

# The Winchester Beacon

Annual Review 2021

Lighting a way out  
of homelessness



THE WINCHESTER  
**BEACON**  
Lighting a way out of homelessness





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## Our Vision

To transform lives, inspire hope and end homelessness.



## Our Mission

To help break the cycle of homelessness by enabling people to rebuild their lives through independent living.



## Our Values

Honest and open  
Safe and supportive  
Flexible and caring



## About Us

For 35 years, we have been giving essential and life-changing support to people experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. We provide a temporary home, food and vital support services every day and night of the year.

We are proud to have begun as a traditional winter Nightshelter set up by Churches Together. We have evolved to become a 24-hour service offering people the opportunity to escape homelessness for good through access to our bespoke wraparound support.

In 2021, we changed our name from Winchester Churches Nightshelter to the working name of **The Winchester Beacon** to better reflect the far-reaching service we now deliver.

Providing more than just a bed for a night, we give the hope and personalised support our residents need to make a change and move forward.

We have **10 single bedrooms** on site at Jewry Street and a further **8 bedrooms** across two off-site properties, soon increasing to a total of **12 off-site** bedrooms with the recent completion of a new house purchase. Some of our residents stay with us for just a few weeks and others stay for many months.

We explore with each individual the problems at the root of, and as a result of, their homelessness and work with their strengths to plan a path forward. Residents can look at different accommodation options to suit their needs whilst having a safe base to live, with the opportunity to develop essential life skills and with encouragement to follow their aspirations.

*"It soon became clear that The Winchester Beacon was just what I needed. It was somewhere that I could start again. The staff understood my situation, they didn't judge me and they knew what I needed to do to help myself. They didn't rush me, they gave me time and were so patient." Scott, resident 2020-2021.*





# Welcome

My second year as Chair has been as eventful as the first! We are expanding and changing our name to better reflect our work and ethos. Last year we reported on the impact of Covid-19 on our work, this year we are looking at the longer-term consequences with reference to mental health and wellbeing.

According to the Office for National Statistics, **the average age of death of a person experiencing homelessness is 46 for males and 43 for females.** This is more than 30 years younger than the general population. Homelessness often arises from competing events such as relationship breakdown, debt, ill health or addiction and none of us are immune to these issues. Tragically 1 in 3 people experiencing homelessness have attempted suicide, and 7 out of 10 will have some form of mental health issue.



Homelessness and ill health are intrinsically linked and Covid-19 has the potential to escalate these issues across society. However, it is also a catalyst for change for the good as we continue to look at ways of creating a better, healthier environment for our residents. At Jewry Street, single bedrooms, necessary for hygiene reasons relating to the pandemic, also provide our residents with much needed privacy and personal space. Our communal lounge and dining room provide companionship, and we are proud of the family atmosphere that our residents and staff enjoy, supported by our fantastic community of over 300 volunteers.

Looking back, in 1995 our aim was to provide a bed for the night, an evening meal and breakfast. Residents stayed for a maximum of 14 days. This year, we accommodated 33 residents with an average length of stay of 116 nights at Jewry Street and a further 12 people at our two move-on houses. Since 2010, we have been offering one-to-one support and we currently provide counselling, psychotherapy, assistance finding work and most importantly, access to a peer mentor, Charlie Radbourne, who is also an Adviser to the Board of Directors.

My thanks go out to my fellow Board Members, to Michèle Price and the team, our volunteers, and of course to you, our supporters, without whom we could not continue to make progress in our vision to transform lives, inspire hope and end homelessness.

**Tracy Jones**  
Chair of the Board



# Lighting a Way Out of Homelessness

*Michèle Price, Chief Executive*

As with so many organisations, the pandemic has meant quickly finding new and effective methods to ensure we can continue to operate. It transpires that changes initially made from necessity have brought benefits for our residents. It is with this in mind, that we have taken the opportunity to make permanent changes to our service going forward.

