

Our Impact

April 2025 – March 2026

Celebrating over 55 years of
supporting people experiencing
homelessness in Cambridge.



About Cambridge Cyrenians

Cambridge Cyrenians is a local Cambridge charity working to prevent and relieve homelessness in Cambridge. For over 55 years, we have provided safe, stable homes and our Wellbeing and Independence Services to people who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their home.



We believe that everyone deserves a place where they feel safe, respected and supported. That's why we focus on providing real homes – not hostels – alongside practical and emotional support that helps people rebuild their lives.

"I am very happy here. Everything is on the up. I'm stabilising and have lots of support from Cambridge Cyrenians."
Mike*

A letter from our Director

James Martin – Director



As Cambridge Cyrenians celebrates its 55th year, it's true to say we were as needed now as we were over five decades ago. Our unique service has responded to the increasing numbers of rough sleepers and single homeless people which has been steadily rising over the last five years. The demand for our service and bedspaces outstrips supply and availability in the area. We received 221 referrals, but we only had enough capacity in our 92 bedspaces to move 52 people through our supported housing. We have ambitious plans to increase this capacity, and are working hard to add to our portfolio of accommodation options.

Cambridge Cyrenians is proud to be one of the largest providers of single homelessness accommodation in Cambridge. Working in partnership with other providers in the area, we deliver a vital service that catches many people who, in that moment of need have no one to turn to, or fall through the cracks of overstretched statutory services. We are determined to catch more people and provide better outcomes for those individuals. We have a strategy to continue to grow our provision including our first modular homes development and accommodation offer outside of the city in South Cambridgeshire. We remain focused on our efforts to make our accommodation more efficient and environmentally friendly as we work through our Roadmap to Net Zero.

There is increasing pressure on Cambridge Cyrenians to accommodate people with higher needs who face multiple disadvantage. Our wrap around Wellbeing and Independence services are vital to ensure that we can effectively work with these people that come to our services for support. We have an excellent track record of moving our residents on to stable accommodation, but this is becoming increasingly difficult with high rents in Cambridge city and South Cambridgeshire, and ever higher thresholds to access social housing.

Our core Supported Housing service receives funding from the local authority Streets to Homes contract, however, funding for our Wellbeing for Independence services is less stable and each year we have a higher fundraising target to secure their future. The added value from our Wellbeing for Independence services is apparent when looking at our impact and outcomes, but obtaining revenue funding from grants and trusts is highly competitive, and capital funding is also needed to make our ambitions for modular homes a reality. We believe this report shows that we are best placed to ensure the vulnerable people in our supported housing are happy and in good quality accommodation, and that people across our services receive the high-quality support they need.

Wellbeing for Independence Services

Homelessness is rarely just a housing problem. Behind it are mental health challenges, isolation, lost confidence and years of instability that a safe roof alone cannot resolve. Our Wellbeing and Independence Services are the wraparound specialist support we provide alongside our accommodation – designed to address those deeper barriers and give people a genuine, lasting route to independence.

Mental Health Service

Many of the people we support experience mental health challenges ranging from anxiety and depression to more complex conditions. Without the right support, these challenges can prevent people from moving forward. By addressing mental health alongside housing, we help individuals build confidence, stability and a more secure future. Our Mental Health Service provides long-term, specialist support delivered by a qualified mental health professional. The service works closely with individuals, staff teams and partner organisations to ensure consistent, joined-up care.

Allotment

Our community allotment runs every Tuesday and Thursday across six full-sized plots in central Cambridge, offering people a structured, welcoming space to grow food, build confidence, develop routine and connect with others. It is an integral part of how we support wellbeing alongside housing, grounded in the evidence that meaningful activity, time in nature, therapeutic horticulture and a sense of purpose are powerful forces in recovery.

Older Homeless Service

Our Older Homeless Service provides tailored support for people aged 45 and over, helping them move into more suitable accommodation or remain safely housed and avoid a return to homelessness. Supporting people in the community, we help them access the services they need to feel supported and safe so they can thrive in their homes.

Meaningful Activities

Our Meaningful Activities project helps people experiencing homelessness access education, training and volunteering opportunities; supporting them on their journey towards employment and independence.



"Cambridge Cyrenians
gave me space,
support and helped me
rebuild my life."

Brad*

"This is the best I have
felt since being on the
streets. I know I can
speak to Cambridge
Cyrenians if I need to."

Joseph*

Our Year in Numbers

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and the work of our experienced team in 2025/2026.

138 residents found safety in our supported accommodation

53 people were supported through our Older Homeless Service

241 hours of counselling provided.

304 allotment attendances, with 70 sessions across the year

53 referrals into our Mental Health Service

221 referrals into our supported accommodation

69 people supported into education, training or employment

39 people were supported to find sustainable employment

52 people moved onto more suitable or independent accommodation with our support

Hear from our residents

"It's people like you at Cambridge Cyrenians that give me hope. Thank you very much."
Grace*

"I learn a lot from the people here. It makes me grateful to be here."
Julie*

"All the Cambridge Cyrenians staff are really nice. I can speak to them about everything. It's been a great experience; I've got lots of support."
Renee*

Case Study: Tom*

Tom* was living in conditions no one should endure. His boiler was broken, his home was freezing, and he was surviving on little more than a small pizza each day. Severe mobility issues made even the simplest tasks a challenge.

Everything changed when he met Lizzy, one of our Older Homeless Service support workers. Tom had long struggled to trust anyone enough to let them in – but Lizzy earned that trust.

