



2025 Report
Reducing violence, saving lives

Objectives of the charity

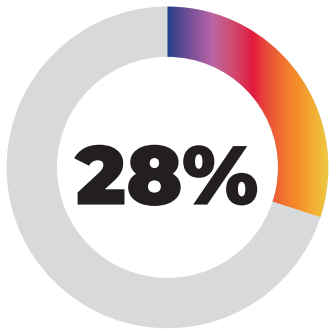
Mary's mission is to save lives impacted by trauma and violence so young people can achieve their greatness.

Our vision is to be a specialist beacon for vulnerable young people affected by Serious Youth Violence.



Mary's reaches young people who have slipped through the net, are excluded from school or at risk of exclusion, or engaged in the criminal justice system.

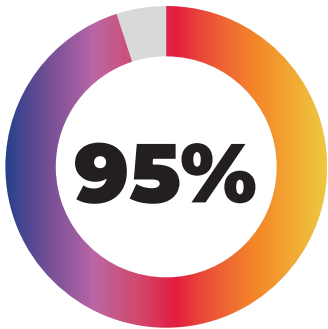
Who we helped this year



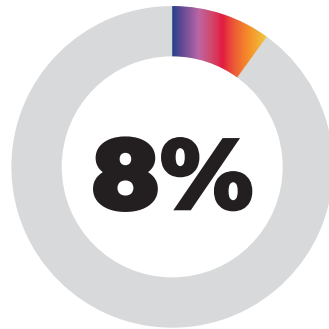
Impacted by
domestic violence
or abuse



Affected by
or at risk of
violence

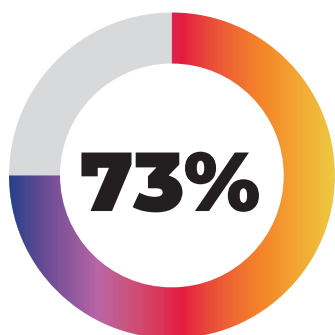


Low income
families or living in
poverty

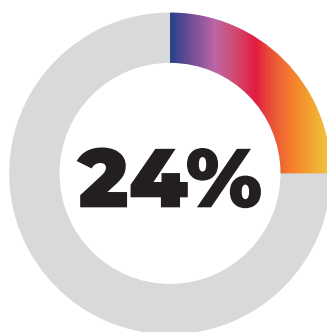


Experiencing
homelessness

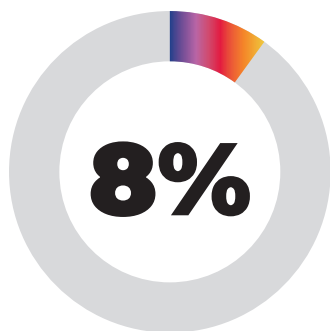
Total number of
young people helped | **3453**



Have special
educational
need



Care experienced:
Looked After, Child
in Need and Care
Leavers



Young carers



Excluded from
school or at risk
of exclusion

Mentoring Impact

- **24/7 phone support**
365 days a year from
our mentors
- **Dedication to you**, wherever
you are - if you are placed in
care, move schools or are
in custody, we will not give
up on you
- **Help with your problems**
– relationships, health,
housing, identity, social
media impact – the things
that are holding you back,
we care about them
- **Counselling**, Therapy, Art
Therapy and mental Health
support



759 Young People
received Mentoring and
Counseling



Education

At Mary's Charity, we are proud to be a registered education provider, working across multiple schools to support both students and teachers in the areas of behaviour, learning, and teaching.

Our team is embedded in schools and exclusion provisions, acting as behaviour leads to offer tailored support that benefits classroom management and student engagement.

This support allows young people to better understand and regulate their emotions, while giving teachers more

capacity to focus on effective teaching.

We deliver a range of impactful programmes tailored to the needs of at-risk students:

- **Take 2 Mentoring**
providing consistent one-to-one mentoring for young people to help them develop emotionally and socially.
- **Know Your Power**
a preventative project exploring the impact of serious youth violence, crime, grooming, and exploitation.

- **You Can (CAMHS Project)**

focused on supporting young people struggling with their mental health through therapeutic and practical interventions.

In addition to mentoring and project-based work, our staff conduct one-on-one sessions with students most in need, supporting their well-being and helping them make positive life choices.

This year alone, 413 young people participated in our mental health and personal development courses.

Through our wider education programmes, we have supported over 200 young people to achieve recognised qualifications, strengthening their future prospects and creating real, measurable change.

