia Clark worked with me to create a Facebook group page for the garden to help reach more volunteers. She also found a wonderful video with ideas about keeping a garden plan diary.

Alongside all of this, myself and Philip have continued to do the garden maintenance.



This image is available to buy as an all-purpose greetings card. Suggested donation: £1.50
All sales help with the work of Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust



Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust
90-92 Tressillian Road, Brockley, London SE4 1YD
Telephone: 020 8691 5911
Email: office@marshaphoenix.org