

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

April 21 - March 22



RUSH

EMPOWERING ALL TO BE HAPPY, HEALTHY AND SAFE



Nick Knowles

Chair of the Board



The ending of restrictions linked to the pandemic hasn't been the end of the challenges facing many people and what continues to play out on the global stage affects us all. Rush has been mindful of this, especially when it comes to staff and resident's welfare. Despite these difficult times the staff have continued to rise to the challenge and provide accommodation, skills, training, opportunities and support to so many young people, building a brighter future for them despite the climate, both economically and meteorologically. On behalf of the Directors, I wanted to acknowledge the continuing hard work of the CEO, Rachael Wilson, and her entire team in delivering for, and inspiring, the young people of Rotherham and the surrounding areas.

Despite the challenges of the last twelve months there are many positives to take from this year: continuing success with funding bids, planning for the 40th anniversary of Rush, continued funding to further develop and deliver on APOYO, high occupancy rates, more AQA's and the ongoing work with CAF. Notably Rush also received a 'highly commended' award for its work from the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, no small achievement given the standard of the other charities nominated. None of these achievements would be possible without the dedication, drive and tenacity that each and every one of the Rush staff have displayed, all unsung heroes who provide hope to young people in some of their darkest times.

The next twelve months will no doubt continue to be very challenging, but we can go forward confidently knowing that we are in a strong organisational position and that we have the best team to weather this storm. There is a great deal of work being undertaken to create resilience and opportunities for the future that will reap benefits in the coming months and years. The Rush staff should all be very proud of what they have, and continue, to achieve.



Rachael Wilson
Chief Executive Officer



2021-2022 sees us start the year still in the midst of the Covid pandemic. Our services, staff and service users have adjusted and responded well to new ways of working, allowing us to continue to deliver the best possible support in a way that is responsive and flexible to meet their individual needs whilst at the same time maintaining safety and reducing risks.

Many service users have received laptops, phones and other devices to allow them to maintain good contact, not only with us but also with their friends and family members. Many have also accessed online training and gained certificates and qualifications to develop themselves. Rush has continued to develop its AQA units to the point now where we have almost 30 units available for service users to complete. A popular one is 'Painting and Decorating' which has been designed to teach service users the basic skills they will need when they move in to their own tenancies. It also allowed them to support the staff team here at Rush to decorate the activity room at Lindum Terrace when we received funding from Rotherham Round Table to do so. It was great to see them enthusiastically involved in choosing paint, prepping surfaces, and deciding on soft furnishings and to receive an AQA achievement award for doing so. The Mayor of Rotherham at the time kindly presented them with their awards.

"What Rush House does for young people in need can not be under estimated, what the staff did for me saved my life"
- RP via social media



In November we also found out we had taken 3rd place in Sheffield Mutual Charity of the Year awards and we were very grateful to receive a cheque for £1000. This was used to decorate and update our communal kitchen area and again our residents were involved in the work.

Around the same time we were also lucky to receive a cheque from HLM Architects and agreed with them the money would be used to purchase household goods for our residents who were moving on in to their own tenancies.

Another highlight was receiving funding from the Arnold Clarke Foundation to pay for a day at the seaside. Service users chose to go to Cleethorpes and had a fantastic day enjoying the beach, amusements and a fish & chip lunch. It was heart-warming to see everyone enjoying a nice sunny relaxed day away from the everyday norms and for some their first trip to the seaside.



" A lifeline for so many young people Twenty years ago you helped me and Im so grateful. You should be proud of what you do x"

- KLE (Former service user)

Christmas can be a difficult time for many, including our service users, but at Rush we always endeavour to do the best we can to make it an enjoyable and memorable day. Thanks to a donation of £1000 from Monster Mesh we were able to supply all our service users with gifts and a delicious Christmas dinner. We also received many donations of gifts from supporters old and new.

Our Education, Employment and Training offer has also extended this year with the introduction of our 'Smiles for Miles' service which allows us to work with 16 & 17 year olds to support them with EET related work. The Smiles for Miles Base Project is a new project offering increased youth provision and support for children and young people in Rotherham. It's over a two-year period starting from the 1st October 2021 until the 30th September 2023 and is because of a successful application to the National Lottery for just under £500,000.

Delivered in partnership with children and young people, the project is all about co-production, supporting young people to reach their goals as defined by them and lead the direction of the project based on their articulation of what they need or would like to "have a go at". The priorities for the project are around early intervention, improving spaces and places that matter to communities, bringing people together and building strong relationships in and across communities. We want to provide young people with the right activities and support, in the right place, at the right time.

VAR will oversee and coordinate the project working directly with the funder and all service providers. Twelve members of the Children, Young People and Families Consortium will deliver a range of services in the project and will work together in pooling information skills and knowledge to support young people to reach their goals.

2021 has seen Rush undergo reviews of our Investors in People award and our MATRIX accreditation, both of which we passed with flying colours. Our commitment to staff wellbeing has been further extended this year after the Board approved my request to offer them an additional one day's leave for the purpose of having a wellbeing day. The team were delighted and many have shared their photos with us of how they have used them.



John Healy MP presenting Charity of the Year award to Rush



In November 2021, we attended the Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce Business Awards, after being nominated for their 'Charity of the Year'.

Despite not winning, we did get a highly commended award and a cheque for £500 and had a fantastic night celebrating the achievements of local businesses and charities in Barnsley and Rotherham. The merry go round was an extra special treat enjoyed by all the team.

