

impact *report* 2025

akt

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Message from our CEO

Since joining akt in October last year, I've seen just how urgent and life-changing akt's mission is for the young people we support. It is tough stuff - literally helping LGBTQ+ young people off the streets and into safety, every single week, and supporting them to rebuild their lives – but we are determined to keep doing it.

This year, akt reached over 1,150 young people with advice, support and services. Each one of those is a life transformed – in ways big and small – but always for the better.

Because a home is about so much more than four walls and a roof. It is about love. It is about belonging. It is about a place to be free to be yourself. With your support, this is what akt offers to young people, often in desperate need.

As you will see in this year's impact report, the young people we support are brave, brilliant, and unshakably themselves. The overwhelming message I take from every conversation with them is one of hope. After all, as one young person said, "there is nothing wrong with me." It is why we take such pride in what we do.

Adam Pemberton Wickham,
CEO of akt





Message from our Chair

This is akt's 35th year. With new leadership and the launch of landmark research into LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, we've taken bold steps to renew our commitment to long term change.

What makes me proudest as Chair is that akt has never lost sight of the young people at the heart of this mission. We do real, frontline work supporting young people through crisis, rejection, and homelessness. And we do it with expertise, compassion and urgency.

As you will see in this report, despite rising demand and difficult funding conditions, akt has continued to grow its impact - reaching more young people than ever this year. And as we look ahead, we do so with clear eyes and a determined heart. We're ambitious, because the need is urgent. Our community faces rising hostility. Charities like ours face unprecedented pressure. But our mission and values haven't changed.

But we cannot create change for young people alone. akt was founded in Manchester by allies. That spirit of allyship, collaboration and shared responsibility remains at the heart of everything we do. We've come this far together. Let's go even further.

Rob Malcomson MBE
Chair of akt

Our Mission

akt supports LGBTQ+ young people aged 16–25 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. We help them stay safe in a crisis, find a place to live, and move towards a better future.

What We Do

We provide:



Emergency accommodation and routes into safe and secure homes



One-to-one casework, including help accessing benefits and legal rights



Mental health and wellbeing support



Skills building and support packs for independent living



Online live chat and advice for young people and professionals





In Their Own Words: How we shape LGBTQ+ young peoples' futures

Our work is so much more than
'just' housing. This year, young people
told us we helped them to:

Grow in confidence

Feel more independent

Understand their rights

Connect with community

Build healthier relationships

Start to feel hopeful again



Strength in Action: Four ways in which we responded to challenges this year



1 Strengthening Support for Trans and Non-Binary Young People

Following the Supreme Court ruling in April 2025, many trans and non-binary young people told us they feel fearful for themselves and their futures.

So we stepped up our support to bring community to young people and our colleagues and are actively working with partners to champion trans inclusion and protect trans youth.

3 Expanding Support for Young People in Remote and Rural Areas

Many young LGBTQ+ people have access to few or no local support, making isolation a serious risk.

So our digital team stepped up provision of support packs, providing essential supplies and connection for young people with limited local options.

2 Finding Homes for Young People

Young people are being left in unsuitable temporary accommodation for longer than ever before.

So we worked tirelessly to secure safe, long-term homes wherever possible and supported young people on their journey.

4 Responding to Increasing and Serious Safeguarding Needs

We have seen a huge increase in the number of safeguarding alerts, highlighting the urgency of the situations young people we support are facing.

We strengthened our safeguarding processes, prioritising safety and wellbeing. We also launched a suicide and self-harm framework, with specialist training for every service worker, to support young people in crisis with confidence and care.



My mum was very heavy on me being a female in the way I talked and the way I presented myself. It sort of made a lot of conflicts in the house. She was afraid of me being this thing that she was taught was bad.

