



Care
Housing
Education
Development
Housing
Advocacy
Care
Education
Development
Education
Housing
Development
Care

Annual Review
2013 – 2014

About LIFE

LIFE was formed in 1970 to provide positive, pro-life alternatives to abortion. LIFE founders Professor Jack Scarisbrick MBE and his wife Nuala believed it was not enough simply to oppose abortion – it was necessary to provide real, practical alternatives to it.

Now LIFE is the largest pro-life enterprise in the UK and probably the most comprehensive and ambitious in the world because it combines advocacy and education work with a nationwide care and housing service. The charity's mission is to uphold the utmost respect for every human life from fertilisation until natural death, whilst recognising the need to provide emotional and practical support to pregnant women and young mothers in vulnerable situations.

It is through LIFE's three core services of Care, Education and Housing that we are able to work towards our vision of creating a world where every human life is valued and their dignity is upheld throughout their natural lives. Our education programme works in partnership with schools across the country delivering the pro-life message and promoting healthy, lasting relationships whilst our care and housing services offer support to pregnant women and young mothers who may have nowhere, or nobody else, to turn to.

This pro-life vision also encompasses two separate charities which operate under the LIFE umbrella – the Life FertilityCare programme which provides a highly effective alternative to IVF and the Zöe's Place Baby Hospices which provide care for children with severe life-limiting conditions.

“I am pleased and proud to commend to you LIFE’s Annual Review for 2013-14. It records much hard work by hundreds of people across the country dedicated to the pro-life cause and sustained in large measure by the thousands of generous LIFE Supporters. We should rejoice in what has been achieved and look forward to the coming year with encouragement and hope.”

Jack Scarisbrick

Professor Jack Scarisbrick MBE
LIFE's Founder and National Chairman



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"I am delighted to be reporting from my new role as Head of Education and Media, and am keen to ensure that the Education team continues to reach out to as many young minds as possible in the future. Despite having a small pool of resources we have continued to provide an increasing amount of talks in schools across the country."

Anne Scanlan
Head of Education and Media

27,614

students spoken to in schools and colleges across the UK

531

talks delivered in 206 different schools

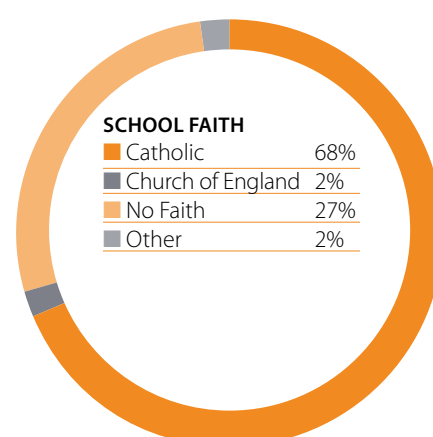
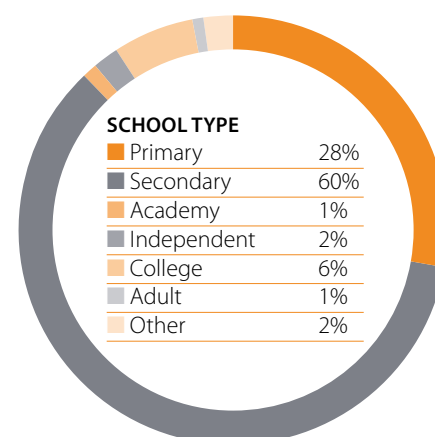
Another great talk from @LifeCharity today at #SHoM – this time on sex and relationships. Great feedback from Y10. Thank you!



LIFE's Education Officers deliver talks and workshops in schools and colleges across the UK. They present the pro-life view on topical life issues, from abortion to euthanasia and everything in between.



SCHOOLS WHERE WE SPEAK



Subjects

Reproductive Technologies

Life Before Birth
Sex and Relationships
Euthanasia
Abortion

ABORTION TALK (Year 10)

"Thank you for a thoughtful and engaging presentation, you've really made our students deliberate over the issues in more depth."

Teacher at Woodlands School, Derby

"I was pleased that in tackling difficult issues such as abortion, the LIFE charity chose to concentrate on the positive aspect of the development of the baby in the womb rather than resorting to frightening images."

Dr Genevieve Cox, Chaplaincy Coordinator at Leweston School Sherborne

"I cannot recommend the LIFE charity talks and workshops highly enough."

Dr Genevieve Cox, Chaplaincy Coordinator at Leweston School Sherborne

"One sex education talk from a well-trained LIFE speaker is as good as a whole series of normal lessons."