Sadly, at the end of 2021, our esteemed friend and colleague Megan Murphy lost her battle with cancer. Megan showed tremendous grit, strength and determination throughout her fight and, as expected, exceeded her consultant's prognosis of life by an additional 6 months. Megan was passionate about Rush and the young people she supported and will be missed greatly by all who knew her. As 2022 progresses we will be having a mural professionally painted at Rush in her favourite outdoor space.

Looking to the future, at the start of 2022 we were delighted to hear that our application to the Charities Aid Foundation Resilience Fund had been awarded. This fund was set up to provide grants that enable organisations to adapt and thrive, to continue to deliver the services that support the needs of beneficiaries whilst also building organisational resilience. Our grant has enabled us to recruit a Business Development Manager, Alison Hutchinson. The BDM role will directly "develop current and existing partnerships" as well as providing support to the senior leadership team to allow them to "explore opportunities for expansion of service delivery, geography and service users". One focus will be on developing our successful AQA offer and tenancy training programme so that it is available via an online training portal and becomes a marketable "product" that can meet our strategic aim to ensure a diversified income portfolio. Alison has settled well in to the role and within the first few weeks had started to build and develop new relationships that are already proving to be very positive to Rush and our service users.

Our plan as 2022 progresses is to invest in leadership and management training for the team to develop and strengthen their skills and to start work on our new strategic plan that will cover 2022-2025. Work is ongoing with our APOYO training portal thanks to this fund and we will aim to launch in autumn 2022. However at the start of April 2022 we secured funding from RMBC Housing department to deliver the package to all young Rotherham tenants and look forward to rolling this out.

The start of 2022 has seen us enter the final year of delivering our Brighter Futures service so work will start in Spring 2022 to develop a new funding request to enable us to keep delivering the great work we do in supporting those most vulnerable and excluded in Rotherham by breaking down barriers to education, employment and training. A new steering group, made up of current and former service users, will be set up to support this work and all attendees will of course be offered the opportunity to complete AQA units relevant to being a steering group member.

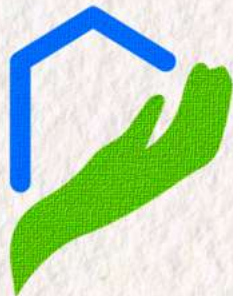
Our relationship with Roundabout to deliver supported accommodation to vulnerable young people remains very strong. Feedback tells us young people are happy with the service they receive and feel appropriately supported by the staff team. As the year progresses we aim to hold a joint away day for the staff teams to have some fun and get to know each other better.

As we enter 2022 and what will be the 40th anniversary of Rush House we will start to plan our celebrations and look forward to sharing our stories and pictures with you in next year's report. I'm very proud of our achievements over this year despite the challenges we have faced. The staff team at Rush never fail to amaze me with their commitment, determination and the genuine passion they have for empowering all our service users to be 'Happy, Healthy and Safe'. I'd also like to thank Nick, our Chairman, for always being there to advise when needed at the drop of a hat and to all the directors for their continued support of Rush, myself and our team.





Lisa Rachieru
Manager



Smiles for Miles – the start of 2021 had seen us make a slow start with our Smiles for Miles delivery. The time in/around Christmas had been particularly slow for referrals into the service but as we hit 2021 we started to see some definite shift. Our 6 month stat submission showed we had engaged 15 individuals within the SFM service, delivering 65 sessions to 68 attendees. The most effective part of our delivery was being able to adapt to need, delivering 1:1 targeted support to those that need it but also being inclusive to offer light touch support e.g. AQA to others who will benefit but don't require the full Smiles for Miles offer. This saw us make some changes to our SFM offer in early 2021 to extend our remit beyond 16 and 17 year olds so we could include the engagement with current Rush service users who were 18+ but not actively engaged with our Brighter Futures team. Whilst we sadly said goodbye to Luke, our Engagement & Development Coordinator delivering on SFM, in January 2022, we were pleased that SFM service users were able to support us to recruit Lynne Muscas to take on this role. Her 20+ years of experience in 16+ education, particularly with individuals with additional support needs, has been of real value to service delivery with service users specifically inviting of her encouraging and nurturing nature.

During the 2021/22 year we have worked collaboratively with several other Smiles for Miles delivery partners such as RB MIND and Endeavour to ensure that young people we work with are getting full access to the basket of services we offer. Several outdoor activities have taken place between Rush and Endeavour, including a residential trip to Wales. We hope to continue this collaboration and explore others into 2022.

*"I would like to thank Lisa, Sue and their team at Rush House for an excellent service and exit report provided from their service"
- Senior Personal Advisor for Sheffield Leaving Care*

Engagement and Development - again 2021/22 has been a very successful year in terms of our engagement and development role and seeking new opportunities to enhance our offer to young people. As we started the year very much still actively impacted by the restrictions posed by Covid-19 we sought every possible chance to get young people active and get them out of the monotony of being at home and also developing new skills and interests;



The whole of Lindum Terrace felt the anticipation during England's Euro final in July 2021. TW did a great job of creating the party atmosphere.



GM and AJ developed a real thirst for adventure, climbing Mam Tor in April 2021

Students - 2021/2022 was finally a chance for Rush to get back to hosting students in person after the previous difficult year where our hosting had to be done "online". In May 2021 we welcomed Saqib from the Children, Young People, and Families course from Sheffield Hallam University at the behest of their Senior Lecturer Rachel McManus who was very keen for Rush to host. September/October 2021 saw us welcome 4 incredible students from Sheffield Hallam University; 3 from the Education with Psychology and Counselling course and the 4th again from the Children, Young People and Families course. It was really great to have the students back on site with us so that they could interact with the staff and service users. They were able to support service users with specific tasks such as developing CV's and also managed to enjoy some great activities.

