

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

Our Vision

To transform lives, inspire hope and end homelessness.

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About us

We have been giving essential and life-changing support to people experiencing homelessness in Hampshire since 1988. We provide a temporary home, food and vital support services every day and night of the year.

We are proud to have started as a traditional winter Nightshelter set up by Churches Together. Over the last 34 years, we have evolved to become a 24-hour service offering people access to bespoke wraparound support and the opportunity to escape homelessness for good.

In 2021, we changed our name from Winchester Churches Nightshelter to **The Winchester Beacon** to better reflect the extensive 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 12 bedrooms across three off-site properties. Some of our residents stay with us for just a few weeks and others stay for many months, in 2021-2022 the average stay at Jewry Street was 91 nights.

We take time with each individual to explore the problems at the root of, and as a result of, their homelessness and then work with their strengths to plan a path forward. Residents are able to 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.



Chair's Welcome



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The times they are a changin'... So said Bob Dylan in 1964, but there is also truth in the phrase coined back in 1849 'the more things change, the more they stay the same!

"In the short term the outlook for our residents does not improve. Cuts resulting from the financial crisis continue to feed through the system, with huge impact. The challenges continue to grow and the capacity of the public sector to face them continues to reduce...consequently, we are expanding the services we offer and preparing to face even greater hurdles.

One of these challenges is that we are dependent on your donations and volunteer support for an evergreater proportion of our budget, so please continue your generosity!"

This statement is as true now as when it was first published in our 2013/14 annual report. Financial crisis,

Covid, the rising cost of living, 'heat or eat' and the war in Ukraine all conspire to make life increasingly difficult for everyone, but particularly those on a limited income. 'Crisis' is predicting that by 2024 core homelessness will increase by 33% compared with 2019. The largest rise being anticipated in sofa surfing and rough sleeping.

We offer a 32% increase in bed spaces compared with 2013. In 2013, we celebrated opening on a Sunday for the first time. We are now open all day and night, 365 days a year.

As we grow, our vision to transform lives remains undiminished. In the last year, we said goodbye to some long-serving members of the Board of Trustees, but we were successful in expanding, recruiting expertise in Accountancy, HR, Safeguarding, and Project Management to complement our existing business, legal, fundraising and consultancy knowledge. Details of our Board can be found on our website.

As always, I would like to thank the exceptional team of staff at The Beacon, headed by the inspirational Michèle Price. Thanks too, to all of our supporters, our dedicated volunteers, and of course to my fellow Board Members, past and present, for their expertise and support. Times may change but our mission continues. Truey Trues that Burd

Chief Executive's Update

As soon as you walk through the door everyone is so welcoming. They looked at me as a human being, it was so powerful. Former resident

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They say first impressions count. It is certainly reassuring to know that when arriving with us this resident felt the warmth and welcoming atmosphere of The Winchester Beacon.

The environment we offer our residents is so important to us which is why since the pandemic, we **continue to provide 24/7 operations** as we feel that we cannot return to having shared bed spaces especially now that our residents have experienced the **privacy and dignity they deserve**. We provide support to current and former residents that is tailored to fit their individual needs, their timetables, and their personal goals.

At the end of 12 months, we achieved our highest ever number of planned moves, 85% of all moves arranged by working with our residents and in line with their support plans to secure more sustainable and longer-term accommodation after they have left us.

This achievement was down to **our hard-working staff** team who patiently and tirelessly helped residents achieve their aims.

Looking to the future, we know our funding will be reduced by Hampshire County Council in 2023 but



we continue to work in partnership with our City Council housing team and other local agencies so that together we can produce a **pathway and route out of homelessness** that can meet the needs of those without their own home.

Residents openly refer to our "homely atmosphere" and the constant availability of support as the reason we are so unique. With over 700 visits this year to our window during the evenings showing the need that some individuals have for companionship, support, or just a friendly face and a chat.

