



# Hope Housing

## Working to end rough sleeping in Bradford

### Hope News Winter



Dear Friends,

At the start of 2019, I am saddened continued extreme need of the homeless and especially by recent reports of the high number of homeless deaths across the UK. However, as we are faced with such need, I also know that change can happen as I am encouraged how Saul\* has been supported from destitution into having a home and is now attending college. We are very excited to be celebrating our 10 year Anniversary and I really hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating the good work that we have been doing housing homeless. I look forward to seeing you on the 1st February and being able to share with you more stories of hope.

### Rough Sleeping

#### Deaths amongst rough sleepers

In April 2018, the Guardian reported that the number of homeless people recorded as dying on streets or in temporary accommodation had more than doubled over the last five years in the UK. There is no official measure of deaths amongst rough sleepers, i.e. Coroners do not use 'rough sleeping' as a cause of death. So, exact figures are difficult to come by. However, the Office of National Statistics has estimated that 597 homeless people died during 2017.

The government do, however, record rough sleeping and the numbers have gone up alarmingly - from 1768 in 2010 to 4751 in 2017. You may very well have seen evidence of this increase as you walk around your town.

In August 2018, the government published its rough sleeping strategy which states their aim to reduce rough sleeping by half by 2022 and to end it completely by 2027. They have pledged £100m of funding to begin to address this in the next 2 years.

#### Bradford cold weather provision

One significant local response to the rough sleeping problem is the provision of emergency places for rough sleepers to stay during the colder winter nights in Bradford. The service operates between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> April on nights when the outside temperature is predicted to fall to zero or below, using sleeping spaces in communal rooms in hostels across the city.

Referrals can be made any time between 9am and 10pm by calling Discovery House on 01274 309165. Members of the public are able to phone up on behalf of anyone they know are meet who might be rough sleeping.

## Hope Housing Biking Day Out

The Hope Housing away day on 8th of September 2018 saw clients, staff and friends of Hope Housing coming together in a fun bike ride along Shipley canal. We had good laughs along the way and it was great to connect while enjoying nature. We stopped for a comforting coffee break in the cafe at five-rise-locks in Bingley after which we cycled back to Robert's Park. There we sought shelter from the rain while enjoying lunch prepared by a client and Thierry.



The MCF Bikery Shipley was really kind in lending us the cycles for the ride, which was greatly appreciated.

## Saul's Story

Saul\* is an asylum seeker from Eastern Europe who has been in the country for several years, has no income and is currently in the process of making a fresh asylum claim. Saul is currently in one of our shared houses where we provide him with a small weekly cash allowance and cover the costs of his rent and bills. Saul is not allowed to work, that he has had problems getting voluntary work because of his language skills. However, he has recently started an English course after Hope Housing staff helped him to navigate the admission procedure.

Saul said he would like a bike so to get around on and Hope Housing worker, Angus, persuaded his friends at the Bikery in Shipley to provide him with a free bike, pump and lock. This is a great help for Saul get around the city, including to and from college. Saul is also hoping to do some basic gardening and maintenance work with members of the local church. Like the cycling, this should help Saul to channel his energy into constructive use of his time.

### ***Befriending Volunteer Scheme***

***Do you have some time and skills to visit and support our clients in their homes? If you would like to help the homeless and think you may be able to do home visits then please contact Thierry, our volunteer co-ordinator. Full training will be given.***

***T: 01274 900764 or E: [thierry@hopehousing.org.uk](mailto:thierry@hopehousing.org.uk)***

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