Rush saved my life, Thank you for giving me everything. - Anonymous



*"Staff have been very lovely and have always counted me in if they had anything planned"
Maria - Student placement 2022*



Steve Harris

Deputy Manager



RMBC 16-25 Contract in Collaboration with Roundabout

During the financial year of 2021/2022 we continued to deliver the RMBC 16-25 homeless contract jointly with Roundabout. Thankfully the reduction in Covid 19 restrictions has aided local authorities and landlords to push forward with movements which had previously impacted our move on success for our young people. Even with the reduction in restrictions, we endeavoured to ensure that staff and residents were still safe by maintaining daily cleaning schedules and ensured that everyone - staff, residents and visitors - followed protocol whilst still engaging and encouraging the residents to be the best they can be.

Within this period, we have had 22 move on's from the RMBC 16-25 contract

- Roundabout Dispersed - 7
- Rush Dispersed - 1
- RMBC Tenancy - 5
- Family & Friends - 4
- LAC placement - 1
- University - 2
- Eviction - 2

During this period there have been 4380 nights available for accommodation over 12 rooms

- Total nights occupied: 4173
- Total vacant/void nights: 207
- 19 new residents during period

White Rose Framework / Flexible Purchase System

Throughout 2021/22, Rush has continued to maintain our dedication to provide support and accommodation to those under Social Care under what was previously the 'White Rose Framework'.

During this time we have accommodated 10 new residents.

9 have departed the service for the following reasons:

- x2 Into own RMBC tenancy
- x1 Returned to family & friends
- x2 Alternative accommodation
- x1 Into Rush core unit
- x1 Abandoned
- x2 Eviction

As ever, just wonderful the way you offer help with open arms, big hearts and compassion - PH via social media

"Rush has been the best experience and all the staff were really supportive. I'm going to miss you all!" - KP Feedback upon departure

I was in Rush House 10 years ago now and I'd never forget how much they helped and supported me through one of the most difficult times. - JH (Former Service User)

Activities

One of our most passionate areas at Rush is our offer of activities and engagement to ensure that young people at Rush get the best from themselves and have opportunities. Over the year we have provided numerous activities to support our young people, embracing support from other organisations. Such activities we have done are:

- Peer Mentoring (in collaboration with Roundabout)
- Cinema trips
- Regular cooking activities
- 3 day residential canoeing along the River Wye with Endeavour
- APOYO workshops
- Rock climbing at Burbage Edge
- Abseiling at Chee Dale
- AQA workshops
- Residents Meetings - giving young people the opportunity to have their say
- Gym sessions
- Outdoor walking activities at Rother Valley / Thrybergh / Manvers Lake / Clifton Park / Chapel on the Bridge / Wentworth Woodhouse / Clumber Park / Castleton / Mam Tor
- Ninja Warriors
- CV workshops
- Redecoration of the lounge with the Mayor visiting to officially open it and present young people with their AQA's on painting and decorating
- Redecoration of the communal kitchen
- Outdoor activities with Endeavour at Derbyshire / Longshaw / Padley Gorge / Sprotborough
- Weekly Saturday sizzler and Sunday dinner
- Anxiety and Mental Health workshops at Clifton Park with Leigh De Vries
- Divert / CGL / Mesmac / MIND workshops
- Tackling Violent Crime Presentation and County Lines & Drug Dealing/ Possession Awareness with SY Police
- Roller-skating and ice skating
- Trip to Cleethorpes
- Waffle making
- And even chess competitions!

Anything's Possible Rotherham

In December 2021, Rush House was part of a successful bid led by Voluntary Action Rotherham to the Mayoral Combined Authority to obtain funding to improve the services of voluntary organisations in Rotherham until June 2022. Rush's contribution to this scheme was to support Rotherham people into Education, Employment and Training as well as delivering further wellbeing sessions to Rush House residents.

This was a really exciting opportunity as, although Rush have been delivering EET support for a long time, it has always been restrictive due to age limits on support services, thus excluding many people from support. Many support networks were found to be limited with a lot of services working post 18, and often with an upper age limit of around 30 years. Rush was given the opportunity to work with any age group from 16+ thereby lifting those restrictions. There tends to be too much focus on the younger generation, but it is apparent that there is a need for those over 30 to either obtain or remain in EET. During the project we supported a number of age groups, from 16/17 year olds, 18-30 year olds, to working with people in their 30's, 40's, 50's and even 60's, as well as developing new working relationships with partners and building on and enhancing current relationships with partners that Rush had previously worked with.

I believe that these are the most important aspects of APR and now that the project has finished, Rush will continue to deliver support in collaboration with numerous partners, we are already planning for future events and programmes to be delivered.

Overall, the success of the programme, from Rush's perspective, has been nothing short of amazing. To see the difference in people's lives - simply from getting into some form of education, gaining full time work or remaining in employment with support and improving their wellbeing - it truly has made a difference so far. Rush is proud to have been a part of it and to have achieved the best outcomes possible in a limited period of time.