Matthew Lewis, St. Simon Stock Catholic School, Maidstone

LIFE BEFORE BIRTH TALK (Year 6)

"I really enjoyed the talk, it made me think about when and how I was born."

Aoife, St Wulstan's Primary

"I liked learning all about how a baby grows."

Isabelle, St Michael's Primary



“LIFE Housing has had a challenging, but overall positive year with a new house opened in Northampton, extended services at Dartford and Bournemouth and new contracts won at Bracknell and Surrey. Thanks to the Big Lottery Fund, a major donor and local LIFE Groups our six independently funded houses continue to thrive, bucking the trend of voluntary sector projects faced with public sector cuts.”

Margaret Coward
Head of Housing

LIFE's Housing service provides pregnant women and young mothers with supported accommodation, combining shelter with tailored support to develop independent living and parenting skills, and enable them to offer their children a brighter future. The Floating Support Service provides outreach support to parents in their own homes.



“If it wasn't for LIFE me and my baby would be homeless, we are both extremely grateful.” Jamie*
LIFE Housing Tenant

270

women supported in LIFE houses and LIFE's Floating Support Community Services (27% were under the age of 18)

818

hours of support delivered every week by LIFE Housing staff

9

former tenants volunteered to be trained as Peer Mentors

68

babies were born in LIFE houses

24

LIFE houses and 5 Community Services

Tamara found herself homeless, with no support network, and with nobody to turn to.

Tamara* began her tenancy at a LIFE house when she was six months pregnant. She had been evicted from her violent boyfriend's house as he had been sent to prison and she couldn't afford to keep up with the rent payments on her own. Her family believed Tamara had brought shame on their family by falling pregnant outside of marriage and so refused to offer any help or support. Tamara found herself homeless, with no support network, and with nobody to turn to.

Tamara moved into the LIFE house in January 2014 after being registered officially homeless. She was isolated, lonely and had little self-esteem. She was worried that she wouldn't be able to cope when her baby arrived and was getting more and more anxious as her due date grew closer. Social Services had placed her unborn baby on the Child Protection Register because of Tamara's history of domestic abuse inflicted upon her by her partner.

With help from the Support Worker at the LIFE house, Tamara was able to begin building up her self-confidence and preparing herself for the arrival of her baby. She completed a six-week pregnancy and parenting course, participated in the Life Skills sessions with the other tenants at the house and received baby equipment from the local Care Centre. Her self-esteem grew and her positive engagement with the Life Skills programme improved her economic well-being, her mental health and her future opportunities.

Tamara gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Jamila, in April 2014. The skills she developed whilst staying at the LIFE house enabled her to become a positive role model for her daughter. She has been empowered to sever ties with her imprisoned partner and Jamila has now been removed from the Child Protection Register.

*Not client's real name

Tenant Development

Maximise Income

Participate in Education, Employment or Training Opportunities

Manage physical & mental health

Safeguard children & maintain relationships

Engage with the community



One of LIFE's Housing Tenant's Amanda with her son Tyler

“This has been a really exciting year for LIFE’s Care service. Thanks to the Big Lottery Funding we have been able to significantly develop the Care Centres in Hounslow, Walsall and Stoke and are now in the process of implementing this success in other centres. I’d like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all the dedicated volunteers and staff members who have tirelessly worked in the centres – you’ve played an vital part in our recent success!”

Kyla Taylor
National Care Supervisor

LIFE Care offers non-directive counselling and skilled listening sessions to anyone facing a crisis pregnancy, coping with the effects of abortion, or suffering from pregnancy loss. These sessions are provided in Care Centres across the country, together with a dedicated National Helpline and a Text-to-Talk service. In addition, LIFE’s Care service provides practical support and runs up-skilling programmes for pregnant women and new families to enable them to better care for their young family.



2471

calls were received by the National Helpline

411

messages were sent to LIFE’s Text-to-Talk service

195

families and young people took part in an upskilling workshop

1710

clients received practical support for their growing family

2792

clients were supported by LIFE’s Care service in total



“I rely on my partner for accommodation and food and he wants me to have an abortion. What other choice do I have?”

Fatima* approached LIFE’s Care Centre to discuss her unexpected pregnancy in a skilled listening session – she was unsure of her next step, but knew her partner wanted her to have an abortion. She was dependent on him for accommodation and food so couldn’t see how she had any other choice than to do what he wanted. He had made it clear that if Fatima chose to continue the pregnancy she would lose his support.