Our temporary move to being open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week will now become a long-term change. Being able to access our service all day and night has provided residents with increased stability and led to the delivery of more consistent and effective person-centred support. The move to single rooms, which was essential in being able to remain open during the pandemic, will also remain in place. Residents have described how they value the feeling of privacy and safety provided by a single room. Following the successful purchase of an additional 4 bed house this year we now have 3 offsite properties, which will shortly increase our numbers of those we accommodate to 22 people per night.

As we moved further away from our roots as a traditional winter Nightshelter, we recognised that our name no longer reflected the far-reaching service and support that we provide each and every day and night of the year. Many residents have explained that our name was a barrier to them seeking help and accommodation. For many, the name Nightshelter conjures up worrying images of large, shared dormitories that can make our residents feel ashamed about needing a bed with us.





Far more than just a place to shelter, residents find a variety of support including job searching, validating ID, offering mental and wellbeing support, physical activities, resolving pension queries, sourcing move on accommodation, accompanying people to appointments - the list is endless. Our wide-ranging support was particularly evident during

recent months when staff called former residents to offer support and help prevent isolation during the pandemic.

Thanks to so many generous donors, we can give out laptops, bicycles, fridges, kettles and other items required by outgoing residents to help them set up in their new home.

I am very excited to reveal that after consultation with residents, volunteers, staff, and supporters we are renaming our service **'The Winchester Beacon'**. We have been lighting the way out of homelessness for over 30 years providing hope and opportunity in people's darkest times. We are proud of the many ways in which we empower our residents to move on and into more independent living, and our ability to continue to provide support on a regular basis if required. Our beacon of hope is only able to shine so brightly thanks to the community of volunteers, supporters and staff behind it.

Most importantly - when things go wrong in life we answer the call for help, 24/7 every day and night of the year. Past and present residents all know we are there for them in times of need. We aim to continue to be able to shine a light on the achievements and progress made, however small or large.



THE WINCHESTER  
**BEACON**

Lighting a way out of homelessness



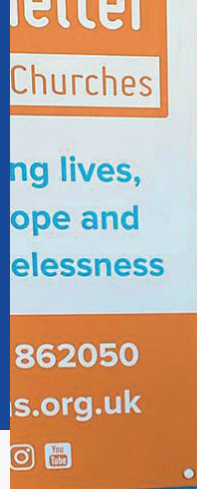
## Spotlight on Our Staff

George works full-time in the role of Support Worker at The Winchester Beacon and has helped hundreds of our residents. Through one-to-one support, George is able to identify each individual's support needs and work with their strengths to help them to escape homelessness for good.

“ No two days are the same. That's because each resident is dealing with their own set of circumstances and personal challenges. My support is tailored to the needs of each resident so one day I might accompany someone to a doctor's appointment and the next day I could be helping someone else to set up a bank account.

I work with each resident to uncover the obstacles that they face and help them to **heal and rebuild**. This includes looking at their health and wellbeing and also their hobbies and pastimes. Having been homeless with often chaotic lives, many of our residents have forgotten what it is that they enjoy doing.

The feeling I get from being able to help someone move on with their life is amazing, I love supporting people. I really like listening to their stories and hearing **how far they have come during their journey.**”



“ I'd like to thank you for the many hours you have spent helping me over the past five years George. Yourself and others especially the counsellor Lorraine, have been critical to my survival. I am so grateful to those who have given of themselves to help me. I am trying to get to a place where I can help others, and I know this will help me too. **Brian**, former resident.





## Mind Matters

Our residents don't just find a safe place to stay when they enter our front door, they also uncover a friendly, supportive and non-judgemental temporary home where they have the chance to begin again. Whilst our residents are with us they have the opportunity to access free support such as counselling, psychotherapy and peer mentoring support. Emphasis is placed on helping our residents to reach out for the support they need for their mental and physical health.

*Current and former residents have the opportunity to meet with our counsellor Lorraine who has been supporting our residents for over ten years*

“ Talking therapy can help our residents in so many different ways. Sadly, many people who we help have never experienced pure empathy or unconditional positive regard. Having it allows them to recalibrate what they may or (hopefully) may not accept in relationships in the future. Trauma can often be a contributing factor to homelessness and can result in chaotic and destructive addictions that accompany an individual trying hard to self-medicate the pain in a post-trauma existence.