APOYO - A Place Of Your Own

We have been developing a portal to deliver APOYO online which we can deliver to residents all across Rotherham and aim to package and allow other localities and housing providers to purchase this programme of support. The portal went live and was regularly in use. However we felt that it wasn't exactly as we had originally envisaged so, during a networking meeting with Barnsley and Rotherham Chamber of Commerce, made a new connection with a web designer who has taken this on to redevelop.

APOYO is still being delivered and since going online in March we have had 9 people sign up to it.

APOYO annual figures from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022

9 signed up online
25 completed booklet form



APOYO
ENABLING INDEPENDENT LIVING

AQA

Following Rush becoming a registered AQA delivery centre, we have continued to create and deliver certificated qualifications to young people.

We now have 28 AQA units and have awarded 144 certificates to 51 learners.

Staff Changes

As with any working environment, we have seen some new faces and waved goodbye to some old faces within the organisation.

Hello's:

- Hayley (Night Support Worker)
- Alison (Brighter Futures to Business Development Manager)
- Leanne (Temporary into Key Worker Role)
- Danny (Maintenance and E&D)
- Jennifer (Temporary cleaner to cover Jess maternity)
- Lynne (Temporary to cover Leanne)
- Joanne (Casual Worker)
- Savaria (Casual Worker)
- Andy (APOYO Coach)



Goodbyes:

- Sandra
- Eve
- Naomi
- Andy
- Luke

Training:

In February 2021, we managed to acquire training from iHasco, incorporating over 20 courses of specific training for all staff such as GDPR, Health and Safety, COSHH, Confidence Building and First Aid.



iHasco
training made simple

Supported accommodation case study

BS

BS came to Rush in November 2020 after a relationship breakdown at his parents' home. BS maintained his accommodation really well and was accepted to move into supported accommodation with Roundabout in June 2021. BS remained in contact with Rush, being supported by Brighter Futures and also Anything's Possible Rotherham to seek employment. BS gained his own RMBC accommodation in September 2021 and trained as a door supervisor, working in various pubs / bars in Rotherham and also at Rotherham United Football Ground. BS then left to work for McDonalds before returning to security work and being employed at Boundary Mills. He and his partner have recently had a baby boy.

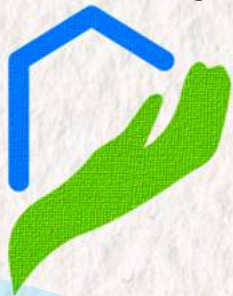
KB

KB moved into Rush dispersed accommodation in October 2020 after being placed by Rotherham Social Care. KB was supported by key worker and also Brighter Futures team at Rush to seek employment and permanent accommodation. KB obtained employment with Pretty Little Things and was supported to obtain his own RMBC accommodation in September 2021.



Michelle
Corker

EET Manager



Brighter Futures

From April 2021 the country was just starting to come out of yet another lock down and Covid infections were at a high. As things were slowly returning to what we could call normal, for many of our clients this was still a difficult time. Some clients told us that their mental health and wellbeing had declined since the pandemic and some were finding it difficult to go out and about and communicate with others like they did before Covid. We do know that there is no substitute for face to face meetings but some clients still preferred their support over the phone or on video calls. As a team we were actively trying to encourage our clients to take small steps into meeting out and about in the community. Over the recent months this has improved but we are continually working on it.

Many services, including DWP, Council, medical appointments, training providers and even travel were affected. These services were advised initially to completely stop face to face meetings but some services have not resumed to the same level of one to one support as before and some services have closed. This meant that some appointments were done over the phone. When contacting services there was usually an extensive wait on the phone. This was not helpful for clients and also impacted on staff time when trying to support them with an issue.

As a team we continued to adapt our services to meet the needs of our clients. We have supported clients to overcome a diverse range of barriers which have prevented them from accessing employment, training and education, including mental health, increased anxiety and isolation, benefits, housing applications, budgeting, debt and wellbeing.

