



News from the Homeless Drop-In



The needs of the homeless and vulnerably housed are as great as ever. Statistics derived from Drop-In service users themselves suggest that about half the average attendance of 62 are homeless.

The Drop-In continues to provide for service users' basic needs as well as helping them to move on.

Meeting basic needs

People living on the street and sleeping rough feel so much better about themselves after good meal, a shower and a shave. They love Old Spice aftershave! The discovery that someone cares about them makes all the difference too.

We are very grateful to Nandos on Wimbledon Broadway for their continuing donations of left-over chicken. The photo shows it being turned into chicken hotpot for hungry service users.

Helping service users to move on

This involves talking through their needs and assessing what would help them move forward. Then putting them in touch with the relevant agencies, and helping them to fill in online forms and attend interviews.

Some service users are more successful than others, and for some there may be a continuing need for support.

TREVOR – homeless in Wimbledon

This is a story of Community Police, Merton Winter Night Shelters and the Faith in Action Homeless Drop-In working together.

Trevor is a qualified plumber, and he had only been on the cold street six nights when two Community Police officers were called. He was sleeping in someone's private covered parking space and they wanted him out.

The police brought Trevor round to the Winter Night Shelter, in a local church hall that night. Could they take him in for the night?

Come the morning Trevor needed somewhere to go next, and for someone to help him get off the street and back to having a job and a home. The Community Police reappeared, very anxious to help this fellow human being in trouble, and a Winter Night Shelter volunteer who also volunteers at the Faith in Action Homeless Drop-In contacted Andy the Manager.

Andy came round to the church hall on his way to work. He collected Trevor and his large quantity of stuff, and a volunteer drove them both round to the Homeless Drop-In at the Salvation Army in Kingston Road.

Trevor was welcomed at the Drop-In, when he was ready he could talk through his problems and be helped to find a way ahead back to housing and employment.

The photo shows a volunteer helping a service user with his CV.





Volunteers needed

Volunteers work with professional staff to help create a welcoming environment. This is a wonderful opportunity to be part of a warm and supportive team doing something really worthwhile, and our Investing in Volunteers certificate has recently been renewed. Contact Caroline or Andy – see contact details below.

Some recent arrivals in Britain need help with their English in order to find work and accommodation. Here a volunteer is providing an English lesson at the Homeless Drop-In. (Service users often don't want to be photographed, and model has been used in this photo.)

Merton Mayor visits Faith in Action

On 17 October we welcomed the Mayor of Merton Councillor Brenda Fraser to our AGM, and she warmly supported our work. As the Mayor said, any of us could become homeless at any time, for reasons ranging from family or marriage breakdown to loss of job, alcohol dependency, or mental health problems.

The Mayor noted that the Homeless Drop-In is encouraging the homeless to move on, as well as providing for basic needs and actively preventing homelessness.

Here the Mayor is presenting Andy the Manager and Yvette Ball our Chair of Trustees with the Investing in Volunteers certificate. (Photo by John Stone)



Sleeping-bags for those sleeping rough

Thank you to Capsticks Solicitors who are funding the provision of sleeping-bags. In 2015/16 we provided 84 sleeping-bags for those who needed them.

We all mourn the loss of Rev Andrew Wakefield, and are very grateful to his Executors for funeral donations to Faith in Action in lieu of flowers.

Funding the work of the Homeless Drop-In

Thank you to all those who have used a special event to make a one-off donation.

To ensure that we continue to provide and develop services for the homeless and vulnerably housed, we need continuing financial support from across the local community. With our costs rising and homelessness likely to increase, we appeal for help in broadening our support.

We greatly appreciate the generous regular donations by contributors to our Square Meal Appeal, we and aim to increase these. Can you help? For how to give please visit our website.

Further Information

To learn more about the Drop-In and how you can help, visit our website or contact Andy our project manager on 07843 280419 or email our new email address team@mertonfaithinaction.org.

Please note our new email address
team@mertonfaithinaction.org

Website

www.mertonfaithinaction.org

Follow us on Twitter

twitter.com/mertondropin