

impakt

akt impact report 2020-2021



safe homes and better futures for lgbtq+ young people





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“I think volunteering for me has been very positive. I feel more people need support after lockdown and the pandemic and just by someone reaching out to them once a week and knowing someone cares is a really good thing, even if they are in a good place. Just having a general chat can lift a person’s spirit. I feel proud to be a volunteer for **akt** and the work they do.”

akt mentor

a message from the chair and chief executive

Welcome to The Albert Kennedy Trust’s (akt) Impact Report for 2021.

We are the national charity for LGBTQ+ young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness after experiencing rejection and/or abuse after coming out to their families. We make sure young people get the start in life they deserve by providing housing options, mentoring, training, advocacy and support.

At a time of social isolation for everyone, and in particular LGBTQ+ young people, many of whom were in lockdown with unsupportive families, I am particularly proud that through our digital offer we successfully reached out to young people in rural and other geographically isolated and poor resourced areas. The pandemic has placed significant impact on the lives

of wellbeing of our beneficiaries, which has included:

- 🏠 decline in mental health, including the post trauma impacts of being in lockdown with unsupportive and in some cases abusive families who did not accept their identities.
- 🏠 financial insecurity, for example caused by loss of employment during the pandemic; and
- 🏠 increased difficulty in securing alternative and safe accommodation as a result of local authorities and charities struggling to respond to need as pressures were placed on housing during lockdown.

Due to our secure financial position and the support of our donors, supporters and funders we were able to successfully



how young people we have helped feel about akt

respond to these challenges through increasing both our support through our services but also through providing welfare funding/support.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic our fundraising team exceeding our target for the year by 90%, raising £1,801,170 to continue our vital work. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our funders, donors, fundraisers both from within the community and our allies, and our corporate partners for not only continuing to fund us but increasing your support during the pandemic. akt remains a financially lean organisation, delivering support to young people nationally with a team of only 44 staff.

In particular we are very proud that we are reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised young people

"I always wanted to feel like I was helping a young LGBTQ+ person. I now am a host and have an 18 year old living with me. I feel like I am giving back to the community and making a difference!"

akt host

within our community, but also saddened that young Black People and People of Colour (65% of our service users) and Trans and non-binary young people (33% of our services users) remain the most at risk and unsupported amongst LGBTQ+ young people within society.

Tim Sigsworth MBE
Chief Executive

"I genuinely want to say the greatest thank you Dulcie. Without you I don't know where I would be today. Honestly wish you nothing but great wishes and blessings."

"So so pleased with akt they have helped me so so much."

"Yesss! I am so happy about akt, they have helped me in every way especially you and Patrick. Honest you're an amazing person, thanks."

"I don't have words to say how much I appreciate it and so glad to meet you."

"I can live again, I can work towards driving and even saving enough to buy my own place in the future."



who we've helped

gender

● male	41%
● female	39%
● non-binary	13%
● intersex	0%
● queer	3%
● questioning	3%
● other	1%
● prefer not to say	1%

ethnicity

● white	51%
● black/british	23%
● arab	3%
● asian/british	8%
● chinese/other	1%
● gypsy/traveller	1%
● mixed	13%
● prefer not to say	1%

in london, **67%** of our service users identified as black, brown and people of colour



identity

● trans	29%
● questioning	8%












in bristol, **64%** of service users identified as trans/non-binary or questioning their gender identity

sexuality

● gay	28%
● lesbian	19%
● asexual	2%
● bisexual	21%
● heterosexual	7%
● pansexual	8%
● queer	7%
● questioning	3%
● unsure	1%
● prefer not to say	2%

our reach 2020-21



	scotland	0.8%
	north east	6.6%
	midlands	7%
	east of england	1.1%
	yorkshire/ humber	4.10%
	north west	15.1%
	wales	1.2%
	london & southeast	44.8%
	south west	7.2%
	jersey	0.1%
	not known	12%

case study

kaleb's story

"I was confined to a box room I was scared to leave to the point I'd go hungry because I was so scared and threatened by the constant manipulation and abuse."

"Before akt I felt like I was trapped in a bedroom that felt like a prison cell due to a mentally and emotionally abusive housemate."

I was confined to a box room I was scared to leave to the point I'd go hungry because I was so scared and threatened by the constant manipulation and abuse, I received from the people I was living with. I was suicidal, harming myself and generally depressed to the point I didn't feel like there was a way out.

I contacted akt and they immediately offered me support without question. They spoke to me about my situation, about my needs and my goals and supported me with every step; Searching for new places to live, helped massively with funding to secure a new place to live and supplied me with a fridge freezer that I would not have



been able to afford without their help.