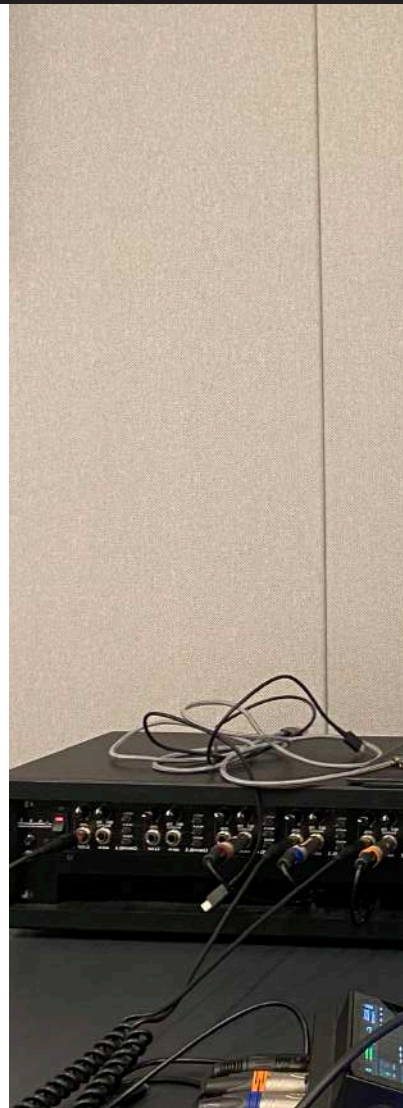


Arts & Culture

This year Mary's has achieved many important experiences for our young people. This includes:

- Snowboarding in Milton Keynes
- Going to the theatre in central London to see Red Pitch
- Young people doing a podcast at Camden Roundhouse and learning the equipment
- A photography course the young people named Endz through the Lenz connecting young people with professional photophers

The addition to our team of an Arts Therapist had evenings of art therapy at the youth centre including painting, canvas painting and more.



"It can be anything from just playing PlayStation, having a great time with your friends to painting. Even last week we've done painting and hopefully soon we're gonna be making candles. You can take that home to your family. There's just, there's a range of activities every week that we just decide to change it up, do something new, and just hopefully have a nice day."

Avner, age 15



Mary's **courses**

KNOW YOUR POWER

Mary's bespoke six week knife reduction course. This innovative and powerful course tackles the issues of weapon carrying, social media, handling fear and peer pressure, the health realities of stabbing and legal consequences. Know Your Power is suitable for groups in a variety of settings.

CROSSROADS

Mary's expert six day intervention reducing gang affiliation.

A trauma informed programme addressing the value and harms of associating with organised crime developed by those with real knowledge and experience of custody and street life. The course hones in on individual situations, contexts and motivations, and taps into the potential for individuals to see their potential and choices differently.



Mary's programme for young people addressing real life challenges. Mary's BACP Registered Counsellor has developed a mentoring programme. This is a powerful tool addressing friendship, lifestyle, safety and motivation. The 12 session packs can be used at any time. Working with their mentor, young people can think about what will help them stay in education or achieve their goals.



Mary's flagship programme for mental health. The award-winning You Can helps young people deal with change, competition, social situations, the pressure of education, online and home lives.

Weapon Surrender

Mary's provides weapon amnesty and knife bins in various locations.

We are committed to a safer environment and combine thoughtful intervention with practical solutions.

We support young people to give up weapons and provide powerful mediations to reduce and interrupt violence.

231 weapons have been surrendered in the last 12 months.

Weapons from Mary's weapon bins November 2024



912 Knives
surrendered since 2021



Mary's being given a
Youth Safety Award
by Prime Minister
Sir Kier Starmer



Our Supporters



GALE CHARITABLE TRUST



JOHN LYON'S
CHARITY



HM Prison &
Probation Service



Federation



MAYOR OF LONDON



Children and Adolescent
Mental Health Services



THE HADLEY TRUST

VRU

MAYOR OF LONDON
VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

Mary's Offer

Violence Interruption and residential trips

- **Mediations:** Mary's team interrupts violence through a network and person-centred approach to conflict resolution
- **Violent altercations:** Mary's team is called by schools, young people and on detached work to prevent violence and reduce retaliations
- **Phone support:** Mary's team proactively engages young people and connects to talk through fear, panic and bereavement in the moment
- **Residential trips** are pulled together after violent episodes to get young people away from the situation and have safe space to think about their feelings and actions
- **Working with the local authority** and other professionals to keep the community and young people safe



This year, we delivered four residentials, bringing young people together in a safe, structured environment away from everyday pressures. Our residentials aren't just activity getaways; they're intensive, purposeful experiences.