We keep in contact with former residents and offer them help if required, especially to those who might be at risk of losing their accommodation. Prevention being key to people maintaining their accommodation and not returning to homelessness.

We know that in Hampshire there remains a need for experienced services such as The Winchester Beacon, prepared to move with the times and be flexible with support whilst striving to work together in partnership to put an end to homelessness.

Michèle Price, Chief Executive

I am delighted to be patron for The winchester Beacon and to support this important work with people experiencing homelessness within our city, caring for them in need and supporting them into a better future. The Beacon's volunteers and staff are simply outstanding and enable the project to be a bright light of hope for us all. Patron of The Winchester Beacon, the Very Reva Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester.



Building Futures

Meet our Staff

Lee worked in the building trade until a trip to Brighton made him decide to change his direction. He noticed the number of people experiencing homelessness in the coastal city and knew he had to find a way to help. Lee is now a Project Worker at The Winchester Beacon where he has swopped building houses for building futures.



My role involves being there for the residents from welcoming people that have moved in to ensuring our current residents know we are here for them. It is important to build relationships through listening to find the best ways to help and encourage residents to partake in the support available.

It's really rewarding being able to make a difference to people's lives. Many of our residents are vulnerable and feel that nobody cares, seeing the progress that they make and **listening to their stories is a privilege**.

The job has taught me that **anybody could end up** without somewhere to live. A few bad decisions, a loss of job, a break-up of family relationship etc can cause a domino effect. We give everybody breathing space to take stock of their situation.

As a child, my Dad had always instilled a sense of right and wrong. I struggled a bit with that when I was younger but my goal was always to do something to help others and make a difference. I just believe that if you can help, you should. I've always wanted to do this job and for the first time in my life I'm happy at work.

Supporting the Individual

When a resident first arrives at The Winchester Beacon, the priority is to provide them with a safe and welcoming place to stay. Once settled, each resident is able to access one-to-one support to establish the specific help that they would like to receive to enable them to move on to a more stable future and follow their goals.

Our wrap-around care takes a **person-centred approach** with staff well-trained in supporting people dealing with trauma. Many residents are coping with multiple disadvantages and lack support in their day-to-day life. We work with our residents to **encourage them to set and achieve goals** as part of their journey out of homelessness.

Our support continues when residents leave to move to their own accommodation with many former residents regularly accessing our services years after their stay. 66

The winchester Beacon has been a life saver for me, the way the staff go about their work is amazing. They take away the things in life that are causing problems so that you can concentrate on the help and support. Former resident

5

Our support includes:

- Tenancy training
- Budgeting advice
- Substance misuse support
- First aid skills

- Counselling
- Psychotherapy
- Peer mentoring
- Wellbeing and coping skills
- Employment support



Howard's Story

Howard became homeless after losing his job and subsequently falling behind on his rent. During his stay at The Winchester Beacon he has been given one-to-one support to help him to pay off his debts and find suitable long-term accommodation.

Howard moved into his new flat in June and continues to meet regularly with his support worker. Together they are working hard to ensure that he finds a way to manage his bills and paperwork to prevent the risk of a return to homelessness.

This place has turned my life around. Without the staff and people at The winchester Beacon I reckon I would be dead by now.

Our impact 2021-2022:



sessions of counselling took place



sessions of psychotherapy were delivered



visits to our window asking for support

Stepping Towards Independence

In December 2021, we opened the front door to our third 'move on house', so called because it offers residents the chance to move further along their path to independent living.

We now accommodate 12 people across three houses in addition to the **ten people** staying at our main site on Jewry Street.

Each house has four bedrooms with residents receiving regular support from our staff. We **encourage residents** to use and develop their life skills including shopping, cooking, budgeting, paying bills and job hunting. This rehearsal for managing a tenancy helps residents to **regain** their independence and confidence whilst they start to plan for their future.



