



“It’s not only about structure; it is about making you think that you are a worthwhile person and it has made me feel connected to the rest of society.”
Tony attended the ECDL course, which has since led to him getting into a Journalism in the Arts course.

Despite the success of our Bridge Training Centre, Employment Team and Wood Workshop, they are facing major cuts in funding and could face closure by the end of the year.

Recommendations

St Mungo’s is calling for:

- Emergency shadow funding to save vital projects for homeless people seeking work
- Clarity that homelessness will be a key funding criteria in the autumn ESF funding round
- Confirmation that new funding will enable a long term commitment to homeless people in search of work - not just a quick fix for the already job-ready
- An understanding that undertaking purposeful activities gives homeless people increased confidence and vocational aspirations - ‘springboard’ activities within hostels, and a range of pre-certification support and low-level training are a vital part of the process of becoming job-ready.



For further information on our Work and Learning programmes and its funding environment, please contact Andy Shields, Director of Work & Learning Services at andys@mungos.org.

St Mungo’s is opening doors for London’s homeless. Every year we help more than 10,000 homeless and vulnerable people find responsive and integrated solutions for problems with housing, employment, training and health.

We offer pioneering services to men and women who have complex and overlapping needs that often exclude them from mainstream services. Our work is essential for preparing people with mental health, substance use, alcohol and housing problems to move on.

And to constantly improve the quality of our services we welcome diversity and build partnerships so that we reflect and help our local communities across London.

For information on subscribing to ‘Briefings’, please call 020 8762 5569

Dissemination of our good practice is funded by charitable voluntary income. We are grateful to our donors whose support enables us to share this information briefing.



St Mungo’s, Griffin House,
 161 Hammersmith Road, London W6 8BS
Tel: 020 8762 5500
Fax: 020 8762 5501
www.mungos.org
Charity exempt from registration
 I&P Society No. 20598R Housing Association No. LH0279



BRIDGES TO EMPLOYMENT FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

St Mungo’s delivers the largest programme of work, life skills and learning services for homeless people in Europe. We directly help more homeless people back into education, work and lasting new homes than any other charity.

“It’s given me a positive outlook on life. I don’t know what I would have done without the help I’ve had from St Mungo’s.” Trevor’s attendance at Bridge Training Centre led to him being offered a job.

Independent research, by ORC International shows:

- Nearly 80% of respondents who had attended a training or educational course at St Mungo’s said they would encourage others to attend
- In an average year, St Mungo’s successfully finds employment for 125 people, leading to a saving of £5.6 million to the taxpayer



“Our Employment Team, Bridge Training Centre and Wood Workshop are facing severe funding cuts. There is a real and imminent danger of burning the few bridges to employment that exist for homeless and vulnerable people.”

Andy Shields, Director of Work & Learning Services



The problem

Homeless people face multiple barriers to employment, particularly those with drug or alcohol problems and an offending history. They are characterised by:

- low levels of basic skill
- language problems
- negative employer perceptions

The solution

St Mungo's helps people overcome the barriers that prevent them from getting a job. Our **Employment Team** offers support with every aspect of finding employment from help with writing cvs; looking and applying for jobs; to providing interview clothes and helping people maintain their jobs.

Our **Bridge Training Centre** offers access to education and training courses including IT training and qualifications.

Our **Workshop** helps clients build skills and real job experience, by giving them the opportunity to make furniture for our housing projects.

Last year, our Work & Learning Services helped more than 1,200 homeless men and women get involved in training and gain employment.

Positive client experiences

ORC International asked 100 clients how useful they found St Mungo's **Employment Team**, **Bridge Training Centre** and **Wood Workshop**. The results showed:

Clients told us the key benefits of attending an educational activity with St Mungo's were:

- they had learnt new skills
- it made them more confident
- it gave them something to do
- they had made new friends
- they felt they had achieved something
- 79% of the respondents who had attended a training or educational course said they would encourage others to attend
- 74% of respondents thought the most important reason for attending a training or educational activity with St Mungo's was that it would enable them to get into work

“The more skills and experience you get, the better opportunities you have to find a job. These skills are valuable.” Robin attended the European Computer Driving License (ECDL), Photoshop and Graphic Design course at Bridge Training Centre.



Saving millions

ORC also looked at the cost saving that is made when intervention from St Mungo's leads to employment. The scenario compares the costs of an unemployed individual in social housing (a typical positive result for a homeless person) who is claiming benefits with the costs of the cycle of support that an individual would receive in St Mungo's hostel accommodation moving them towards employment and independent private accommodation.

Without St Mungo's intervention

Without Intervention	Cost for a year
Incapacity benefits	£4,082 ¹
Income tax and national insurance payments foregone	£1,341 ²
Lost economic output	£12,000 ³
Social housing	£4,906 ⁴
Total over a year	£22,329
Projected total over 5 years	£111,645

With St Mungo's intervention

With Intervention	Cost over 2 years	Offset costs of employment	Benefit over 3 years
*First stage hostel for 2 years	£54,060 ⁵	Produces economic output	£36,000 ³
Lost economic output	£24,000 ³	Income tax and national insurance payments made	£4,023 ⁶
Income tax and national insurance payments foregone	£2,682 ⁶	Total over 3 years	£40,023
Incapacity benefits	£8,164 ⁷		
Employment support leading to a job outcome	£17,568 ⁸	Projected total over 5 years	£66,451

Conclusion

The cost of a long term unemployed person staying in social housing is approximately £111,000. The cost of St Mungo's intervention is approximately £66,000 over the same period. **The cost benefit of St Mungo's intervention is £45,000 per person.**

On average, St Mungo's successfully finds 125 people employment every year. The cost benefit is £5.6 million per year.

¹ Job Centre Plus - long term rate

² Crisis, Missed Opportunities (2006)

³ Crisis, Missed Opportunities (2006)

⁴ 2005/06 highest rent of a one bedroom/bedsit from, Housing Corporation, Rents, rent differentials and service charges for housing associations (2005)

⁵ Based on cost of St Mungo's Great Guildford Street Hostel over 2 years

⁶ Based on £1,341 income tax and national insurance payments per year from Crisis, Missed Opportunities (2006)

⁷ Based on the Job Centre Plus long term rate of £4,082 per year

⁸ Based on the annual cost of £8,784 for each job outcome achieved as a result of St Mungo's employment support. Calculation based on the total cost of St Mungo's employment schemes (Bridge Training Centre, Employments teams and Workshop) in 2005/06 (£1,098,000), and the average number of people into jobs per year (125)