*If we feel valued and respected, loveable and forgivable, imperfect yet perfectly human, then we are more likely to manage better the ups and downs of life. We will thrive and experience life rather than exist amongst everyone else feeling isolated and alone. The Winchester Beacon offers this lifeline. I'm so proud to be a little cog in that wheel! “*



Being open 24 hours a day since the beginning of the pandemic has provided the opportunity to offer more daytime activities to benefit our residents' wellbeing.

This year, we have offered Rides for Wellbeing in association with a local social enterprise, Bespoke Biking. Residents are taken on guided rides which allow them to explore new places, benefit from exercise and momentarily escape the challenges that they are facing.

Residents also had the opportunity to take part in creative sessions run by Core Art Journaling. Residents learnt how to express their feelings and experiences through art and practised journaling techniques to help them to cope in the future.



## Our Impact

2020 – 2021

228 

hours of psychotherapy and counselling were delivered

26 

current & former residents attended psychotherapy or counselling

In 2019 – 2021: 33% of our residents had mental ill health 30% of our residents had drug-related issues 26% of our residents had alcohol-related issues



There are lots of reasons why someone can become homeless, but if you become homeless because you have issues in your life then until you deal with those issues you are going to keep becoming homeless.

**Steve**, resident 2020 – 2021



# Supporting the Individual

When residents arrive at The Winchester Beacon, the most pressing need is to give them a safe and welcoming place to stay. Once settled, each resident has the opportunity to access one-to-one support to identify the help and guidance they would like to receive to allow them to move on to a more stable future.

Our wrap-around care takes a person-centred approach with staff well-trained in supporting people coping with trauma. Many residents lack a safety net of support in their day-to-day life and often their self-esteem can be low. Our wide-ranging 24-hour support can help to make a long-lasting difference as we come alongside residents to guide and encourage them towards achieving their goals.

Some residents just stay for a few weeks and others for several months, the average length of stay is about four months. It can take time for residents to be in a strong enough place to make the step to move on. Our preventative approach focuses on supporting our residents to escape homelessness for good rather than finding a quick fix. **Our support includes:**

- ✓ Psychotherapy
- ✓ Peer mentoring
- ✓ Wellbeing and coping skills
- ✓ Employment support
- ✓ Tenancy training
- ✓ Budgeting support
- ✓ Substance misuse support
- ✓ First aid skills
- ✓ Counselling

Our support continues when residents leave to move to their own accommodation. Our Support Workers and Peer Mentor provide ongoing support with former residents regularly accessing our services many years after their stay.

“ Everyone deserves a chance even if you have messed up all your life. To be given a chance like this I am really really grateful. The staff are over awesome. I could not expect or want more, it is just perfect. Luke, resident 2021





## Ian's Story

Ian had been in and out of homelessness for many years and was struggling with his mental and physical health. We were able to accommodate him in one of our move-on properties where he was given personalised support to get back on track. Ian is now in employment and has just moved to his own flat.

“*The support I have received has been immense, it's turned my life around. I am the happiest I have been for twenty or thirty years. I don't believe that I will ever be homeless again, I know you can't ever guarantee that as you don't know what is around the corner, but I believe that I now have the skills and the support to make sure that doesn't ever happen.*

*The Winchester Beacon has given me the opportunity to sort out everything in my life, it is still an ongoing thing, it's not cured and I will always have my trials and tribulations but I can cope now. 'I know that if there is a problem I can contact The Winchester Beacon for support.'*”



## Our Impact 2020 – 2021

12 

people stayed at our two  
move-on properties during  
April 2020-March 2021

Having purchased an additional  
four-bedroom property in August  
2021, we will now be able to  
accommodate a total of 22 people  
across four sites.

# Our Finances

The financial information for 2020 - 2021 is shown in a simplified breakdown of income and expenditure. More details and the full report from the Independent Examiner are available from The Winchester Beacon office.