Over the next few sessions Fatima explored her feelings and realised she couldn’t go through with an abortion. LIFE was then able to offer Fatima the tools and help she needed to be able to continue with her pregnancy and have her baby. She was provided with all the basic items she would need for when the baby arrived, from nappies and clothes to a cot and a pushchair. Her partner refused to help.

Fatima has now given birth to her baby boy and her situation has improved. As soon as she was eligible to receive benefits she moved into her own rented accommodation, found a child minder, and attended English and Maths classes as a result of which she is now in employment. Fatima is happy and describes continuing her pregnancy as “the best decision I ever made”.

Without LIFE’s help it is highly likely that Fatima would have been coerced into having an abortion by her partner, and still be relying on him for her basic needs.

*Not client’s real name

LIFE has a strong presence in the news and is regularly called upon to comment on relevant news stories. LIFE has featured in the printed press, on TV and Radio, as well as increasing our digital profiles on Social Media over the past year.



LIFE commented on...

The Assisted Dying Bill | Reduction of the abortion time limit | Fetal remains used as fuel | Sex selective abortion | Sex education | Access to the Morning-after Pill | Stockpiling the Morning-after Pill | Abortion pills being sold online | The Morning-after Pill being given to 12-year-olds | The number of repeat abortions | All-Party-Political-Pro-Life-Group (APPPLG)

68.9% of the 68,534 visitors to the LIFE website were new visitors

646 Facebook likes  **1005** Twitter followers 

#notblinkered 

LIFE's first social media campaign #notblinkered ran from October – December 2013. Its dedicated website received over 2,500 unique visitors and the campaign generated a 38% increase in Facebook likes and an 11% increase in Twitter followers.

FINDING HOPE 

Finding Hope used a short animated video to follow the story of Ella, a pregnant woman who is living in an abusive relationship and believes that abortion is her only way out. The campaign raised funds for LIFE's National Helpline.

One of LIFE's Education Officers, Niall Gooch, now spends half his working week at the Pro-Life Research Unit (PRU) in Westminster. The PRU is a joint project of LIFE, Care and the Right to Life Charitable Trust. Its purpose is to provide political, research and logistical support to the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group (APPPLG). The work involves the production of briefings, parliamentary questions and speeches for parliamentarians, developing and co-ordinating political strategy, and building relationships and networks that can advance the pro-life cause at Westminster.

The financial results for the year to 30 June 2014 show that income exceeded expenditure by £86,835, a small but welcome surplus. LIFE is able to have an impact on a national level thanks to the commitment of the local LIFE groups which operate across the country; some delivering the services themselves whilst others focus their efforts on fundraising to support local projects and the maintenance of the whole charity.

LIFE Housing Supporting People Grants	718,695
LIFE Housing Rental Income	919,041
Supporters' Donations	472,058
Shop sales	448,098
Other Donations and Bequests	330,776
Community Fundraising	191,483
Grants and other income	180,912
Gift Aid from Supporters' Donations	111,590
Big Lottery Fund	96,327
Investment Income	18,454



Housing	1,712,866
Education	568,995
Care	504,581
Shop running costs	495,201
Generating Voluntary income	90,824
Governance	28,132

LIFE relies on diverse funding streams to maintain its charitable services, and to protect its future financial security. This means that LIFE's fundraising efforts are as varied as possible, from compiling lengthy documents to request funding from trusts and foundations to organising regular fundraising events within the local community.

One particularly successful event was the Blitz Party held in London in February 2014. The London LIFE Group raised an inspiring £4,500 from the evening, which has gone towards the set up costs of a new Care Centre and shop in central London.



Gratitude also goes out to the following trusts and grant making foundations which have awarded LIFE financial support during the year:

- The Big Lottery Fund
- The Charles Plater Trust
- CHK Charities Limited
- The Medlock Charitable Trust
- The Santander Foundation
- The Bernard Sunley Foundation
- St Joseph's Church – Portsmouth Diocesan
- The Bisgood Charitable Trust
- The Harper Trust
- J A Rose Trust
- St Wilfrid Catholic Church
- St Anselm's Church
- St Peter the Apostle
- St Mary's Hidden Gem
- The Abbey Church and Cathedral of St. Albans
- Dalkeith Pro-Life Group
- Tangye Charitable Trust

17 LIFE Charity Shops are now trading in the UK

285 volunteers dedicated to the smooth running of LIFE Shops



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National Helpline 0808 802 5433 | Text to Talk service: Text LIFECARE followed by your message to 88020

LIFE is the trading name of LIFE 2009, a registered charity in England & Wales (1128355) and in Scotland (SCO41329).
It is also a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (06786752).