

Hope Gardens:

Giving hope in challenging times

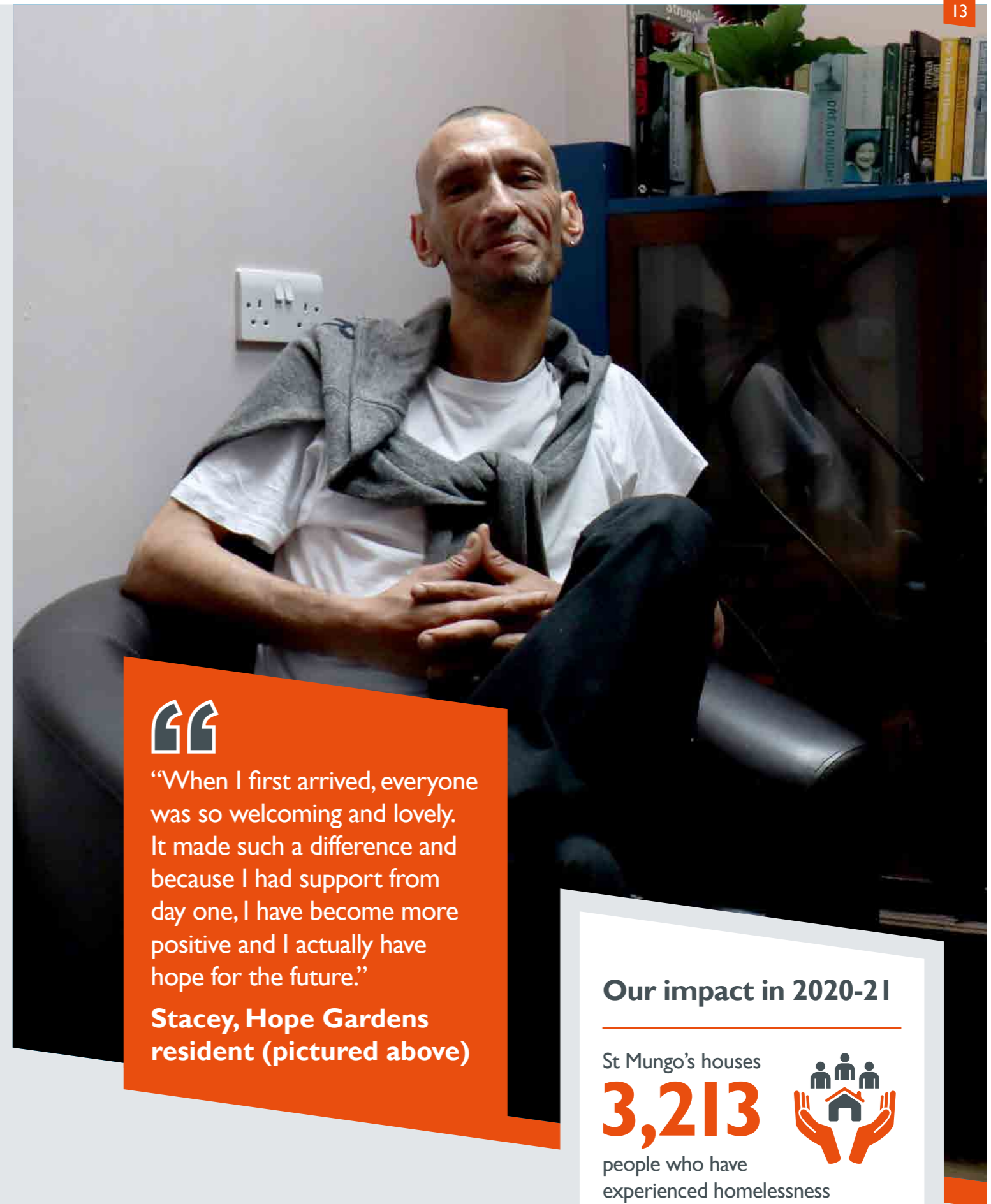
We are proud that, despite the pandemic, we have kept **99%** of our services running, including our residential services. Mia, Duty Worker at our Hope Gardens hostel, explains how staff worked to keep residents safe and entertained during the pandemic.

When the pandemic started we received a lot of guidance from St Mungo's on how to keep our residents and each other safe. We introduced social distancing rules and closed our communal areas. We supported residents with digital skills training so they could access digital GP appointments, keep up-to-date with the latest news, and complete training through our Digital Recovery College.

When face coverings became mandatory I set up a tie-dye face mask session to encourage our residents to wear their face coverings and involve them in some creative activities. The residents really enjoyed the activity and, most importantly, went on to use their face coverings around the service to help keep each other safe.

One of our biggest strengths throughout the pandemic has been the different activities we have offered to our residents. I think social interaction really nourishes people and when you take that away it can have a negative impact on someone. We collaborated with a charity called Accumulate to provide residents with activities, including pottery, soap making and fabric patch design. It gave everyone the opportunity to do something different and learn something new, instead of feeling isolated. It has been great as it is a bit of fun and people get to build up their own collection of artwork which allows them to see what they've achieved.

Obviously there have been challenging times, but we have done our best to provide people with safety and an escape from any negative thoughts or feelings they have had. Seeing people continue to develop and achieve new things during such a challenging time has been really rewarding.



“

“When I first arrived, everyone was so welcoming and lovely. It made such a difference and because I had support from day one, I have become more positive and I actually have hope for the future.”

Stacey, Hope Gardens resident (pictured above)

Our impact in 2020-21

St Mungo's houses

3,213

people who have experienced homelessness on any given night.