Total Income		
<b>£562,011</b> (2019/20 £411,425)		
Local Authority Grants	<b>£110,840</b>	(2019/20 £101,511)
Resident Payments & Housing Benefit	<b>£94,351</b>	(2019/20 £125,967)
Donations	<b>£356,820</b>	(2019/20 £183,947)

The whole of the last financial year was spent under the Covid-19 regime which, with fewer residents and additional staff, saw costs rising significantly. Thankfully, our loyal donors rallied round to our cause and donations **went up by 88%** compared to the previous year. Several Covid related grants were received from **Government and charitable** sources which totalled **£65,921**.

Total Expenditure		
<b>£416,735</b> (2019/20 £361,226)		
General Running Costs	<b>£103,548</b>	(2019/20 £96,497)
Resident Support & Wellbeing	<b>£106,973</b>	(2019/20 £120,338)
Staffing Costs	<b>£206,214</b>	(2019/20 £144,391)

At the start of the year we introduced a new way of collecting donations via our website. This was to ensure that we had different ways to give that suited every potential donor. It also meant that we could be more efficient at collecting Gift Aid and we are pleased that our **Gift Aid contributions rose by almost 30%**.

*The increase in general costs reflected the 24/7 open regime with higher catering and cleaning costs. Resident support and wellbeing, which is key to what we do, fell slightly due to the decrease in the number of residents. In real terms it increased from £7,038 per resident to £10,697. The staff costs reflect the new 24/7 opening regime.*



During the year, our move-on houses provided a safe and secure home for eight residents. These rooms are let on rates that reflect the most affordable end of the market and are significantly better value than commercial lettings. Any surplus created by the houses is used to support our ongoing work at Jewry Street. In this current financial year, 2021-2022, we have acquired a third house adding a further four bedrooms to our existing eight.

For such a difficult year it is perhaps surprising that we generated a surplus of £145,276. The always impressive support of our donors is to thank for this along with the Covid-19 related grants that we managed to secure. This surplus will help fund part of the essential refurbishment works at Jewry Street to bring the accommodation in line with new post-Covid-19 guidelines during the current year.



**£3** donation will sponsor a bed for one night



**£10** will include home-cooked meals, clothes and toiletries



**£20** will provide a resident with a one-to-one support session.

## How to donate

You can make a one-off or regular donation via our website. Or text the word **BEACON** and any amount up to **£20** to **70560**. You can also donate via payroll, in your will or by cheque. Find out more [www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk)



*Thank you to everyone who has donated this year for your kindness and generosity.*

## Gift Aid

Did you know that if you are a UK tax payer we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated via Gift Aid? There is no additional cost to the person donating.



# Our Year in Images



## Light Up Winchester

Winchester Round Table overcame lockdown restrictions to light up the city's sky on Bonfire Night raising money for us and other local charities.



## World Homeless Day

An art installation at the front of our building marked World Homeless Day with each pair of shoes representing someone who had stayed and been supported over the last 12 months.



## Guardian Angels

Supporters spent lockdown making macramé angels with the help of Isabella from Twome. At Christmas, donors received an angel when giving £10 to cover a night's stay.



## Christmas Gifts

Thanks to supporters, volunteers and staff, Christmas was made as special as it could be with a further wave of the pandemic bringing tighter measures.



## Community Rallies Round

Our wonderful local community continued to help out even when lockdown made it tricky.



## Move On

Phil was one of many residents to move on to their own accommodation with the help and support of staff.



## Puzzling Times

Donations of jigsaws and board games helped residents to while away yet more lockdown time.



## Winchester Rotary

Winchester Rotary supported us throughout the year with the sale of a children's book penned by a local author, Diana Brooks, and other fundraising activities. They raised an amazing £8,500.



### Rides for Wellbeing

Bespoke Biking co-ordinated Rides for Wellbeing which gave our residents the chance to build self-esteem whilst enjoying fresh air and exercise.



### Fashion Week

To celebrate Winchester Fashion Week and our building's roots as a Burberry factory, Winchester School of Art students designed outfits using Burberry fabric which they modelled at our building.