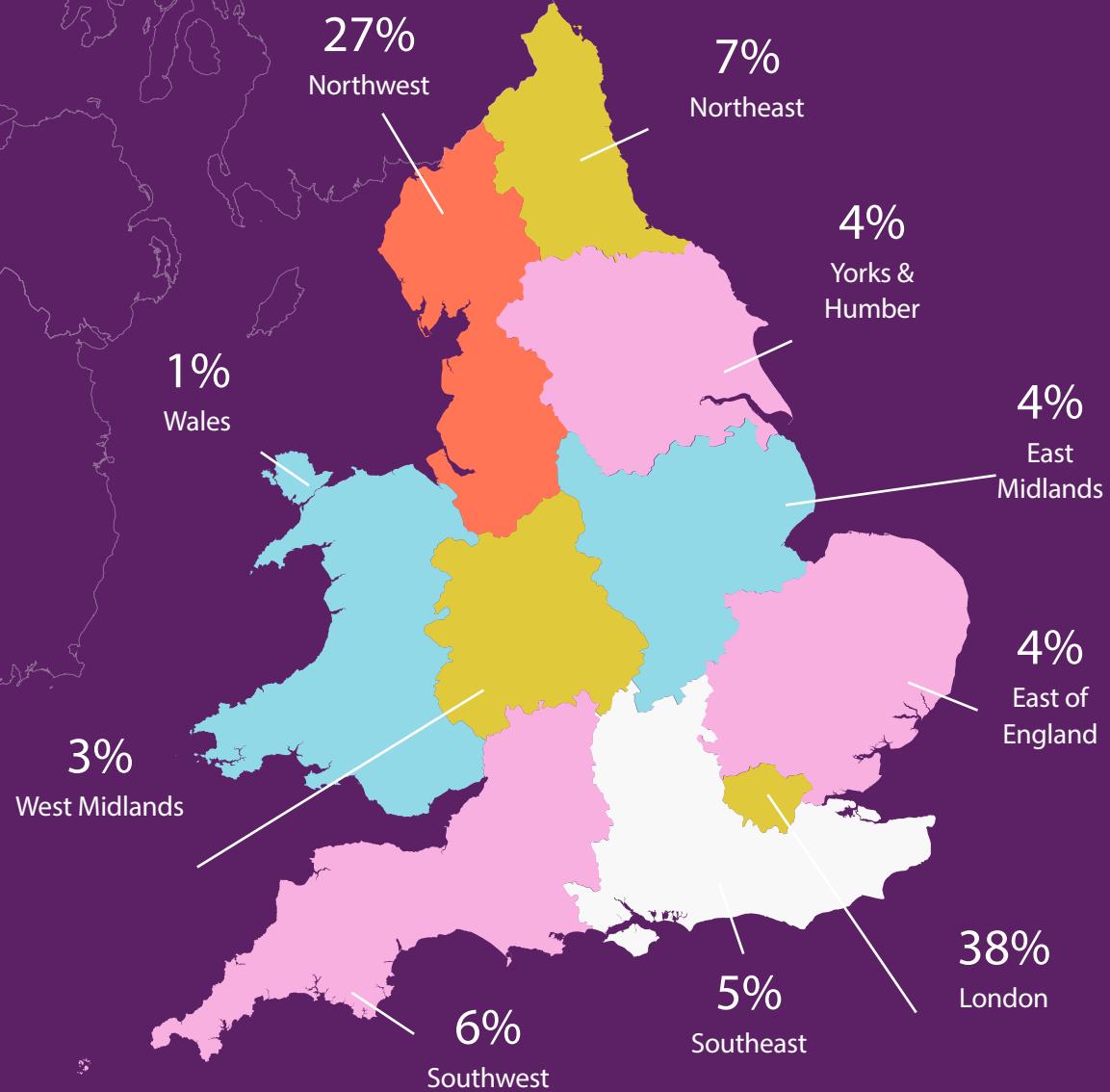
– Trans man, North-West

This year, we reached over

1,150 LGBTQ+ young people

with emergency help, ways into housing,
advice, support, and financial aid.

This is more than 3 young people supported
every day for the whole year.



