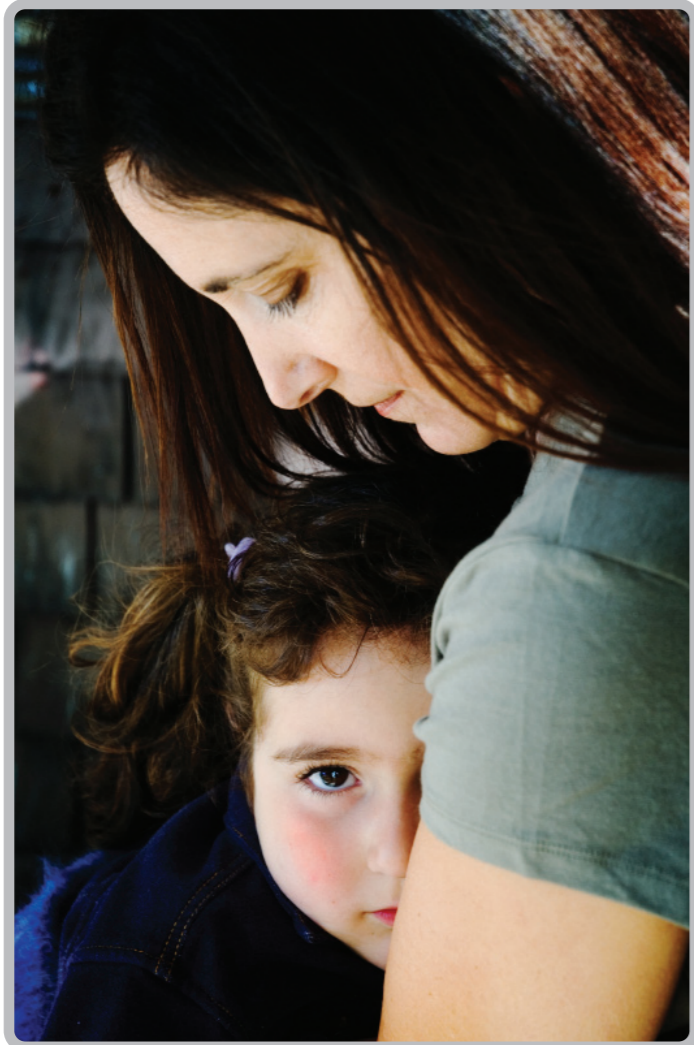




Lisa's Story

"I have been involved with Social Services from a very young age. After having my daughter, Megan, things became very difficult at home. Which is why when Megan was four and a half months old, I moved into the Bethany Project. I struggled with the reality of having my own flat and being a full-time single parent to Megan. The staff here at Bethany helped me to sort out major setbacks at that point in my life, like money and a nursery placement for Megan. I have regular support meetings with my key worker and find these are helpful. She sets certain aims for me and these help me as well, because I feel if the aims were not set I would not get round to doing important things.

"Bethany does a lot of activities. I enjoy them as they sometimes help me discover new skills. I'm glad I got the chance to move into the Bethany Project because now I feel that I am independent. But there is always support there when I need it."



Kelly's Story

"When I first found out that I was pregnant I dreaded telling my mum as I knew she would be angry with me and tell me to leave. I was already in an abusive relationship with the father of the baby but felt I had no other option but to move in with him. He abused alcohol and drugs and used to beat me, even when I was pregnant.

"I finally managed to get away from him when the council referred me to Bethany and I was offered a flat three days before I had my baby son, Riley.

"I felt Bethany helped me be a better mum as I received all of the help and support I needed from staff, and I was also able to bond with my son without other people interfering in our lives. I also think Bethany kept me away from Riley's dad, as men are not allowed in the project.

"At the moment I am taking driving lessons and would like to start college soon. I moved into my own accommodation a week ago and I love it. It is just round the corner from my parents and my new supportive boyfriend. So everything has turned out really well for me and my son and there is a future I am looking forward to entering."

Amber's Story

"As a youngster my upbringing was not good and I did not get on well with my mum. She kicked me out of my home at an early age and I was left to fend for myself. I was partying all the time, and whilst it was happening it made me feel good. I started drinking heavily and I also used drugs on and off.

"I rebelled against everything. I was in and out of different hostels meeting more and more people who were a bad influence on me. They were abusing themselves and the system. And I became part of that crowd.

"At the age of 29 I became pregnant. I was surprised that I could fall pregnant with all the abuse I had put my body through and was still putting it through.

"I moved into Bethany when I was 8 months pregnant. I was still seeing the baby's father at this point. He lied a lot and was abusing drugs. I still felt I needed to stick by him, but this sometimes had a bad affect on me. I had my daughter Jaydine, and finally, when she was six months old, I was strong enough to end the relationship with Jaydine's father. I had finally come to my senses and realised that if I stayed with him, Jaydine's future, and my own future, would be really unhappy.

"Since then I have not looked back. Being at Bethany gave me space and time to think about what I wanted for my future. Being sober also made me aware of what was happening around me.

"I now have a lovely house I will be moving into next week. I will miss Bethany when I leave because I have been able to call it home and this has been Jaydine's first home.

"I have found a decent man who is very supportive towards me and my daughter. I will soon be having his baby and I can honestly say that my future has turned around and I have never been so happy."