### Local Hero Awards

Our charity's volunteers and staff were both recognised at the Mayor's Local Hero Awards celebrating people who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic.



### Thank You!

As lockdown restrictions eased, we enjoyed seeing more supporters at the window.



### A Fond Farewell

Staff, volunteers and residents said goodbye to Angela when she moved on from her role as Operations Manager..



### A Healthy Partnership

A collaboration with Ooooby Hampshire gave supporters the opportunity to donate a harvest veg box.



### New House

A four-bedroom house was purchased to help provide additional move on options to residents taking the total number of people we can accommodate to twenty-two.



### Charity Award

Staff, residents and volunteers celebrated after receiving the Charity Award at the Winchester Business Excellence Awards.



## Volunteering

Volunteering at The Winchester Beacon is an opportunity to do something practical and positive to help people who are experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. We can only provide our life-changing support thanks to our volunteers who generously give their time and skills.

We are extremely grateful to the volunteers who have helped our charity to adapt and cope during the pandemic. Many volunteers who were unable to come in found ways to contribute from home whilst those that could come in took on additional shifts. We have also enjoyed welcoming lots of new volunteers on board to help cover our extended opening hours.

### Three cheers for our volunteers!

Our volunteers are top-notch and it has been great to see this being recognised city-wide. This year, our volunteers accepted a Mayor's Local Hero Awards for their contribution during the pandemic as well as awards at the High Sheriff Community Awards and the Mayor's Community Awards.

“ I am lucky to be part of a great team of volunteers that show every day how much they care about helping our residents rebuild their futures. Homelessness is an issue that has affected my family and I feel happy to be able to assist with an updated CV, providing a hot meal, or a chat.” Lesley, volunteer.

“

I have had the privilege of coming to cut residents' hair for nearly four years. I've met some great people and it is an amazing feeling to be able to boost someone's morale and confidence by using a skill I can offer for free. I really missed not being able to come during the pandemic but it was satisfying cutting off lots of hair on my return!”

Laraine, volunteer and owner of Twelve Hair design





# Become a Volunteer

You can join us in helping people who are experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. There are opportunities to volunteer at weekends, evenings and overnight. How regularly you help out is up to you, volunteers simply log in online and book in when they are available. There is always a member of staff working alongside volunteers.



“ I feel ashamed to say that around 27 years ago when hearing about the Nightshelter, I questioned why we needed it in Winchester. I decided to volunteer as a cook to see for myself.

Over the years, I have heard the most tragic stories of those who have suddenly lost loved ones, businesses have collapsed and other unexpected misfortunes have occurred. The Winchester Beacon offers a fantastic temporary safe home for people in need and provides help and services in a range of ways to get residents back on their feet and ready to face the world again. The joy and happy face I see when someone tells me with great excitement that they have found a property to move into and will be shortly leaving to look after themselves is rewarding for the very small part I still play to this day.” **Amanda**, volunteer

## Daytime helpers

At weekends, chat with residents, help with odd jobs or just relax and be a presence alongside the member of staff, various shift times. During the week office volunteers are needed on a regular basis, hours by arrangement.

## Evening helpers

- 6pm – 9pm (from 5pm on Saturdays)

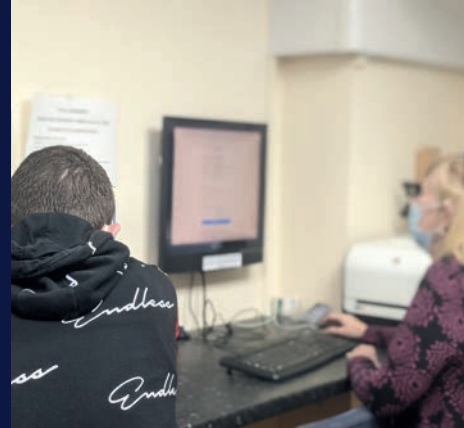
Support the member of staff with a range of duties.

## Evening cooks

- 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- Cook up a meal of your choice or heat up donated food and serve it to our residents. Screens have been fitted between the kitchen and the seating area in response to the pandemic.