Case Study: From sleeping at the library to studying there

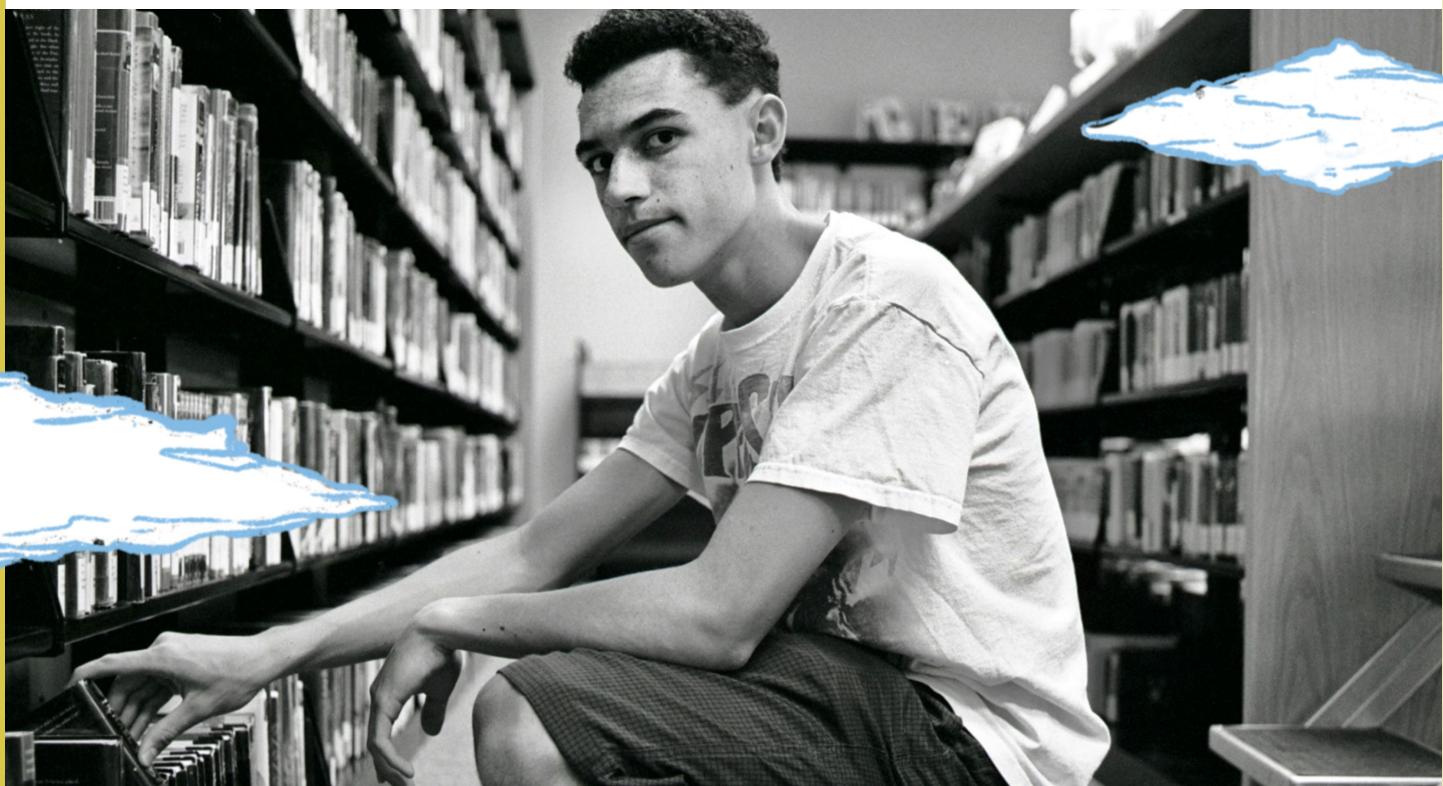
Your donations have helped a young student go from sleeping in the university library to a safe new home.

Zeyar was originally from a tight-knit community, but after being outed as gay he received serious death threats and abuse from his parents.

An akt caseworker was able to help Zeyar move to a safer area and set up a new home with everything from bedding to toiletries.

Crucially, despite the severity of the violence and credible threats to his life the local authority decided it was 'safe' for him to return home. His caseworker was critical to overturn that decision, helping him to understand his rights and connecting him to legal and domestic violence support.

