



Aylesbury Homeless Action Group

Registered Charity Number 1009983

NEWSLETTER

Issue 3

December 2014



Message from the Operations Team

Thanks to successful funding over the past twelve months the charity has been able to expand the provision that it can offer to clients.

We would not be able to do this without the enormous help of all our volunteers. We would like to take this opportunity to say a massive 'thank you' to each and every one of the incredible people who give their time to help us.

Sadly we are only too aware of the ongoing problem of homelessness in our community. Since last December AHAG has seen 206 clients, who were homeless or facing homelessness, of whom 144 were new to AHAG.

Our expansion has enabled us to further increase the assistance that we give, tailoring advice to individual clients resulting in their increased options and providing support to get people back into housing and maintaining their tenancies.

We have assisted 60 clients into permanent housing over the past twelve months and continued supporting them

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The Hub

The Hub continues to be at the heart of what we offer. It is where we meet all new clients and we aim to offer a safe, warm, friendly environment.

After 2 years volunteering at The Hub, Albertine will be leaving us this month. We would like to thank her for all her time and energy and wish her every future happiness.

We are always interested in recruiting new volunteers to help at our Monday and Wednesday sessions. If you are interested please contact richard.ahag@gmail.com

Did you know ...?

In the last 12 months we have provided 1059 lunches, 69 showers and 54 loads of laundry to homeless clients.

Rickfords Hill

We have increased the opening hours at our Rickfords Hill premises and the office is now staffed five days a week.

Every Friday we offer appointments to clients who work one to one with case workers. They are able to access computers and telephones in order to undertake property searches e.g. look for private rentals, bid for Bucks Home Choice etc. Additionally we also offer support in completing job applications, updating CVs and practicing interview skills.

We now have a washing machine and tumble drier installed at these premises for use by clients.



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Homeless Prevention

This year we have started to develop more work around the prevention of homelessness including work with the Citizen's Advice Bureau, Swan Credit Union and offering courses in budgeting, bank accounts and savings.

For further information please contact enquiries.ahag@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 01296 435026.

New Staff in 2014

We are delighted to have welcomed three new staff to the team. Sarah and Grace were appointed as case workers and work tirelessly to support clients. Richard was appointed as Hub Manager, but also brings unique skills in employment and training and we have seen considerable success with our clients re-entering the employment market.

Partnership with other agencies

We would like to say thank you to all the partner agencies that we continue to work with and are an integral part of the work that we do. In particular, AVDC, Bucks County Council and Thames Valley Police.

We ran a successful community partnership day in the summer to demonstrate to local business and the public, how agencies work together in Aylesbury.

We hope to run a similar event in 2015.

Emergency Night Shelter

Following the success of our night shelter in 2014, where we were able to secure a permanent venue for three months, we are delighted to announce that we have received planning permission to run the shelter in winter 2015 along similar lines to last year. We have appointed two night shelter managers, Michelle and Kevin.

At the end of the last night shelter we had re-settled over 75% of clients and the majority remain housed thanks to the ongoing support provided by the case workers.

This year's shelter opens on 5th January 2015 and will run until 31st March 2015. We are still looking for volunteers to help out during the evening and overnight. Please email us for information at claire.ahag@gmail.com or look on our website: www.ahag.org.uk