The first priority was warmth. Our maintenance team repaired the boiler and plumbed in a washing machine, while we sourced warm clothing, a winter coat, a cosy blanket, and a food bank voucher with a basket of essentials in time for Christmas. Lizzy also arranged a care package from Besom, filled with kitchen and bedroom basics, and began supporting Tom with gradual house cleaning.

Alongside this, Louisa, our Mental Health Practitioner, provided emotional support and helped Tom begin getting his finances in order. She also joined him on short walks around the block – small steps that gradually grew in confidence, until Tom recently made it to an appointment by taxi, on his own.

Louisa and Tom have been working through Graded Exposure Therapy to help him manage anxiety, and he is making real progress. He is also hopeful about reconnecting with his brother and daughter, from whom he has been estranged.

With each visit, we see Tom take another step forward. His journey continues; and we'll be with him every step of the way.



Our year in pictures



Residents loved our weekly Art Collab classes!



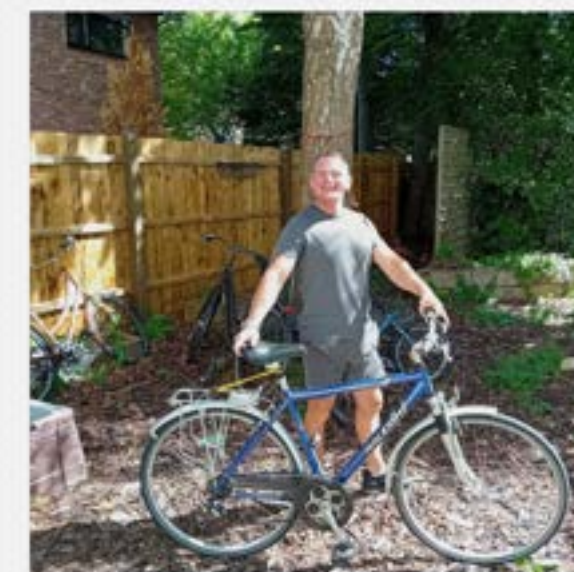
Thank you to our supporters who ran Cambridge Half Marathon for us.



Generous donations from supporters, grants and trusts and businesses throughout the year.



Plenty of sessions at our beautiful 6-plot allotment.



We received numerous kind donations and services from businesses – thank you!



We enjoyed various resident trips throughout the year, such as beach visits, and Christmas markets!



We chatted to lots of people at events through the year, such as Cambridge Pride and a quiz night.



The Personalised Budgets Trial enabled residents to access funds to pay off debts, and take on new experiences.



Preparing our resident's Christmas hampers.



We welcomed two new live-in volunteers for our houses.

Our Achievements

·We developed a net zero roadmap, improving energy efficiency measures in several of the buildings we use for housing

·We successfully delivered the Centre for Homelessness Impact Personal Budgets Trial

·Expanded our Brighter Futures Counselling service to the Streets to Homes network

Supporters raised £2,720 running the Cambridge Half Marathon!

We were donated an estimated £12,000 of pro-bono services and 'gifts in kind' donations from business supporters. Thank you!

Over £33,000 was raised by supporters, helping us to continue our vital work

Secured over £95k funding through the Personalised Budgets Trail for 27 residents between October 2024 - May 2025.

Our allotment was awarded a 'Wildlife Friendly Space' in the Wildlife Trust Gardening Award Scheme



Feedback from our residents

Collected from the Cambridge Cyrenians Residents' Survey – June 2026

88.9% of the people we support were satisfied with our supported accommodation.

75% of our residents felt our rent was a fair price.

80.8% of residents felt we fixed maintenance issues quickly.

88.6% of residents understood the benefits they are able to receive.

83% of people felt that their quality of life has improved since they started living with Cambridge Cyrenians.

90% of people understood how to get help for their mental health if they needed it.

93.5% of residents were happy with their Cambridge Cyrenians support plan.

72.4% of residents understood their options for moving on.

86.9% of residents felt supported to engage in their hobbies, interests, volunteering or paid work.

86% of residents felt they were given opportunities to contribute their views on Cambridge Cyrenians support and services.

Partnerships

Thanks to the generosity of our partners and local businesses, in the past year, we have been able to:

- Keep our residents connected with donations of laptops, mobile phones and tablets.
- Decorate and furnish our houses, making them inviting spaces for the people we support.
- Offer of plants, tools and seeds for our community allotment and supported houses' gardens.
- Monetary donations to support our ongoing work with people experiencing homelessness.
- Donations of bikes to increase independence.
- Brilliant prizes for our charity raffles at events.
- Care packages of socks and food.
- Access to free eye-tests and glasses.



Case Study: Jamie*

After struggling with his mental health, Jamie* found himself sleeping rough in a tent on the streets.

He was referred to Cambridge Cyrenians, where we found him a place in one of our supported houses. Here, he received support from our mental health service and regular visits from our project workers while working to manage his drinking. Jamie also joined our community allotment project, a safe space to learn new skills, enjoy companionship, and engage in therapeutic horticulture.

Although Jamie faced setbacks when his drinking spiralled, with plenty of support and encouragement from our staff, he successfully completed detox – a pivotal moment that changed everything.

Fast forward to today, Jamie has found a job and has now been sober for over a year. He's thriving in his work, maintaining a healthy routine, and is soon moving into his own home in the private rented sector.



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has donated financially, given gifts-in-kind or pro-bono services, or simply championed what we do. For over 55 years, your generosity has meant that people experiencing homelessness in Cambridge have had somewhere to turn. That is no small thing. We look forward to working together and continuing our vital work in the next year.



Want to support people experiencing
homelessness in Cambridge?

Donate here



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