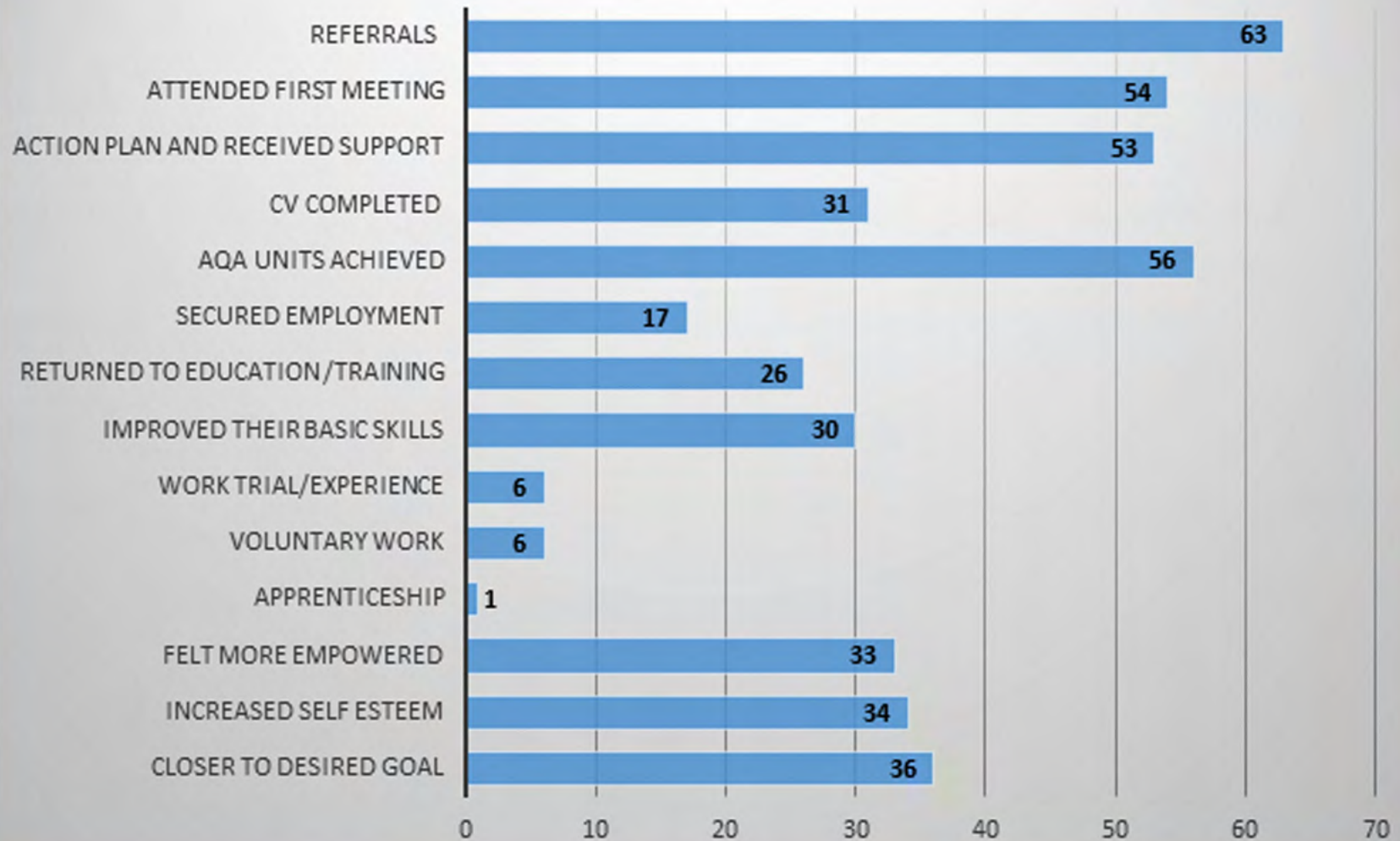
The team all went the extra mile to support our clients by accessing food banks for food parcels when they were in need and applied to Baby Basics who supplied a family with new items for their new baby. We supported 2 families to access a day trip out to Gulliver's World, provided Christmas gifts to all clients and toys to families with children from Families First. The team accessed support from the Freedom Centre who supplied clients with a Christmas food hamper. All the clients who received support were very grateful for all of these kind donations from the community.

We have had some real success stories with many of our clients overcoming and addressing personal issues and improving their confidence and self-esteem. Many of our clients have accessed education and training, completed AQA units and have been successful in securing employment. All of our clients received one to one support and financial support from the Barrier Busting budget by paying for IT equipment (such as mobile phones and laptops), online courses, personal protective equipment, work tools and clothes, travel passes and well-being equipment.



Key achievements & statistics 1st April 2021 - March 31st 2022

Brighter Futures Statistics



Below are some of our young people's achievements from 1st April 2021- 31st March 2022:

Coby is in the final months of her L1 in Performing Arts at Rotherham College. Coby is predicted to pass her course and is to enrol onto L2 in September. Coby has been provided with a new laptop to assist with her studies through our Barrier Busting budget.

Billy and Cherise have both applied for a new role at McDonald's and have been successful. They have completed their inductions and are awaiting a start date.

Amy is in the final month of her L3 in Health and Social Care course at Dearne Valley College. Amy is definitely on track to passing her course. Due to Covid and the restrictions in attending placements, which are compulsory, she applied for a job in the care sector which will count towards her placement hours and is loving her job.

Toni has passed her L1 Maths functional skills and L2 English functional skills qualifications at Rotherham College. Toni will be enrolling in September to work on her L2 Maths functional skills. When this qualification is achieved she wants to enrol onto a mechanics course. Toni was provided with a laptop to support her with her ongoing studies.

Lewis completed a 6 week multi trade course at Rotherham Skills Academy where he also passed his CSCS test and gained his Green Labourers card. Lewis then went on to secure a new job in landscape gardening. Lewis was supported through the Barrier Busting budget to buy some new work clothes and PPE.



Ben has completed EL3 Personal Presentation & Hygiene; L1 Understanding Motivation; L1 Understanding Mindset; NCFE Level 1 Award in Health & Safety Awareness.

Troy has completed APOYO and 11 AQA's including Wellbeing - Coping Strategies, Universal Credit and Introduction to Painting & Decorating. Troy is near to the completion of his course: L3 Extended Diploma in Music Performance and Production. Troy is also volunteering as a Scout Leader and took part in Rush House's recruitment process by being on the Young Person's Interview Panel. He recently completed a work trial and was offered work as a Sound Technician at The Hive in Rotherham.

Elouisa has completed a nail course with Beauty Box. She has been given information about a nail course which is to start in September. This is a massive step forward for Elouisa.

Trinity has worked on her CV and has started volunteering at her local Salvation Army. She takes part in the coffee mornings and luncheon clubs. She is really enjoying her time there and is looking into other voluntary opportunities.

Shaunie has attended community courses including arts and crafts, decoupage and pottery. Shaunie has really enjoyed these courses and advised it has boosted her confidence and improved her mental health.