I have been living independently with my partner now since June, with the freedom of my own living space and the small privilege of full movement around my apartment. I made the steps to build up a small independent business during the time I had to build myself back up, which is going well.

akt also offered me a mentoring service which I accepted and I'm enjoying having that extra person to talk to when it suits me even now I'm settled. I'm still working on a few things to strengthen myself from the lasting trauma I've gained from the experience but I'd not be in the position I am today if it wasn't for the help of akt."

our impact

youth engagement

akt's youth engagement programme has become a lifeline during the lockdown for young people nationally who were facing isolation, loneliness and the threat of homelessness and domestic abuse unable to leave the familial homes.

We established **a new youth space centre in Manchester**, providing a safe environment to work with young people in crisis.

148 online group sessions.

1736 unique visitors to our digital resource hub for young people.

volunteering

85% satisfaction rate with the volunteer programme.

8,782 hours of volunteering from our community despite the pandemic and lockdown.

Despite pandemic and lockdown restrictions, our community and our allies gave **8782.5** hours.

governance

We launched a **trusteeship training programme** for former services users and offered a place on the board to one of our young people – providing young people with both development and a platform for young people.

Our Board developed a set of **commitments to anti-racism and trans inclusivity**, which resulted in, a board recruitment campaign based on positive action where we increased the representation of people of faith and Black and People of Colour, and established diversity focused staff networks, training and learning spaces.

reach

Our pilot in the South West turned into became a **permanent service based in Bristol** and has been highly successful in reach young people from Wales to Portsmouth, especially those in rural areas.

We co-created an **international collaboration of LGBTQ+ youth homelessness organisations**, enabling akt to support development of best practice training and share best practice.

campaigns, policy and research

akt continued to **shape policy and practice** around homelessness through advisory roles across government departments.

We successfully ran an **awareness campaign highlighting anti-blackness and racism** within housing and homelessness, and the specific and disproportionate barriers faced by Black people (men in particular) and People of Colour when looking to access housing or housing support.

The development and production of **The LGBTQ+ Youth Homelessness Report (2021)**, a first-of-its-kind report centring the voices of LGBTQ+ young people with lived experience of homelessness.

fundraising

A successful community-focused fundraising campaign, **#aktogether**, that encouraged allyship among other LGBTQ+ young people to support those most marginalised.

Donor satisfaction: 86%
Income secured: 190% of our target

our impact frequency of issues raised by young people we have helped



our impact

Despite a **71%** increase in footfall into our services during lockdown we supported young people in crisis and greatest need through expanding our digital service.

akt provided a total of **3,207** nights of safe, supportive accommodation via our Purple Door accommodation project, and a further **1,881** bed nights for young people through partner organisations and akt hosts.

1736 unique visitors to our digital resource hub for young people.



akt

case study

dylan's story

Dylan self-referred to akt, due to living in an uncomfortable situation with parents.

Their relationship had broken down due to the young person coming out as trans. There was also an imminent threat of homelessness, due to parents relocating and downsizing with no option for Dylan to move with them.

Dylan expresses they were lonely and would spend most of their time in their bedroom, so they would avoid transphobic comments and hostile behaviour from the family.

akt engaged with Dylan upon referral, and it was evident they lacked in confidence and communication. After

assessment it was apparent, they needed support around accessing talking therapies, and assistance with property searches that met their needs. akt briefly supported them with income benefits to make sure they were getting the correct amount and often.

Dylan accessed therapy and they feel that this has helped rationalise their thoughts and empowered them to make changes. From this they started to open up and talk about their feelings and why they lacked trust in services in the past.

Moving forward Dylan gained trust and confidence to engage with akt and although we were not successful in finding accommodation for them, they gained the confidence to start engaging with other LGBTQ+ services. They managed to gain temporary accommodation through A Bed Every Night.

“Dylan expressed that they were lonely and would spend most of their time in their bedroom, so they would avoid transphobic comments and hostile behaviour from their family.”



akt

facts

“**akt** means a lot to me they have been really supportive to me. Because of **akt** i’ve got to meet lot of people and learn a lot of things. They’ve given me clothes, bus passes and send me vouchers at Christmas, I learned a lot because of **akt** and I can’t thank them enough.”

