



Hope Housing

AUTUMN 2020 NEWSLETTER

AN INTRODUCTION FROM HELEN

The pandemic has been hard for us all, but during these hard times there has been leaps forward in protection for the homeless. At the start of lockdown the Government made a commitment to house all rough sleepers with 'Everybody in'. Bradford Council has continued this scheme, which is absolutely fantastic! At the beginning of this year we could not have imagined that the government would house so many people, including those without any rights to access public funds. We have been working hard alongside them, picking up clients who did not fit their criteria and working in partnership so that no one would have to sleep out on the streets. I pray that what has been started will carry on, and that no one will need to return to the streets. Our challenge now is to ensure everyone is moved into safe longer term housing. Get in touch if you would like to be part of the solution. Be encouraged in difficult times that people are finding hope and getting to rebuild their lives one step at a time.



HELEN SYROP
Hope Housing Manager

THANKFUL FOR EXTRA HOUSES

Since the start of the lockdown **we have acquired 11 new bed spaces across 8 new properties.** We are grateful for partnerships across the city and are thankful for a legacy gift that has enabled us to buy our 1st property. **We now have purchased 2 flats in the city.** This is fantastic! We hope this will be the start for many more to come. This gives us sustainability for the future. It is amazing that we have been able to complete on both of these purchases during the pandemic. Since the start of the lockdown, we have managed to support 20 clients to access emergency accommodation. We have worked hard with these people to help them resolve their homelessness and find suitbale accommodation.



EVEN MORE STAFF!

September was an exciting month for us as it saw two new members of staff join the Hope Housing team. Harry Wilkinson and Ian Francies have joined us as Housing Support workers, with Harry also supporting our Eastern European clients to get their Settled Status.

We have continued to support migrants to get out of destitution by helping them apply for there status in the UK. We have also been supporting them with vouchers or small cash payments whilst helping them to resolve their complex immigration problems.



I wanted to work for Hope Housing because it is an organisation that offers a chance for those afflicted by homelessness to radically transform their lives, whilst openly reflecting the good news of Jesus.

- Harry

SEBASTIAN'S STORY

When we met Sebastian (not his real name) he had been rough sleeping in the park and sofa surfing. Due to the pandemic, sofa surfing was becoming a less viable option. Sebastian hadn't always been rough sleeping, he had a good job for 10 years and he was married. However, since his divorce he turned heavily to drink, fell into depression, and as a result lost his job and his home. **That same day we moved him into our new emergency accommodation. "It's all too much to take in" he said, and was overwhelmed with the warm, tidy flat that he was now staying in.**



After a few weeks we moved Sebastian into one of our supported houses. We helped him with his Universal Credit application, registered him with a doctor and supported him to get his medication. We provided him with regular one to one support and referred him to alcohol support.

We helped him to get a fishing license as a Covid safe activity to help his mental wellbeing. He has loved having a home and the space to be able to fish. **After months of persistence he has almost completely stopped drinking, praise God!**

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

We are excited to have developed a partnership with Humankind and Inn Churches to get 2 Emergency pods. These are Covid Safe emergency accommodation, to help get hard to reach rough sleepers off the streets this winter.

CAN YOU HELP GIVE SO WE CAN CONTINUE TO DO THIS VITAL WORK?

For more information on how to give visit:
hopehousing.org.uk/support

We are always in need of old mobile phones that we can give to our clients. Mobile phones make a massive difference to supporting homeless people off the streets especially during this pandemic.

CAN YOU DONATE A WORKING MOBILE PHONE?

Please hand in or post to our office:
Hope Housing, Millside House, 131 Grattan Road, Bradford, BD1 2HS.

Hope Housing currently has a vacancy on the board of Trustees for a Treasurer. Our current Treasurer, John is stepping down after having been with us for a few years. John has helped us stay afloat through some very turbulent times. We are looking for someone who is financially dynamic and able to help accelerate our growth, so that we are able to help more people move from the streets into stable homes.

COULD YOU BE OUR NEXT TREASURER?

For more information email contact@hopehousing.org.uk
or visit www.hopehousing.org.uk/vacancies

Hope Housing, Millside House, 131 Grattan Road, Bradford, BD1 2HS.