In some cases, we work with school groups experiencing serious tensions. Through separate school-based sessions followed by a joint residential in Wales, we use mediation and shared experiences to break down hostility and prevent future violence. When young people are impacted by Serious Youth Violence we aim to put emergency residentials in place to reduce tensions immediately by taking them on a therapeutic residential. Young people leave with more than memories; they gain qualifications, life skills, and a sense of responsibility. From cooking and cleaning to planning and teamwork, they learn how to live, lead, and support each other.



"I've never experienced anything like it. When we arrived in Wales, we dropped our bags at the cottage and headed to a massive Tesco. We ended up spending four hours there! Our youth workers told us, 'You've got £450 for food for the next five days. There are 16 of you, plan out and budget for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and you'll be cooking for each other.' It was wild but so much fun. They kept saying, 'Nope, you're over budget,' so we had to do all the maths, work out value, portions, everything! Since coming home, I went to Sainsbury's in Camden with my mum and told her, 'Don't worry, I've got this; I know what's better value now.'haha"

Prison Work

Mary's delivered in 8 prisons nationally. This included the Crossroads programme reducing prison violence and individual affiliation with gangs. The prison team were exceptional and has completed one to one visits, Know Your Power weapon reduction courses, and Education work with individuals on their context, concerns, and improving skills and opportunity with intensive 6 week courses.

We continue our work by having our team working within the Education Department in HMP YOI Feltham.



"The Mary's Charity team facilitated their intensive Gang and Violence Intervention Project which led to achieving a remarkable reduction in prison violence, reaching levels of safety not seen in many years. Thank you to the Mary's team!"

HMP Wayland

Policy & Evidence

“A hundred, a hundred percent. Mary's was a part of that journey, I said I need to change. Well, around the time when I was offered a job, I was still like slightly going on a bad path and doing some bad things. But then I said, like, the opportunity, literally you kind of just dropped outta the sky for me.

I had no plans of like becoming a legitimate person or whatever. I was just doing whatever I was doing and then when the opportunity came, I kind of just snatched it and said, maybe this is a good opportunity for me to do something else.”

Benjamin, 18

We have been regular contributors to the national policy debate and regularly contributing to Police Training.



**Jason Allen BEM
advised government's
Empowering Young People
to Leave Gang Culture at
Downing Street**

Wraparound

What Mary's does to support a young person's journey

Scared?

Fear in the home, fear out of the home. Young people can face loneliness or nowhere to turn. Caseworkers will advocate, mediate and work on options for dealing with conflict.

Important dates?

Young people can be facing daunting situations with services or engagement with the justice system. Sometimes they need someone to care about their exams, and give them a wake up call and encouragement. Whatever the important dates Caseworkers will be a trusted adult, supporting you to show up and handle the challenges.

Barriers?

Homelessness, financial hardship, healthcare and educational issues all come up. It's hard to manage these situations as a young person. Caseworkers engage with your practical issues and situation, caring about you and your context.





Occasions & Support



Occasions matter and in a young person's life these are opportunities that are critical to their development, sense and value of self, and attachment to others. Mary's provides away trips and times of connection and fun such as having a meal together or doing an activity together



Mary's is there for milestones in a young person's life such as exams or holidays. Mary's is a trusted adult, someone who cares about them getting woken for a school test or getting a gift.

Attachment theory is at the core of our work.



Our team hand deliver Christmas gifts on Christmas day to the most vulnerable young people that we work with, we stay open all year round, this is some of the team prepping the gifts.

As Patron of Mary's, an organisation working with disadvantages young people in North London, many of them involved in violent gangs, I have come to know Jason and his team as quite exceptional and exceedingly brave. Their direct intervention, dogged determination to stay in touch with people being ignored by much the rest of society, and tireless work with them have I am absolutely sure, saved many lives.

London, like much of the rest of Britain, is suffering from an epidemic of violent gang-based crime as disenfranchised youths battle for territory and drugs business. Many are excluded early from school and find themselves with nowhere to go save the streets. Many are entirely terrified by what that means and understand the likelihood of being seriously injured is high. A majority are desperate to get out but have no means of doing so.

Mary's works with them, offering safe places, sports and other activities, and patient conversation about their problems. Jason's team is always available to be called and frequently put themselves in harm's way. They are the nearest thing that this part of London has to genuine local heroes.



Andrew Marr, Patron



**Thank you for helping us
interrupt violence and
change lives.**

To learn more about Mary's and to find out
how to support us, **please scan the QR code.**



maryscharity.org

info@maryscharity.org | 0203 1616 615

Registered Charity in England and Wales: 1122054