Case Study Leiha

Leiha was referred to Brighter Futures by her support worker at Roundabout. Leiha was quiet during our initial meetings and was lacking in confidence and self-esteem. At times Leiha was unable to answer the phone or engage in conversation when she was feeling low but would let me know by text that this was the case.

Leiha needed support to:

- Update CV
- Improve confidence & self-esteem
- Improve wellbeing/mental health
- Look for work

Working together to update Leiha's CV provided an opportunity to talk about all the positive attributes that she had to offer.

Leiha had good literacy, numeracy skills and excellent interpersonal skills. Leiha completed an AQA unit, compiling a computerised CV and received her certificate of recognition.

We also talked about interests/hobbies in relation to health & wellbeing. Leiha expressed an interest in walking so I was able to provide her with a number of walk routes within easy travelling distance.

Leiha went on some of the walks and told me how walking made her feel happy and relaxed.



Leiha sent some pictures from the first walk that she did around Langsett Reservoir.



Leiha was provided with a laptop to enable her to:

- Update & save her CV
- Keep in touch with Brighter Futures Coach via email
- Access information to improve health and wellbeing
- Access walking routes to improve health and wellbeing
- Stay connected with friends/community to improve wellbeing
- Job search & apply for work

Leiha found work in a customer service centre and was supported with travel costs to work and food parcels whilst waiting to be paid her first wage.

Over time, Leiha's confidence grew so she started to look at other options. In time, she secured a better job, which she really enjoys and pays a much better wage. Leiha needed and was provided with further support during the transition between jobs and whilst waiting to be paid, so received support with travel costs and food parcels once more.

Leiha has now moved into her own place and is content, happy and financially independent.

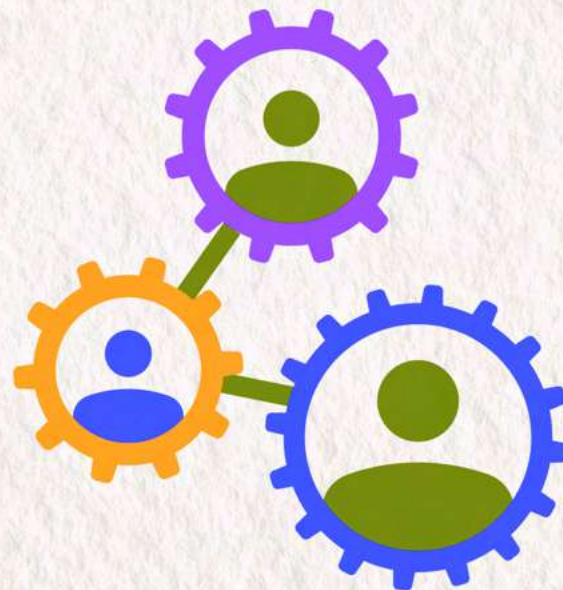
Staff Developments

When writing this year's annual report from 21/22 I have been in post as EET manager for nearly 14 months. Although there have been some challenging times I feel that I have progressed in my management skills and as a person. I will continue to learn from others to do my best.

The Brighter Futures team have been through many changes in this reporting year but they have continued their hard work, determination and commitment to the young people by offering them the best service. I am proud of my team and I am proud to be a part of the project.

Our colleague Alison joined the team and she did some fantastic work with the clients. However the opportunity came up for a new role as Business Development Manager at Rush House. Alison applied and was successful. She is now working hard in this position.

In January we sadly lost our colleague and friend, Megan, after her brave battle with cancer. This was a devastating and difficult time for everyone. The team at Rush House came together to support each other.



Developments

Rush House, Accredited AQA Delivery Centre

Since Rush House was granted the status of being an AQA delivery centre in late 2020 we have strived to do better year on year.

We have now created 28 AQA units and have developed many of those units in this reporting year. We take pride in developing the AQA units and choose the units which will enhance our clients' knowledge, independent living skills and personal development. We have delivered 56 AQA units awards in this reporting year. Below are some of the new units which have been developed.