Over 50% of the young people supported by akt have already been to the local authority for help - the majority have had a poor experience.

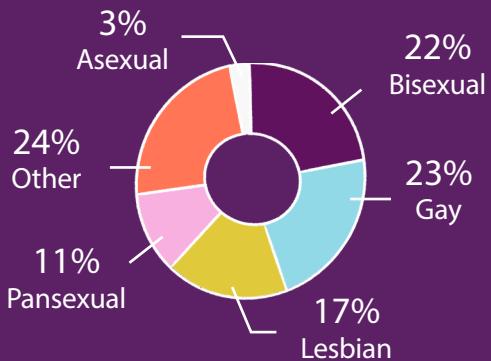


Quite often the young people that we're supporting are homeless due to domestic abuse, which is often linked to their identity. And having that recognised as domestic abuse by local authorities can be really difficult.

– Staff member, akt

Who We Supported

1,150 LGBTQ+ young people supported this year



50% are BBPOC
(Black, Brown and People of Colour)



52% are disabled



including those who are neurodivergent, have mobility issues, or additional learning needs

50% are trans



or have a different gender than assumed at birth

1 in 3 were already homeless



1 in 5 were at risk of homelessness



1 in 5 were living in a hostile or unsafe environment



Crisis Support

84 young people given an immediate way off the streets



340 safe nights of emergency accommodation provided

£30 average cost to support someone through a crisis

£132 average cost to get someone off the streets

Housing & Casework

245
young people
helped into a safe
place to live



282
formal challenges
made to ensure
services met
their promises



875
support packs
delivered to help
in emergencies
or new homes



319
young people
supported to access
other services



106
youth group
sessions
delivered



£697
average cost
to help someone
settle into a safe,
stable home



20 weeks
average casework length
before securing long-term housing



Most entered private
rental accommodation,
others into supported housing



Digital Support

576
conversations
with young people
via live chat



285
conversations
with professionals seeking guidance

Special Projects

Completion of
3-year Trans Pathway
Pilot Project

Peer-led review produced
insights to shape future
services and sector learning



akt started working with me at a time when I had nobody else, I didn't know what to do or where to go. They supported me so that I could stand on my own two feet by offering guidance, by speaking to people on my behalf and by listening to me. They were a guiding light in a tunnel of darkness. I have my own flat now, and my dream job.

- Isadora, trans woman

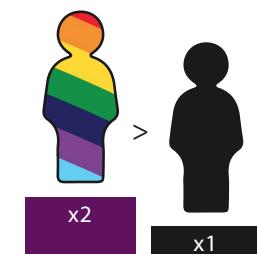


No Place Like Home: An insight into LGBTQ+ youth homelessness

This year, akt launched No Place Like Home - the UK's first in-depth academic research into LGBTQ+ youth homelessness, commissioned from the Universities of Kent, Bristol and Southampton.

The report – published in March 2025 – received widespread media coverage, including features in BBC News, The Big Issue, Inside Housing, and regional outlets. You can read the full report and how we are using it to campaign for change here www.akt.org.uk/report-2025 but it found that:

Everyone is not at equal risk of homelessness.
LGBTQ+ young people still face increased risks of losing their home.



LGBTQ+ people are twice as likely to experience hidden homelessness, such as sofa surfing or squatting.

1 in 4

LGBTQ+ young people surveyed had experienced hidden homelessness, compared to the government's estimated 4%.



Many homeless LGBTQ+ young people have also experienced familial domestic abuse but are not always considered for priority status in housing applications.



Few housing services cater specifically to LGBTQ+ young people, while mainstream services lack knowledge and prioritisation.



Government data underestimates LGBTQ+ homelessness, failing to capture its breadth and complexity.

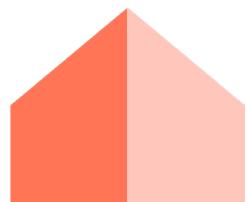
Protections for intersecting vulnerabilities are inadequate under current laws.

1 in 3

trans young people surveyed had experienced hidden homelessness, compared to 22% of cisgender individuals.