## Overnighters

- 9pm – 8am
- Perfect for those who are too busy to volunteer in the daytime. Stay with us in your own private room and volunteer in your sleep.



## Skills to share?

We are also keen to hear from people willing to share their skills and experience. Perhaps you could help residents with CV writing skills? Or could you run a cookery, fitness or art class? Or maybe you could support our staff with IT training?

Please get in touch to find out more, [admin@wcns.org.uk](mailto:admin@wcns.org.uk).

# An Inspirational Community

Our work simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our incredible local community. Thank you to the businesses, community organisations, churches, colleges, schools and universities that give resources, time and expertise to help our charity.

We are particularly grateful in a year that we know has been very tough for many local businesses and organisations. Even with these challenges, so much support has continued. Here are just some of the ways our community has helped.

Churches and schools donated essential items during harvest. **Arup** in Winchester made a generous **donation of £500** rather than sending out corporate Christmas cards. **CleverTouch Marketing** put together festive food hampers for our residents living in our move on houses.

Local branches of **Sainsbury's** and **Argos** thoughtfully delivered treats for staff and volunteers whilst **Chococo** kindly donated chocolates for our residents.

Organisers of the **Hat Fair** dropped by after the event with boxes of surplus food and other items.

**Winchester Army Training Unit** raised over **£1000** to help fund our rising costs caused by the impact of the pandemic. Adrian Priddle, owner of **Results Catalysts**, provided technical support and advice to help us host our virtual AGM.

**Ask Italian** donated takeaway pizzas to bring some joy to lockdown for our residents. **Cabinet Rooms** dropped off sweet treats for our residents to tuck into during the Euros. **Cook, Pret** and **Owtons** continue to regularly give food.



Our Christmas cards featured beautiful designs created and donated by local artist **Jonathan Chapman** and Winchester College pupil, **Felix Beddow**. St Peter's Catholic Church donated travel kettles for residents' bedrooms.

**Winchester Rotary** raised funds and gave support throughout the year. Their fundraising included collaborating with a local author and illustrator to publish a book. Rotaract members got busy with the brooms and scrubbing brushes to tidy up the front of the building.



## Could you support us?

Collaborate with us and you can be part of the solution for people experiencing homelessness in Hampshire. All our corporate partnerships are bespoke and aim to be engaging and mutually beneficial.

Whether you would like to give time and skills, organise fundraising, set up payroll giving or sponsor one of our rooms or services please get in touch, [admin@wcns.org.uk](mailto:admin@wcns.org.uk), **01962 862050**.





# Fundraising

Even when faced with the restrictions of the pandemic, our fantastic supporters found brilliant and innovative ways to fundraise.

Students from the University of Winchester came together virtually to plan and host an online Trivia Night which raised over £500.



Scouts of the 7th Eastleigh, unable to meet for their annual sleep out fundraiser, instead raised £170 by sleeping in their gardens, dens and sheds.

Emilie Moffat and her colleagues at UKAD, set themselves a goal to run 100 miles in 30 days in the lead up to Christmas. They raised an impressive £778.

At Christmas, we challenged people to run or walk 5K for our Turkey Trot and donate £10 on completion to fund bed, breakfast, dinner, toiletries and clothes for one person for a night.



## Hop for Homeless

At Easter, families far and wide got involved in our second Hop for the Homeless event by jumping and bouncing together.





Charlotte, age 8, made and sold friendship bracelets which raised £213.

## Kindness is the New Cool



Ten year-old, Etienne was moved to do something to help people experiencing homelessness after a family visit to London a couple of years ago when she was upset by the sight of so many people living on the streets.

“*The idea of how to help came to me in lockdown, I was struggling to cope and it was then that I realised how important it is to be kind to ourselves and others. I came up with the slogan ‘Kindness is the New Cool’ and started doodling logos.*

*With the help of friends and family I have made a range of hoodies, t-shirts and accessories featuring the slogan which I have been selling to raise money for WCNS. I have raised £150 so far but want to keep on raising more!”*

Visit [enc.teemill.com](http://enc.teemill.com) to view and purchase Etienne’s range.



