

24th November 2017

To Everyone at Shelswell Group of Parishes,

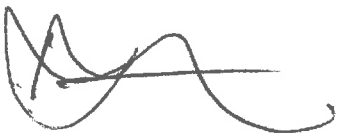
On behalf of Homeless Oxfordshire thank you so much for your kind donation of welfare items. We are extremely grateful for your support, as you may have seen in the recent local and national press these our challenging times for homeless services in the county. Unfortunately in recent cuts, 80 beds from our supported housing project at Crown House have been decommissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, which in reality means we need to find replacement funding to secure these beds going forward and so your support is welcomed now more than ever.

Around 600 rough sleepers pass through our services each year. The number of homeless people is rising with a 42% increase in Oxfordshire in 2015 alone. Those particularly vulnerable to becoming homeless include young people leaving care, ex-offenders and refugees. Most of those who are homeless face a combination of physical, emotional, financial and social problems, which often results in complex needs that require personalised and in-depth support. Many have experienced mental health problems, drug or alcohol misuse, domestic violence or abuse, unemployment or family breakdown. Homelessness deskills and isolates people, it destroys their confidence, self-esteem and they lose any social ties they may have had.

Is it not enough anymore to just provide a bed for the night, with continued budget cuts and services disappearing almost overnight we have developed programmes to help engage with our clients and to "unpick" their reasons for being homeless; helping empowering clients to access support services, education, training, accommodation; eventually leading to employment and independent living. The core of the work we do with all of our clients is about resilience, building social assets, helping them to absorb/cope with life's ups and downs, ultimately aiming to become self-reliant. Giving them the resilience to not return to old habits when the going gets tough but to seek help and support or to feel confident enough to be able to ride the storms themselves.

Homeless Oxfordshire are committed to breaking the cycle of homelessness; we have seen rough sleepers move through our services after 20 years of living rough to lead fulfilling lives. We couldn't do this without your support so on behalf of all at Homeless Oxfordshire once again thank you we really do appreciate your support.

Best wishes,



Mackenzie Aspell
Fundraising and Event Coordinator

P.S. Please call/email me at any time if you have questions, would like an update on what we're doing, or wish to volunteer for one of our projects. We would love to meet you in person so we can say thanks, face-to-face.

Incorporating: O'Hanlon House, Julian Housing, Oxford Homeless Medical Fund, Oxford Sleep Out, OCTS

