



Our Impact

1 April to 30 November 2020

Positive Steps still delivering a positive impact

The past few months have thrown up challenges none of us could have anticipated. Our priority has been, and will remain, ensuring we unite 13-24 year olds living with and beyond cancer, to live their best life.

Cancer redefines a young person's life, challenges their sense of identity, threatens their sense of belonging, when "fitting in" is everything, all their relationships are challenged. Cancer is disruptive to a young person's journey towards independence, achievement of their goals and aspirations, even more so during a pandemic.

These young people, already isolated by their illness, faced further isolation by the need to shield, we therefore needed to rethink our service delivery. In a matter of days, we transitioned our face-to-face activities to online sessions.

Transforming our programme of four in-person activities per month to four virtual sessions every week meant our service provision quadrupled. Alongside increasing our service provision, we improved accessibility for those not usually able to attend due to distance, treatment, or physical health. As a result, we have seen more young people register for our support.

While the shape of Teens Unite has been impacted by Covid-19, the pandemic has affirmed our strategy to create an even more accessible service for young people battling the long-term effects of cancer. We are the only charity providing ongoing support outside of the medical environment.

Our Positive Steps activities are proven to address the long-term effects of cancer. Helping these young people learn new skills, progress, and benefit from the support of others who genuinely know what it is like to face cancer.





Simona

diagnosed
with Hodgkin's
Lymphoma,
age 22

“

**Teens Unite
helped me live
my life beyond my
diagnosis.**

**You are not your diagnosis
– cancer is a chapter, not the
whole book. Seeing others go
through it and meeting others who have
already won their fight motivates me to
continue fighting and be the one to inspire others
who will go through this after.**

**Coronavirus hasn't stopped Teens Unite from
bringing young people fighting cancer together
– we just do it virtually for now.**

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Financial impact

While we have continued to deliver our support services digitally, the pandemic has had a catastrophic impact on our income.

We have seen a significant increase in demand for support over the last few months and have quadrupled the number of digital activities we are providing to ensure we are there for vulnerable young people when they need us the most.

In 2019 our income reached £1.1m through a program of activities focussed on our core fundraising strengths; networking, signature events and community support and activities. All of these activities have had to stop this year and the impact is devastating.

We forecast that our 2020 income will be reduced by 80%. This is a loss of £800,000. The loss results from the cancellation of key fundraising events such as our Tales Ball and our already sold out Strictly Ball. This year we should have also been travelling to China for our much-anticipated overseas challenge. Our usually incredibly active community fundraisers are struggling to support us due to the restrictions across the Country. The impacts are significant and across the board.

2019
INCOME

£1.1m

2020
INCOME

£300k

-71%

due to cancelled
signature events

-92%

due to cancelled
challenge events

-86%

due to cancelled
community
fundraising

Over the last five years, Teens Unite has operated a sustainable model with growth in income and service provision year-on-year. Our small and agile team has been working to diversify the way we generate income and manage our resources, whilst also embracing technology to enhance our service delivery.

We are now running four digital activities every week. This has meant we can support those already registered with us but also those young people who have not been able to attend previously because they weren't able to travel due to distance, poor health or treatments. Following the objectives of our Positive Steps program we've had great success with a huge range of activities including creative sessions, photography, and skills training, as well as discos and quizzes run by the Teens themselves.

Donations from organisations such as Barclays and the National Lottery Community Fund, and a new partnership with Sofology stores in the South East, has contributed to our resilience in the face of economic challenges. These donations from recognised household names are also testament to the work we do, confirm how good we are at it, and reinforce the message about how vital support is for teenagers and young adults fighting cancer.

+50%

from trust and
foundation
applications

+60%

from community
donations and
partnerships



Looking ahead

Our service provision continues to evolve and a critical part of that is having the voice of the young people we support at the heart of our strategy setting.

This year we formally created The Teens Unite Committee providing young people with a forum to voice their needs and give them an opportunity to make a difference to the future of the Charity, directly having an impact on the lives of other young people fighting cancer.

The Committee is chaired by our Co-Founder, Debbie Pezzani, and made up of ten young people who have all been supported by Teens Unite. Each of them have experienced cancer, all are at different stages in their journey but all are determined to help shape and build our support for young people just like them.

Together we will identify opportunities to improve our support and make recommendations to shape future activities. The Committee ensure that we are always connected, listening and adapting to the needs of the Teens.



The House of Teens Unite

Even in the face of the Charity's significant financial challenge, we remain committed to our goals and want to update you.

We plan to continue to deliver digital sessions to ensure we can keep our support in place for those who need it now more than ever and, when it's safe to do so, we will reintroduce our face-to-face activities.

At the end of 2019, Teens Unite secured a seven-acre plot of land, with the aim of building The House of Teens Unite within the following three years.

However, the costs associated with the build and the current instability of income has resulted in the project being temporarily put on hold while the Charity focusses on ensuring that beneficiary services are in place to continue to support the young people, at a time when they need support more than ever before.

Why? Because we know that 100% of the young people we have already supported said they would recommend Teens Unite to another young person facing cancer.

We remain committed to The House of Teens Unite and are working hard to identify funding to enable us to progress.

*Artist's impression
courtesy of Clear
Architects*



During this especially difficult chapter in the life of Teens Unite, we wanted to say thank you for staying united with us so we can keep young people fighting cancer connected.

We have promised to always be there for them whenever they need us and this wouldn't be possible without your continued commitment and support.

teens:)unite

FIGHTING CANCER

Supporting young people fighting
cancer to live their best life



Twitter:
@teensunite



Facebook:
Teens Unite Fighting Cancer



Instagram:
@teensunitefightingcancer

Teens Unite

99 High Road Broxbourne EN10 7BN

Email: info@teensunite.org

Telephone: 01992 440091

Seven young people are diagnosed with cancer every day in the UK.
Please donate to ensure they do not have to face cancer alone:

www.teensunite.org/donate

Registered Charity Number: 1118361