“*Some people don’t pay attention to homeless people or care about them, but I wish we could give them as much as we can.”*

## Can you help us?

An increase in our running costs since expanding our services in response to Covid-19, has made fundraising more crucial than ever. *Could you help to raise the funds we need by holding an event or raising sponsorship?*

Contact us with your ideas, questions and event details so that we can raise awareness of your activities and give our support, [admin@wcns.org.uk](mailto:admin@wcns.org.uk) / 01962 862050.

## Donations

We always feel so grateful to receive a phone call or email offering items for our residents or to help with the running of our accommodation. The generous donation of items helps to save on average an estimated £33,000 on food, toiletries and cleaning products each year.

Thank you to everyone who has shown support by making a one-off or regular financial donation. Being a small charity, we can assure you that your money is spent on helping those who we support.

### Could you spare £10 a month?

Every month you could provide a bed for the night including a home-cooked meal, breakfast, toiletries and clothes by donating £10. Not only will you be keeping someone safe for the night but you will also be offering them the chance of a new beginning. Visit [www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk).



### Bike donation

Chris and Mary gave our residents a bike that they could no longer ride themselves, pictured here with our new Operations Manager, Bex.

*thank you!*







## Christmas gifts

Residents at Brackenlea Care Home put together boxes full of Christmas gifts for our residents.



## How to donate goods

Please check our most-needed items list on our website, [www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk)

Sadly, our storage is limited so we can only accept the items that we desperately need. Email for more information, [admin@wcns.org.uk](mailto:admin@wcns.org.uk).

## A takeaway treat

At Christmas time, Rocket Launch PR and Workshop Winchester workers generously donated money so that our residents could treat themselves to a takeaway of their choice.

## Longstock Park Farm Shop

donated supplies given by customers.



## Flapjacks!

Eight year-old Hugo made a delicious batch of flapjacks for our residents.

## Other ways you can help

Did you know that you can support us when selling items on eBay or purchasing with PayPal? You can also help raise money for our charity when shopping with Amazon Smile and via Easyfundraising.

## Sleeping Bag

We are often in need of sleeping bags and blankets. Abbie and her daughter kindly dropped off a cosy sleeping bag.



# Thank You

Our work is only made possible thanks to the help and support of our volunteers, donors, local businesses, churches and organisations. Sadly, we cannot mention everyone but we want to thank some of the many amazing people who have helped us this year.

## Board of Volunteer Directors

April 2020 – August 2021

**Tracy Jones** Chair

**David Johnson** Secretary

**Marion Fletcher** Treasurer  
(to 8 June 2020)

**Andrew Baynes** Treasurer  
(from 9 June 2020)

**Nigel Bartlett**

**Patrick Fowler**

**James Cretney**  
(to 18 January 2021)

**Alexis Colfer**  
(from 20 April 2020)

**Anthony Arkwright**  
(from 5 July 2020)

**Sarah Davis**  
(from 12 April 2021)

**Charlie Radbourne**  
Expert by Experience  
Adviser to the Board



*A special mention and huge thank you to **Kee Creative** for p*

**Adrian Priddle** from Results Catalysts for his technical support with our first online AGM in 2020

**Bee Jacobs** for her support with our renaming

**Bespoke Biking** for welcoming our residents on Rides for Wellbeing

**Cala Homes** for providing funding towards our activities programme

**Computer Solutions** for their IT support

**Fruits of Fullood** for all their jam and pickle making

**Hampshire Constabulary Police Officers and PCSOs** who assist us in many ways

**Hampshire County Council** for ongoing funding and support

**Harvest UK** for donating fresh groceries

**Jon McAteer** MSc (Psychotherapy), UKCP Registered Psychotherapist for his support through the provision of psychotherapy to our residents

