

New support scheme for homeless people using winter shelters



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Two leading homelessness charities – Thames Reach and Housing Justice – are teaming up to help homeless men and women using winter shelters across London to escape homelessness. Staff from the two charities will provide advice, housing and reconnection services to the guests in ten winter shelters in a bid to help them get their lives back on track.

Last year the winter shelters involved in the scheme provided temporary accommodation to 1,200 people, with approximately half of them returning to rough sleeping, using squats or sofa surfing once their stay ended. The new project has received £174,086 funding over two years from the Homelessness Transition Fund.

Alison Gelder, Housing Justice Director, said “It’s really exciting for Housing Justice and Thames Reach to be working together to help the winter shelter guests. Rather than moving out on the streets when the shelters close, we very much hope this will help the guests to move on with their lives. It’s also an extremely important step in getting faith groups to work in partnership with statutory agencies like Thames Reach.”

Audrey Mitchell, Thames Reach’s Director of Street and Hostel services, said: “We are extremely delighted to receive a grant from the Homelessness Transition Fund to work alongside Housing Justice to provide an advice and reconnections service in winter night shelters across London. We believe this presents an invaluable opportunity to provide specialist workers to assess rough sleepers whilst they are in the shelters, link them into agencies and ensure that they receive help to get off the streets. We are pleased to be working with Housing Justice on this project which will be a major boost to our efforts to end rough sleeping in London.”

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Notes to Editors

Housing Justice is the national voice of Christian action in the field of housing and homelessness. They support night-shelters, drop-ins and hundreds of practical projects nationwide by providing advice and training for churches and other community groups who work with homeless people. They work by uniting Christians and churches of all denominations across the country to work for change. They embrace partnerships with people of all faiths (and none) who share their values of social justice and compassion.

See: www.housingjustice.org.uk

Thames Reach is one of the UK’s leading homelessness charities. Its vision is to end street homelessness and its mission is to provide decent homes, encourage supportive relationships and help people lead fulfilling lives. Thames Reach runs a range of services in London including street outreach services and a variety of supported housing projects, as well as schemes which prevent homelessness and help people develop new skills, re-engage with family and friends, and get back into work. Thames Reach works closely with local communities to ensure that it contributes to improving neighbourhoods and meeting local need. Last year the charity helped 8,908 people.

See www.thamesreach.org.uk