Introduction to Painting and Decorating

Fundraising for a Charity

Household Cleaning

Basic Cleaning

Cannabis Awareness

Responsibilities of Independent Living

Wellbeing: Unit 2 - Coping Strategies

Universal Credit

Emotional Wellbeing

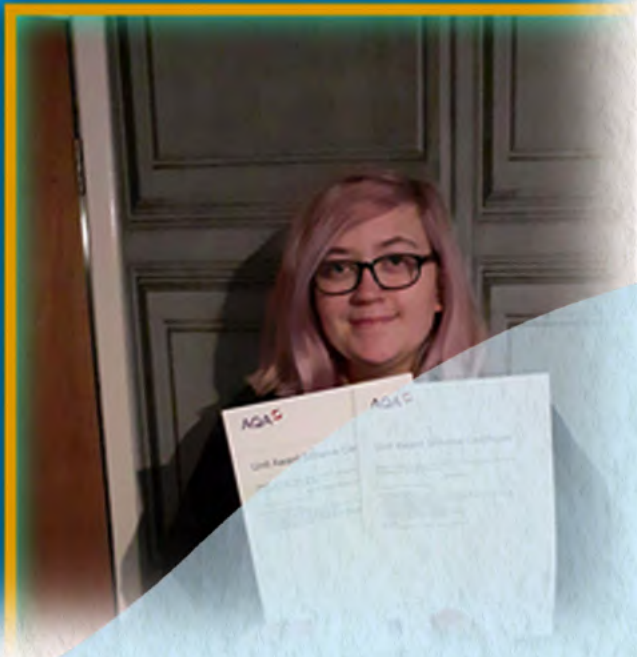
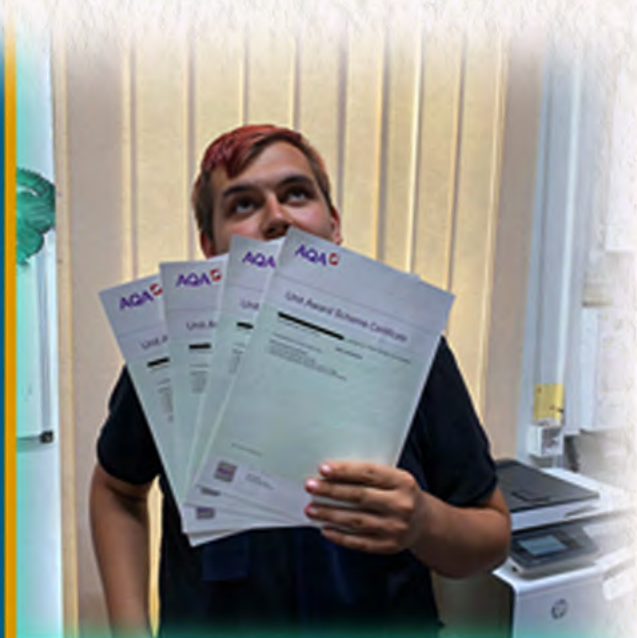
Many of our clients who access our service have little or any educational qualifications due to various reasons, so by offering this service to them it enhances their skills, self-esteem and confidence. With some of our clients, by completing some AQA units, it has boosted their confidence and inspired them to be able and wanting to go the next step and apply for college.

As a team, we have developed all AQAs in line with our vision "Empowering all to be Happy, Healthy and Safe". We promote independence, essential living skills and provide up to date and relevant information.

AQA



Realising potential



Partnerships

As a team we have made a concerted effort to try and get ourselves out and about to promote our services after restrictions were lifted. We have connected with new and existing partners, training providers the voluntary sector and statutory services within our community. Over the last year we have worked collaboratively with partners and will continue to reach out to others.

Counselling Service

The counselling service which was offered to all clients of the Brighter Futures service has been an invaluable part of the project for many of the clients who accessed the support.

In September 2021 Suzy advised she would like to resign from her position at Rush House delivering counselling support. Suzy gave her 3 months notice and worked with her existing clients who were then signed off her service or were signposted on to specialist areas of support.

Given this situation staff contacted Rotherham and Barnsley Mind to discuss what support services they could offer Brighter Futures. From conversations with RBMind CEO we agreed a service level agreement for the up and coming year for our clients to access initial assessments and counselling support. RBMind also offered wellbeing groups and activities to our service users.

The partnership has been going really well. However over the past few months our referrals to the service have been a little slow. Clients who access the Brighter Futures service do disclose that they have mental health issues. However, they are very reluctant to engage in this support.

Staff are in ongoing discussion with RBMind's CEO to look at alternative ways to engage clients.

Moving forward

The Brighter Futures project is in the third and final year of the funding and the delivery of the project as it stands.

Rachael our CEO made enquiries to the Reaching Communities Officer about a possible extension to the project. We were advised that this is not possible and we would need to reapply with a new application. So it has been full steam ahead with Rachael and Lisa collating all information from the team to put forward into the new application.

We are hopeful to submit this, in the coming weeks. As a team we will be making a push to promote our services so we can try and support as many clients as we can during the last months of the funding.

The team will continue to support the clients with barriers they may present with so they are hopefully in a better place in their personal life to move on in their new journey into education, training and employment.





Alison Hutchinson

Business Development
Manager



In 2021 we were successful in our grant application to the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) to strengthen our organisational resilience. This allowed us to invest in a Business Development Manager to strategically change and adapt in order to respond to future challenges to enable us to continue to deliver our current and future services. The role commenced on 14th February. Achievements in those first 6 weeks to 31/3/22 were as follows:

Personal and professional networking leveraged to grow awareness of our charity and our brand to promote our EET services and obtain new referrals from new partners: e.g. Barnado's and Social Prescribing.

Worked on the RMBC monitoring and sustainability for our Independent Living Skills training programme APOYO (A Place Of Your Own).

Upskilled on Just Giving, Bid Writing, Charity Finance and attended Corporate Fundraising workshops. Reviewed and subsequently obtained funding via Skills Bank 2 for the Resilient Leadership package for managers.

Successfully networked at the Labre's Hope and Street Soccer open days, plus the Chamber of Commerce Women In Business Event at Wentworth Woodhouse and connected with the three key speakers.

Contributed to offsite at Aston Hall which was the pre-cursor to our strategic plan writing sessions.

Cultivated and planned some interesting future activities for our service users with new contacts Creative You customising and Flux Rotherham art and craft sessions, in collaboration with The Source Training in Sheffield.

Negotiated corporate fleeces and polo shirts free of charge from local company Monster Mesh.

Built initial relationship with Advance Training at RMBC, who can potentially provide full and part funding and sourcing of our training requirements.

Summary:

The future looks bright and interesting with more of the above plus: Income generation from APOYO, event planning, promotion and management of the 40th anniversary celebration, participating in the CAF Resilience Programme, taking on a university intern, planning and migration to a new information management system, applying for further funding from Skills Bank 3 for next phase of leadership training, entering Tesco Blue Token initiative, nomination for Chamber awards, maximising staff use of iHASCO training package, building and maintaining relationship with Rotherham Flux for the benefit of our service users, plus much more.