LGBTQ+ people who are black, brown or people of colour were 50% more likely to experience homelessness than LGBTQ+ people who are white.





It's nice to just have other queer people who have had similar experiences or you'd be like, oh I can relate to that or I'm glad you feel comfortable sharing that to us, rather than a group of straight people who are going to be like, what is Grindr? What is Chemsex?

– Trans man, North-West

Our future plans – rising to the challenge of a hostile world.

As it has been for 35 years, akt's focus is to help as many LGBTQ+ young people as we can, as efficiently as possible.

But looking ahead, there is so much more for us to do as the world becomes less accepting and supportive.

To do more, and reach more, we need partners who believe - like we do - that every LGBTQ+ young person deserves a safe home and a bright future.

So:

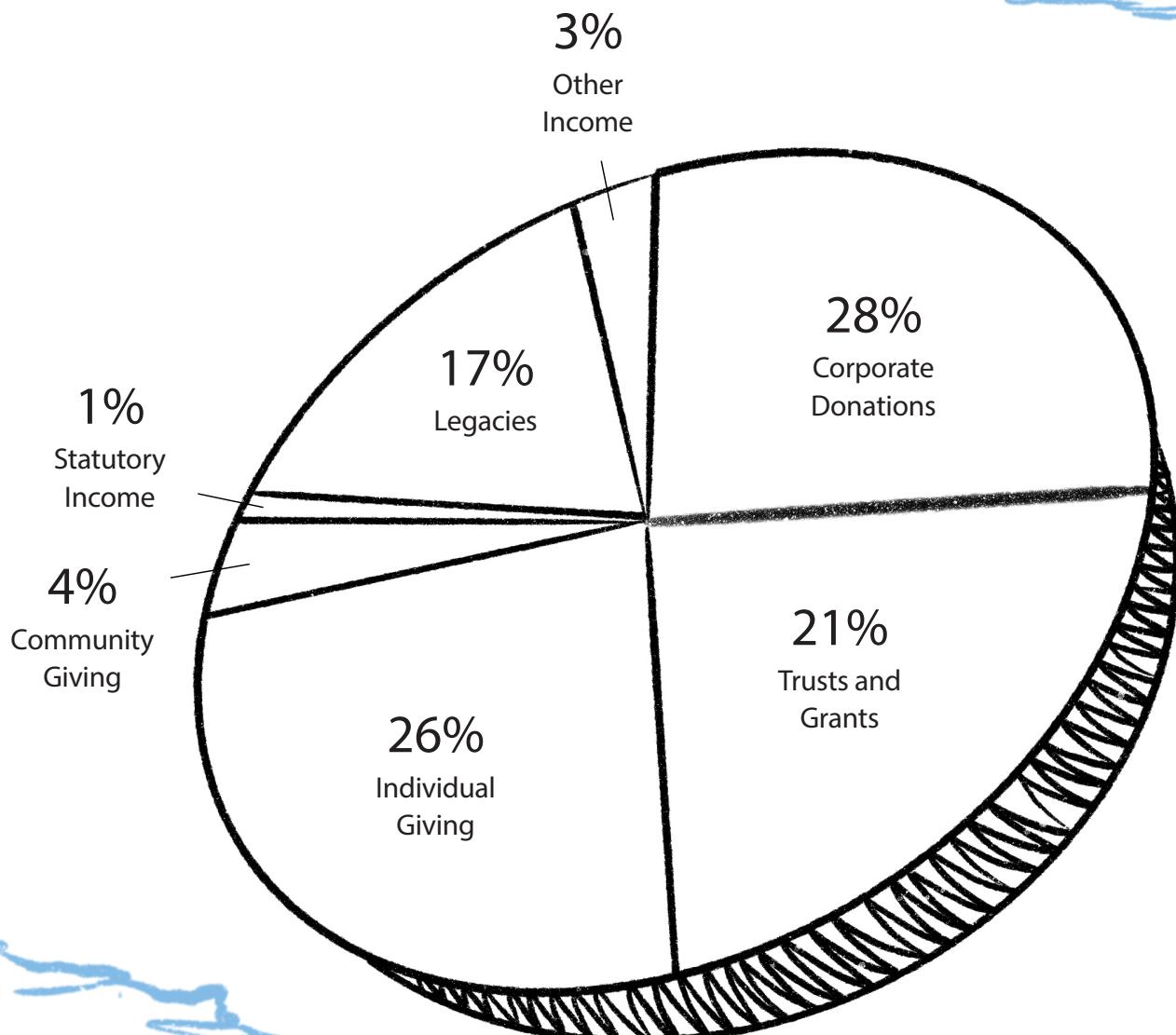
- We have laid the foundations for long term, sustainable growth with a multi-year fundraising plan to build income and invest in what works.
- We are developing a new strategy, starting in 2026/27, to clarify how and where akt can have most impact and drive change. This will ensure that we continue to meet the needs of homeless LGBTQ+ young people across the UK for years to come.
- We are doing all of this working with and for young people. Our Youth Voice project gives young people power to shape the services and systems that affect them. In Manchester, we deliver a youth work programme in partnership with the Proud Trust.
- Building on the recommendations from our landmark report, *No Place Like Home*, we are working with political leaders and decision makers and engaging with professionals across housing, social care and the third sector to influence policy and practice.