Our impact:

From April 2021 – March 2022

19

people stayed at the move on houses

37

hours of personalised support was given each week to the 12 move on house residents

Active Opportunities

Our current and former residents are able to access a range of activities on and off site. From weekly cycle rides to art workshops, cookery classes, day trips and quizzes, our programme of activities is constantly evolving.

The activities are an opportunity for escapism and a moment to forget the challenges they may be facing. They can also help to **build self-esteem and confidence** and **improve residents' mental health**. We are grateful for the support of our local community who help to make many of the activities happen.



Perhaps you already hold a class and can spare a place or two for our residents or maybe you would like to run a one-off or regular session just for our residents.

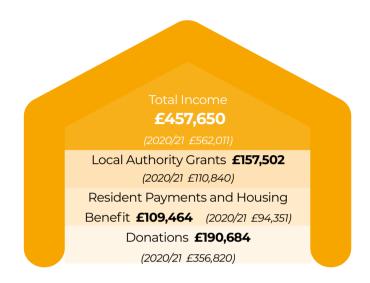
However you fancy getting involved please get in touch.











Our Finances

The financial information for 2021/2022 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.

Most of the last financial year to 31 March 2022 continued under the Covid-19 structure which meant housing fewer residents and additional opening hours, but we are pleased

Total Expenditure
£415,368
(2020/21 £416,735)

General Running Costs £89,208
(2020/21 £103,548)

Resident Support and Wellbeing
£118,071 (2020/21 £106,973)

Staffing Costs £208,089
(2020/21 £206,214)

to report that our costs have remained in line with the previous year. Our loyal donors continued to rally round but understandably not to the same extent as the previous year when we were almost entirely in full lockdown. The result is donations have decreased by 47% compared to 2021.

Our donors continue to use the website for one-off or regular donations, as well as text donations. This ensures we have different ways to give that suit every potential donor. We are pleased that the number of contributions signed up to Gift Aid continues to rise.

Total expenditure is in line with 2020/21. The decrease in general running costs despite being open 24/7 is very encouraging although higher energy costs will undoubtedly increase general running costs in the future. Resident support and wellbeing, which is key to what we do, increased slightly on the previous year. In real terms, it increased from £10,697 per resident to £11,807. The staff costs continue to reflect the new 24/7 opening regime.

We have an increased amount for accountants fees this year of £4,700 as we have engaged Sheen Stickland Accountants to prepare our Accounts and review our systems in preparation for an audit next year.

During the year, we purchased a third move-on house providing a safe and secure home for a further four residents. These rooms are let on rates that reflect the affordable end of the market. Any surplus created by the houses is used to support our ongoing work at Jewry Street.



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.



For another difficult year it is perhaps surprising that we generated a surplus of £42,282 (2020/21 £145,276). The always impressive support of our donors is to thank for this along with local authority grants that we managed to secure. This surplus will continue to help fund part of the essential refurbishment works at Jewry Street to bring the accommodation in line with new post-Covid-19 guidelines.

Our Year in Images



Harvest

Churches, schools and individuals gave generous harvest donations.



Lighting a Way Out of Homelessness

World Homeless Day saw the launch our new name.



Night Walk

University of Winchester students organised a Night Walk to raise awareness of our work.



Christmas Market

We raised money at Winchester Cathedral's Christmas Market Charity Chalet.



New Patron

We welcomed the Very Revd Catherine Ogle, Dean of Winchester, as our new Patron.



Snow Globe

The Christmas Snow Globe collected donations for the Spare Change for Lasting Change scheme.



Oh Yes They Did!

Residents were treated to an outing to the panto thanks to Theatre Royal.



New House

After essential refurbishments, residents moved into our newest four-bedroom house in time for Christmas.



Washing Well

As part of our move away from communal washing facilities, an ensuite bathroom / shower room were installed.



Pedalling for Wellbeing

Residents continue to enjoy weekly rides with Bespoke Biking.



Community Kindness

Our local community brought generous food donations throughout the year.



Pancake Race

Staff and residents teamed up for the Winchester Rotary and Winchester Cathedral Pancake Race.