**onwards
&
↑pwards**



Viv Flinders
Property Manager



Health & Safety, maintenance and health & wellbeing

Another year on and we are still in the Covid pandemic, but restrictions are now starting to lift. From May 2021, our clients in 18- 19 Lindum Terrace can now have visitors and small group work sessions with clients can start again. Staff can now transport our clients to appointments; this is possible by following the track and trace procedure and wearing masks. Covid jabs for everyone are being rolled out and we are starting to see an end to the Covid restrictions.

Then November 2021 the Omicron variant hit, restrictions are all back in place and Rush House is feeling the pressure - "when is this going to end"? It is normal to have many different emotions in times like these - stress, anxiety, anger and sadness to name just a few. The Coronavirus pandemic remains unlike anything we have experienced before. Through Rush House management's open door/wellbeing procedures and our message to all staff and residents, regarding taking care of their wellbeing and giving them support and guidance, we got through to the lifting of all Government restrictions in April 2022.

Looking back, to find out all the information relating to our time going through this pandemic, I realised that for Rush House to keep going through a global pandemic and to come through it with only three residents in our communal project at 18- 19 Lindum Terrace catching Covid 19, shows how the Rush House team worked together and we should be so proud of ourselves.

Health and Wellbeing

Covid risk assessment continued to be reviewed and staff continually updated until 24th February 2022 when the Government had removed the health and safety requirement for every employer to explicitly consider COVID-19 in their risk assessments.

Health & Safety and wellbeing drop in sessions are still available for staff on the last Monday of each month.

6th June 2021 Staff and residents organised and attended the Rush House Big Lunch on the front garden.



Because of limited contact due to Covid, Rush House has continually sent health and wellbeing information and guidance out to all staff by email:

- Managing your worries.*
- Mental & Physical Health information.*
- Your guide to wellbeing.*

Properties

Properties that have been refurbished (painted, new furniture and new carpets if required) are 69 Cambridge Street, 75 Dovercourt Road, (refurbished twice due to break in on 19th August 2021), 67 Dovercourt Road, 19 Hartington Road, 32a Brameld Road, 19 Lindum Terrace Activity room (now called the lounge) and the EHA Lounge. 32, 32a and 59a Brameld road have all had showers fitted.

18-19 Lindum Terrace have now had firedoors repaired or new ones fitted. All the snagging was completed on 29th June 2021.

32 and 32a Brameld - the mould in the properties has been treated and the properties repainted.

17-18-19 Lindum Terrace - the trees in the front garden required trimming back due to the road being designated as a conservation area. Planning permission was sought from RMBC and the trees were professionally cut back. The 5 year electrical testing has been completed on 21 Cavendish road, 19 Hartington Road, 67 and 75 Dovercourt Road.

All the external properties have been PAT tested in November 2021. Lindum Terrace bedsits and offices have been PAT tested in December 2021. In December 2021 SYHA reviewed the fire risk assessment at 18- 19 Lindum Terrace and found no issues that needed to be rectified. It was decided that all the fire extinguishers would be removed from the bedsits and new foam extinguishers be fitted on all the corridors.

In December 2021 all the water tanks at Lindum Terrace were flushed out and cleaned as part of Legionella procedures. Vanity sinks were upgraded and new ones fitted in rooms 10, 11 and 12. Rush House has completed 132 different repairs from April 2021 to 31st March 2022. From April 2021 to March 2022 gardens at all properties have been maintained.

Health and Safety

April & May 2021 - two staff members completed pregnancy risk assessments with the property manager. All staff completed the DSE Assessment (display screen assessment).

Six monthly Health & Safety property risk checks were completed in August 2021 and February 2022 and sent to Julie Kerr at SYHA.

Health & Safety inductions were completed for Alison (Brighter Futures to Business Development Manager), Leanne (Temporary into Key Worker Role), Danny (Maintenance and E&D), Jennifer (Temporary cleaner to cover Jess maternity), Lynne (Temporary to cover Leanne), Joanne (Casual Worker), Savaria (Casual Worker), Andy (Maintenance worker and APOYO Coach), Hayley (Support night worker) and 5 student placements.

Gas safety checks and legionella flush completed and recorded for every property before new residents moved in.

February 2022 - the property manager emailed all staff who are essential car users at Rush House, informing them of the new changes to the highway code which have now been put in place by the DVLA.





Sarah Miller
Office Manager



RUSH HOUSE LTD

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	7,426	-	7,426	5,803
Cash at bank and in hand		248,966	158,029	406,995	216,023
		<u>256,392</u>	<u>158,029</u>	<u>414,421</u>	<u>221,826</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(19,396)	-	(19,396)	(16,359)
		<u>236,996</u>	<u>158,029</u>	<u>395,025</u>	<u>205,467</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		236,996	158,029	395,025	205,467
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		236,996	158,029	395,025	205,467
ACCRUALS AND DEFERRED INCOME					
	14	-	(158,029)	(158,029)	(40,445)
		<u>236,996</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>236,996</u>	<u>165,022</u>
NET ASSETS					
		236,996	-	236,996	165,022
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds	15			236,996	165,022
TOTAL FUNDS					
				236,996	165,022

RUSH HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022



Nicholas Knowles
Chair



David Homer
Vice Chair



Romesmary Boyle



Karen Shaw



Alan Heppenstall



Sarah Miller
Company Secretary

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