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'Homeless, sleeping rough and sofa-surfing. I couldn't find my way at first. Luckily, I was referred to Ashford Place by my GP. To my surprise, I was accepted into Ashford Place and was given support, company, and hope. I've made friends in similar circumstances as me, have an awesome case worker who helps me to be more independent and also get support from the amazing staff in Ashford Place. When I felt hopeless, they pushed me to do well and carry on. My case worker Anita has helped me with my CV and to apply for jobs. I have started getting involved in activities and wanting to do more. The scheme got me a lovely home in which I flat share with other lovely tenants from Ashford Place. My life has changed for the better as I've met new people, gained a support system and I'm able to excel and do better.'



Rashika is one of the recipients of Boost Up, an innovative new project that dramatically reduces homelessness amongst young Londoners. It provides them with a home, support, and for the first time in a long time, belief in their future.

London's next generation need our help. This is a desperate time for them.

A desperate situation due to current rules around housing benefit. Housing benefit is a payment that is granted when a person finds themselves in great financial difficulty and cannot afford the rent. For homeless people, the support of housing benefit is required to move off the streets into a new home.

But there is a cap to housing benefit, and for young people, they are disproportionately affected because of their age. For those under 35, the average grant of housing benefit in London is only £90 p/w. But the average rent in London for a room in a shared house is far higher, £170p/w.

So what's 'Boost Up' about?

The project works in the following stages:

1. A young homeless person is put on the scheme and enters into a contract with us to engage with our support services.
2. In return, we will provide a 'Boost Up', i.e a top-up of rent. For example, if we find a room for the client which is £170 a week, we will pay the £76 that is not covered by housing benefit.
3. We will continue to provide this top-up to the rent until the young person is supported into work which puts them in a position to pay the rent themselves.
4. We will then continue to support them until they get to where they want to be.

With the support of our caseworkers, clients are guided through a concept called "One for the wallet, one for the soul." This entails a detailed exploration of the young person's career goals and creative aspirations. This key feature ensures that whilst they're supported into a job that pays their bills, they are actively reclaiming their title as a valuable member of society. The next generation of London's success story. By donating to this project [the equivalent of a Netflix or Spotify subscription a month!], you will become 'guarantors' of the future of our city's young people. We will ask you to put your hands together, and 'Boost Up' young people, so they will be part of our city's future and fulfil their infinite potential. You can donate here:

<https://www.ashfordplace.org.uk/what-we-do/homes/boost-young-homeless>



The rapper, comedian and actor Doc Brown with Chris, one of the first recipients of Boost Up, outside his home.