akt young person

facts

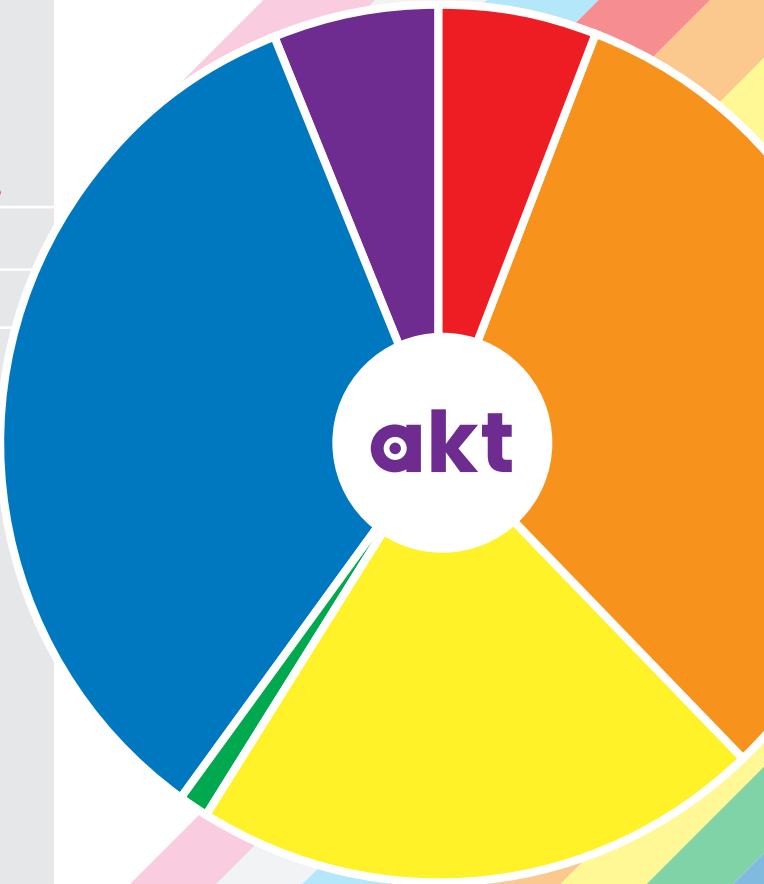
- Over half (**59%**) of LGBTQ+ young people have faced some form of discrimination or harassment while accessing services .
- Less than half (**44%**) of LGBTQ+ young people were aware of housing support services the last time they experienced homelessness.
- Almost one quarter (**24%**) weren’t aware of any support services available to them.
- Half of LGBTQ+ young people (**50%**) who were happy to answer said they feared that expressing their LGBTQ+ identity to family members would lead to them being evicted.
- Almost one fifth (**17%**) of LGBTQ+ young people felt like they had to have casual sex to find somewhere to stay while they were homeless.
- In the last five years the number of trans people accessing akt services has increased from **16% to 49%**.

finances

- community fundraising 6%
- corporate support 32%
- trusts and grants 21%
- statutory income 1%
- individual donations 34%
- other income 6%

As a result of the pandemic and in order to manage the potential risks identified in our crisis and business continuity planning, we chose to pause some development work in 2020/21. Our reserves will enable us to fund the future development of akt as part of our new strategy starting in 2022.

Click here to read our statutory accounts. 



our financial journey

	2020-21
income	£1,908,872
expenditure	£1,663,105
total reserves	£1,746,407



akt

vision

to build a more inclusive society where lgbtq+ young people do not have to choose between a safe home or being who they are

mission

to provide a pathway to a better future for lgbtq+ young people living in hostile environments, experiencing, or at risk of homelessness

“As a volunteer mentor I have worked with young people in Greater Manchester and I can strongly confirm that the services and opportunities akt give to young LGBTQ+ people is truly life changing for many of the service users.”

joe dunn
volunteer mentor

strategy 2022–2027

Thirty–three years on from akt’s founding, our work remains more crucial than ever as the lgbtq+ community face new and existing challenges to our right to equity and inclusion, in particular.

At this critical time for the LGBTQ+ community we must ensure that inclusion and unity in all of their forms are at the heart of our work and actions as a charity.

The impacts and causes of homelessness are wide-ranging and simply providing housing options alone is not a sustainable solution. Whilst we will continue to be primarily

focused on our mission, we must work in partnership with specialist organisations, including mental health and substance use services to achieve a better future and outcomes for young LGBTQ+ experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Following extensive consultation of young people and all our stakeholders we are excited to share that we will be launching our new five year strategy later this year.