Crafty Times

Winchester School of Art students and residents customised bags for Winchester Fashion Week.



Volunteer Celebration

Volunteers gathered at Milner Hall to mark Volunteers' Week.



Moving On

Thirty residents were supported to move on to their own accommodation.



On the Wildside

Staff and residents visited Longleat Safari Park thanks to the Jeremiah Colman Gift Trust. 66

Volunteering

Volunteering at The Winchester Beacon is an opportunity to do something positive and practical to help to improve the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Each week we need 24 people to work alongside our staff to ensure we can remain open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. We are always keen to hear from people eager to join our team of volunteers so please get in touch to find out more.

when residents no longer have to find a bed each night and they can stay as long as they need, it gives them breathing space to make strides towards their future. you see residents move on to the nept chapter in their life, they often come back and say how happy they are and how this boost in their life helped them. Lesley, volunteer and Mayor of Winchester Community Award



Hip hip hooray!

Congratulations to Julie, Amanda and Lesley who were recognised at this year's Mayor's Community Awards for their volunteering.

Thomas was presented with the Martin Clarke Award by his school, Winchester College, for his contribution to The Winchester Beacon through volunteering. Thomas and his peers come and help each evening to do the washing up.





Why I volunteer

Neal Mankey Evening Volunteer and Board Member

I began volunteering in 2017 because I wanted to give back to my community. It has been a great experience involving many things from cleaning, tidying and cooking to general support and conversations with residents.

In 2021, I was asked whether I would like to apply to become a board member and I jumped at the chance. It is incredibly exciting and rewarding to be able to contribute to the direction that The Beacon is taking as it evolves and grows its future strategy.

We're looking at many exciting initiatives as a charity in how we can offer a truly exceptional service to everyone that needs to use The Beacon. We need the help of existing and new volunteers that have a clear passion of giving something back to Winchester and the surrounding areas that The Winchester Beacon serves.

Corporate Volunteering

We love welcoming employees from local companies for days of volunteering. It can be a great team building exercise and provides and invaluable insight into how we are helping to tackle homelessness in Hampshire.



Become a Volunteer

We have opportunities to volunteer at weekends, evenings and overnight. Volunteers always work alongside a member of staff and it is up to you how

regularly you help out. Volunteers simply log in online and book in for a shift when they are available.

Find out more www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk.

Next step to volunteering

To find out more details or book an induction please get in touch today admin@winchesterbeacon.org.uk 01962 862050.

An Inspirational Community

Thanks to all the businesses, community organisations, churches, colleges, schools and universities that give resources, time and expertise to help our charity. We simply couldn't do what we do without the help and loyal support of our fantastic local community.

Local shops and restaurants continued to show their support in a variety of inspiring ways. In the run up to Christmas, **Piecaramba** and their customers donated pies for our residents. Food was also regularly donated by **Wagamama**, **Cook**. **Pret** and **Owtons**.

Ooooby Hampshire and their customers donated boxes of fruit and vegetables during harvest and beyond. Generous harvest donations also came in from local schools and churches.

CleverTouch provided Christmas food hampers for residents living in our move on houses. Whilst colleagues at Workshop Winchester collected money rather than giving each other Christmas presents so that our residents could have a takeaway treat.





Earthian, Marks and Spencer and Primark participated in our Winchester Fashion Week 'Drop Your Drawers' campaign and collected new underwear for people experiencing homelessness. Our local Co-op gave Easter eggs for all of our residents.

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The easing of Covid restrictions allowed a welcome return to corporate volunteering days including visits from Brewin Dolphin and Newsquest.

Brewin Dolphin are proud to support The winchester Beacon and the fantastic work they do. They offer vital services - providing food, accommodation and assistance to those in extremely challenging circumstances. It is an incredibly friendly, inclusive and caring environment to be in. Volunteers from Brewin Dolphin, Winchester.