If you would like to find out more about akt's next strategy, contact us at contact@akt.org.uk.

How We're Funded

For every £1 raised, akt spent 78p on charitable activities.

For every £1 invested, we raised £3.40 in income.



This year, in response to a challenging fundraising climate and increased demand for our services, we made strategic cost reductions to protect our frontline work. Our reserves will enable us to deliver our plans for sustainable growth and future development as part of our new strategy starting in 2025/26.

	2024/2025
Income	£2,487,921
Expenditure	£2,721,113
Total Reserves	£1,441,311

Thank you!

None of akt's work would be possible without the extraordinary generosity, commitment and belief of the people and partners who stand with us.



Grant-Makers

To our grant-makers – thank you for trusting us to do this urgent work: Caerlow Trust, CA Rodewald Charitable Trust, Chillag Family Trust, Clarke Family, Community Foundation/Pattinson Estate Agents, Drapers Charitable Trust, Five Fund, Fujitsu Foundation, George Michael Fund, GMBOP, Griffiths Fund, Iris Page Foundation, Landaid/Streetsmart, LHA, London Youth Gateway (GLA), Manchester City Council, OMCVS (Our Manchester), Paul Cottingham Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Pears Foundation, ShareGift, SHAP, Terra Firma, The Oak Foundation, TK Maxx Homesense Foundation, and Van Mesdag Foundation.



Legacy Givers

To our legacy givers, including the remarkable Tony Howard, remembered with love, who left a gift that will shape the future of our services.



Corporate Champions

To our corporate champions - your creativity, platforms and funding helped us reach further. We're especially grateful to: Alchemist Bars, British Airways, Candy Kittens, COTY (Marc Jacobs Fragrances), Conde Nast, Erdem, Flying Tiger, Harry's, Hellofresh, Jagex, Josh Wood Colour, Linklaters, M&S, Morrisons, Oliver Bonas, Pho, Pret, Puttshack, Rightmove, Sainsbury's, The Pokémon Company International, Whistles and Whitbread.

Donors & Supporters

To every person who donated generously this year – your support truly changes lives. Thank you for being part of this movement.



Volunteers & Mentors

To our volunteers who have shown up in so many ways this past year, we are grateful for every one of you. We appreciate all of the amazing people who give their energy and time to support our LGBTQ+ young people, whether it's marching with us at Pride, cheering on runners at events or mentoring our young people and providing that consistency and care. These volunteers bring visibility and joy to the work we do at akt. – we see you, and we are so grateful.

Ambassadors & Celebrity Allies

And to our incredible ambassadors and celebrity allies, with special thanks to Sir Ian McKellen – your voice gives power to our cause, and your belief in LGBTQ+ young people means the world.

Together, we are creating futures where LGBTQ+ young people are safe, supported, and celebrated.



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