**Laraine** from Twelve Hair Design for offering our residents free haircuts

**Miranda Rocksmith** from Rocket Launch for support with our renaming.

**National Lottery Community Fund** for their donation towards costs associated with the pandemic

**Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust** for kindly supporting our advocacy service



*for producing this Annual Review and creating our new logo.*

**Richard Robson** from Warner Richardson LLP for pro bono legal advice

**St Peter's Church** for their ongoing help and support

**Tesco Extra at Winnall** for the donation of food and Christmas gifts

**The Oak Foundation** for their donation towards the refurbishment of our bedroom facilities

**The University of Winchester** for engaging student volunteers and other initiatives

**Waitrose and Longstock Farm Shop** for their ongoing support via Community Matters

**Winchester Business Improvement District (BID)** for their support via Spare Change for Lasting Change and other initiatives

**Winchester Cathedral** for their help and support

**Winchester City Council and Housing Officers** for help, advice and funding

**Winchester College** pupils for their ongoing help

**Winchester Discovery Centre** for their understanding, support and provision of facilities

**Winchester Fit Club** for involving our residents in their activities

**Winchester Rotary** for their loyal support and fundraising

**Winchester Round Table** for providing the funds to open every bank holiday



## Our Staff

April 2020 – August 2021

**Michèle Price**

**Angela Grobbelaar**  
(to June 2020)

**Debby Hughson**

**Edward Murray**

**Georgina Walker**

**Ian Davies**

**Paul Braithwaite**

**Lee Hayes**

**Hilary Nutbeam**

**Nicci Roberts**

**Kerry Neale**

**Mark Horner**

**Nancy Judge**

**Shelby Pond**

(to March 2021)

**Peter Coles**

(from April 2021)

**Rebecca Willis**

(from July 2021)



## Elliot's Story

Elliot, aged 24, arrived in May after being made redundant from his job in hospitality during the pandemic. After breaking up from his partner and with various debts, Elliot found himself sleeping on sofas each night with no stable residence.

“

*I felt like I had no purpose when I was made redundant, I didn't know what to do with myself and I didn't feel good enough. When I broke up with my partner I was moving between different people's sofas, this was made even harder because of Covid and the restrictions. Sometimes my only option was a hotel so I was building up credit card debts.*

*I really didn't know what to expect when I came to The Winchester Beacon but people make you feel welcome and you really feel like there's a support network here. It's the small things that have really made a difference. They make you aware of any benefits that you're entitled to and give you any support that you need, from filling out forms to learning about computer skills and how to write a CV. I am now back in work and making plans for my future.”*



# Support Our Work

## Volunteer

We have varied and flexible volunteering roles offering supporters lots of choice. Find out more about volunteering with us on page 17 or get in touch [admin@wcns.org.uk](mailto:admin@wcns.org.uk)

## Donate food and goods

Donated food, clothes and other domestic items **save us over £33,000 each year**. Keep an eye on our website and social media for our most-needed items. Please get in touch before dropping off items to check that we are able to accept your donation.

## Financial donations

There are lots of ways you can make a donation to support our work. **Giving just £3 a month** will mean that you are helping to provide a bed for someone **12 nights of the year**.

## What should you do if you are worried about someone sleeping rough?

If you are worried about someone you have seen sleeping rough contact **Streetlink** on **0300 500 0914** or visit [www.streetlink.org.uk](http://www.streetlink.org.uk). Alternatively, contact Winchester City Council on **01962 840 222** or email [housing@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:housing@winchester.gov.uk)

- Head to our website, [www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk](http://www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk) to discover how to make a one-off or regular donation online.
- Text **BEACON** and any amount up to **£20 to 70560**, texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard network message rate.
- Opt in to **payroll giving** or arrange to leave money in your will.
- Scan the QR code to go through to our donations platform.





THE WINCHESTER  
**BEACON**  
Lighting a way out of homelessness

**01962 862050**

20B Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ

**admin@wcns.org.uk**

**www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk**



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 stated in this Annual Review. The purpose of the charity is beneficial in a way that is identifiable and evidenced in this Annual Review. The Annual Review 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.

The Winchester Beacon is the working name of Winchester Churches Nightshelter. Registered charity number: 1080443 which is a company limited by guarantee registered Company number: 03928334. Registered address: 20B Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RZ