If you would like to receive a pdf of our new strategy when it is launched, please contact rachael@akt.org.uk

a very big

thank
you

from all of us at akt



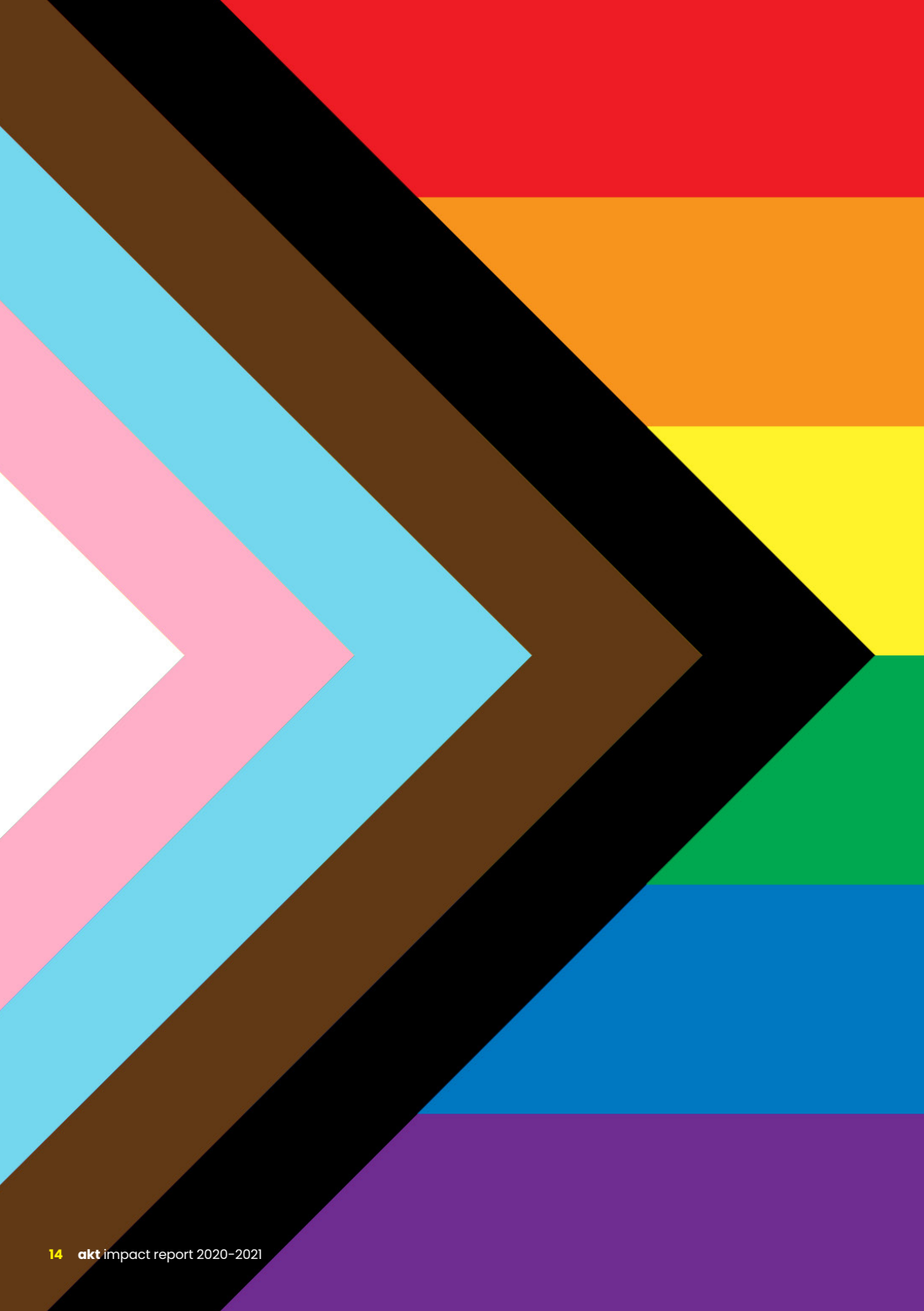
**please support
akt so that no
young lgbtq+
young person
needs to choose
between a safe
home and being
who they are**

akt was founded by a group of six lgbtq+ people led by an ally just 33 years ago.

It is only because of our passionate community, allies and supporters that we have become the vital national charity for so many LGBTQ+ young people experiencing hostile home lives and homelessness.

Thank you to all our donors, supporters, funders, volunteers and our wonderful community of LGBTQ+ people and allies.

You are all amazing, and your generosity is helping our team ensure young people have pathways to safe accommodation and better futures every single day.





“I would just like to say akt has had the most impact in my life. They dont ignore the little things that are not associated with housing. They go the extra step.”

akt young person

To get involved with our work,
e-mail **info@akt.org.uk**

aktcharity



020 7831 6562 • **akt.org.uk**



company registration no 04494989
charity registration no 1093815