Pupils at Perins School in Alresford invited us to speak about our work as part of their charity challenge to raise £1000 for The Winchester Beacon.



When a resident had their tools stolen at work, there was an overwhelming response to our appeal for help. Together the community raised £477 to help Ryan cope with the theft and prevent him falling into debt.

I am really touched by everyone's kindness. It has given me hope. It is hard to absorb the fact that so many people have helped me. Thank you.

Ryan, current resident



Could you support us?

Collaborate with us and you can be part of the solution for people experiencing homelessness.

All our community and 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@winchesterbeacon.org.uk 01962 862050

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has found creative and challenging ways to raise funds to support our work. With rising running costs and demand for our services growing, the support of fundraisers is key to the future of our service.

The **Kings Beavers Colony raised £391** in sponsorship after moving for an hour without stopping.

University of Winchester students organised a Night Walk to raise funds and awareness of our new name.



Year 1 Skills for Independence and Work students at Eastleigh College raised money to fund 'Homeless Help' boxes packed with essentials and treats.



Peter Symonds College donated the retiring collection from their Christmas Carol Concert.



St Mary's Bentworth CE Primary School pupils slept over at their school and raised £380.



Simon Rickards, decided to use his lockdown locks to make some money for a good cause. Over lockdown his hair had grown to his shoulders so he appealed to friends, family and colleagues at Knight Frank to sponsor him

to shave it off. His target was to raise £5,000 but everyone was so eager to see him have the chop that he managed to raise an impressive £6,000!

I wanted to support The winchester Beacon because of the excellent

work they do in the local community, giving those in need a roof over their head. Delighted to help a local charity, where it seems that every penny raised makes a real difference.

Simon, fundraiser





Fundraise for us

Fundraising is a fun and rewarding way to get people of all ages involved in helping people who are experiencing homelessness. From cake sales to hikes. sponsored silences to summer fetes - there are so many brilliant ways to raise funds.

Contact us with your ideas, questions and event details so that we can raise awareness of your activities and give our support to help to make them happen.

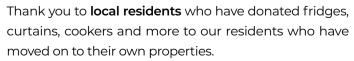
01962 862050 admin@winchesterbeacon.org.uk

Donations

We rely on people's generosity and support to make our life-changing work possible. Thank you to everyone who has made a regular or one-off donation as well as those who have dropped by with donations of food and other essential items such as tea bags, coffee, sugar, cleaning products, sleeping bags, fresh vegetables, meat and more.



Setting up a Home





The University of Winchester donated pots, pans and other items left behind



by international students returning home. **The Bag It Up** programme aims to prevent unnecessary waste ensuring the unwanted items go to a good home.





A New Life for Old Laptops

Computer Solutions, run a fantastic scheme repurposing old laptops. They securely wipe the data from donated laptops ready for school children taking part in work experience with Computer Solutions to refurbish them. The laptops are then donated for our staff and residents to use.

How to Donate

You can make one-off or regular donations via our



website. You can also donate via text by sending the word BEACON and any amount up to £20 to 70560

(your text will cost the donation amount plus one standard network message).

Clever Ways

We understand that things are tight for many people at the moment. Thankfully, there are ways you can give without donating money. If you choose to shop via Amazon Smile or Easyfundraising, they will donate money each time you spend money on your shopping. Simply head over to their websites and choose The Winchester Beacon as your charity.



Donating Goods



Check the most-needed items list at **www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk**. Sadly, we have limited storage so are usually only able to accept the items that we desperately need. Please email admin@winchesterbeacon.org.uk or complete the online form on our website before dropping off your donation.

Board of

Volunteer Directors

Tracy Jones

Sarah Davis Vice Chair

Alexis Colfer Secretary from Dec 2021

Fiona Gibbon Treasurer from Jan 2022

Anthony Arkwright

Patrick Fowler

Vicky Hemmings From Jan 2022

Sarah Watts From Mar 2022

Neal Mankey From Mar 2022

Julian Gerry From May 2022

Andrew Baynes *Treasurer until Nov 2021*

David Johnson Secretary until Dec 2021

Nigel Bartlett Until Mar 2022

Charlie Radbourne Expert by Experience Adviser to the Board until Mar 2022

Thank you

Our work is only possible thanks to the help and support of our volunteers, donors, churches, schools and local businesses and organisations.



