



Aylesbury Homeless Action Group

Registered Charity Number 1009983

NEWSLETTER

Issue 4

June 2015



Message from the Operations Team

AHAG has had another busy six months. We have seen 144 number of people since December and 88 of those were new to our services.

We have continued to provide on-going tenancy support which is vital in ensuring that our clients are able to sustain their housing and to prevent them from the repeating cycle of homelessness.

We have been raising the awareness of homelessness in Aylesbury by the use of local media and BBC Radio 2 (interviewed on the Jeremy Vine show). Additionally we have undertaken several presentations in the local area.



GALAF display stall

Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (GALAF)

GALAF is a local initiative funded by Bucks County Council. AHAG submitted an application for a project called 'First Gear.' The aim of this project is to provide starter packs for those people we have housed. Many of our clients have very few possessions or money. Each starter pack contains the basic essential necessary for a person to live independently, including bedding, towels, kitchen accessories etc. The GALAF scheme is of particular importance to us as it is reliant on public votes. It gives us an excellent platform to raise awareness of our project both through running a market stall and through media coverage.

National Citizen Service

The local High School who are currently involved with the National Citizen Service have selected us as their chosen charity. This is a social action project to build skills for work and life. The project has given us the opportunity to inform and highlight the issues around homelessness and the services we provide. As part of the project they organised a charity stall to raise funds for AHAG.



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Emergency Night Shelter

This was AHAG's fifth year of running our emergency night shelter. The project operated from the beginning of January through to the end of March and was run in conjunction with AVDC.

The project was very successful with 26 people accessing the shelter. During this time we housed 19 people and continue to provide on-going support.

Volunteer Night

Whilst running our emergency night shelter we were supported by 40 volunteers who gave up their time and skills to our guests. We organised a thank you evening, which gave us the opportunity to give feedback on the project and some of the guests that they had met.

Without the support of the volunteers and our staff none of this would be possible.



David Dickason of AHAG receiving a cheque from the Head of Tenancy Deposit Protection, Daren King, and The DPS Managing Director, Julian Foster.

Rent Deposit Scheme

AHAG was successful in securing some funding from the Rent Deposit Protection Service towards enabling us to continue a rent deposit scheme. This is provided to assist clients into accessing private rentals.

Daren King, Head of Tenancy Deposit Protection at The DPS, said, "Over the last year £80,000 of funding from The DPS has benefitted charities and those in need across the country. Both Aylesbury Homeless Action Group and Wycombe Rent Deposit Guarantee Scheme provide vital services in Buckinghamshire and we're very pleased to be able to support their work."