

WCNS Business Plan 2016-2021

Background

1.1 About Us

The Nightshelter is an independent local charity, set up in 1988 by Churches Together in Winchester. In 1995 we became an independent registered charity and in 2000 a limited company. We moved to our permanent accommodation in Jewry Street in 1997. Our services are available to all people who are homeless irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, faith, gender reassignment, gender or sexual orientation.

Winchester Churches Nightshelter offers an essential lifeline to the homeless through direct access accommodation in Winchester. Accommodating up to 200 people a year, residents can stay until longer-term accommodation is found to match their needs. Our residents range from people who have suddenly found themselves in crisis for a short time through loss of job, relationship and home, to those suffering long-term crisis and some who have problematic substance use.

The Nightshelter offers more than just quality accommodation and wholesome meals, we offer real support and hope to those in crisis. We can do most for those originally from local council areas. Focusing on specialist support work we provide every resident with a floating support worker who offers one-to-one support and advice on housing, employment, health, personal finance, substance misuse and other essential areas enabling people to rebuild their lives and social structures and escape homelessness for good. We also offer one-to-one professional counselling, work placement schemes, IT training, cookery workshops, budgeting advice and other training and skills development. Our dedicated staff, directors and volunteers work as a team to ensure the ongoing care, quality, sustainability and development of our services to those who are homeless.

Our work also includes: street outreach and severe weather emergency provision for Winchester's rough sleepers; one-to-one advocacy work with residents; outcomes measurement and tracking. We have also recently rented (July 2015) a four-bedded house to provide short duration Training Tenancies for some of those who have been in the Nightshelter.

1.2 Vision and Mission

1.21 Vision

- To enable people to escape homelessness.

1.22 Mission

- To help as many people as possible into successful independent living.

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1.3 Values

Honest and open – we treat everyone with kindness and respect, without prejudice or discrimination.

Safe and supportive – we provide a home where residents can be comfortable and safe and can find the help and restoration of self-esteem they need.

Flexible and caring – we foster collaboration to work as a team with residents, staff, volunteers, the local community and other agencies / partners.

1.4 Overarching Goals

- A. Aim for residents to make a planned move to more permanent accommodation within three months of arrival.
- B. Establish our own move-on provision.
- C. Identify and develop appropriate support tailored to individual need.
- D. Increase the number of people who can be resident in the Nightshelter each year.
- E. Further develop our volunteer base.
- F. Support multi-agency initiatives to increase the provision for the homeless and vulnerably housed.
- G. Continue to raise public awareness about homelessness.

1.5 Public Benefit

Under the Charities Act 2006, charities are required to demonstrate that their aims are for the public benefit. The Vision and Mission of the charity are as above. The purpose of the charity is beneficial in a way that is identifiable and is evidenced in our annual report. The annual report also identifies that the charity benefits a sufficient section of the public. The Board of Directors regularly monitors and reviews the success of the organisation in meeting its goals and can confirm that all the activities of the charity are undertaken in pursuit of its aims.

1.6 Running the Organisation

The Nightshelter is an organisation consisting of a Board of Directors, Project Manager and 12 staff as well as a large and committed volunteer base. In the light of our ambitious five-year plan, and mindful of the associated risks inherent in that, we are reviewing the organisational structure to keep pace with the plan.

WCNS Board of Directors July 2015