Bespoke Biking for involving our residents in Rides for Wellbeing

Cala Homes for giving funds towards our activities programme

CleverTouch for their ongoing support and expertise

Computer Solutions for their IT support

CRASH, the UK construction industry charity for their funding and help with our refurbishment plans

Hampshire Constabulary Police Officers who assist in many ways

Hampshire County Council for funding and support

Harvest UK for donating fresh groceries

Jeremiah Colman Gift Trust for funding a daytrip for staff and residents

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

Laraine from Twelve Hair Design for offering free haircuts

Lottie Stevenson Film for documenting our residents' stories

Oliver Borthwick Memorial Trust for kindly supporting our advocacy service

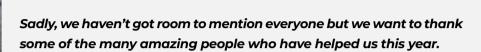
Peter Symonds College for their support

Richard Robson from Warner Richardson LLP for pro bono legal advice

Salvation Army for their generous donation of meals for former residents at Christmas time

Samantha Barnes for the donation of her artwork for our Christmas card 2021

Sarsen Press for their kindness and support



St Peter's Church for their ongoing help and support

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

The Arc for their understanding, support and provision of facilities

The University of Winchester for engaging student volunteers and other initiatives

Upload Printing for the donation of branded jumpers

Waitrose and Longstock Farm Shop for their ongoing support

Winchester Boxing Club for enabling our residents to join their sessions

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 and support

Winchester Fit Club for welcoming our residents to their activities

Winchester Rotary for their loyal support

Winchester Round Table for their continued support

Winchester School of Art for supporting us through their projects

Winchester Sport and Leisure Park for giving our residents free access to their facilities

.A special mention and a huge thank you to **Kee Creative** for producing this Annual Review



Our Staff

Michèle Price Chief Executive

Debby Hughson

Edward Murray

Georgina Walker

Hilary Nutbeam

Ian Davies

Kerry Neale

Lee Hayes

Nancy Judge

Nicci Roberts

Paul Brathwaite

Peter Coles

Rebecca WillisUntil Aug 2022

Mike's Story

Mike found himself homeless after his relationship broke down. Having struggled with his mental and physical health he arrived at The Winchester Beacon feeling low. During his stay, Mike accessed our free counselling service and opened up about his challenges for the first time.

With the guidance and help of his Support Worker, Mike eventually secured long-term accommodation through **Hampshire HomeChoice.** Our Support Worker arranged a furniture package for Mike so that he was able to move in with a bed, armchair and other essentials.

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. Alternatively, contact Winchester City Council on **01962 840 222** or email housing@winchester.gov.uk

I walk in the flat, sit down and just cannot believe it is mine, I think I am just visiting someone. I keep thinking someone is going to come and take away the keys. I am so relieved to make the first step back in life again. The Beacon has helped me an awful lot, it is a good place.





Support Us

Donate food and goods

Donated food, clothes and other household items help us to save around £44,480 every year. Visit our website for a list of our most-needed items. Please get in touch before dropping your items off to check that we are able to accept your donation.

I was relieved when I came here, it was a safe space. Former resident

Financial donations

With rising running costs and an increased demand for our services, **our donations have never been more vital.** There are lots of ways you can give:

- You can make a one-off or regular donation online via our website www.winchesterbeacon.org.uk
- Text BEACON and any amount up to £20 to 70560.
 Texts will cost the donation amount plus one standard text message.
- Opt into payroll giving or arrange to leave money in your will.
- Shop via Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising and raise money for us as you shop.
- Select to support our charity when you use ebay and PayPal.
- Scan the QR code to go through to our donations platform.





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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.