



“Poor people like chocolate too!”

These were the words of one of our clients who had recently been housed by AHAG. This client had been placed in a refuge and we had the privilege of supporting her into safe and affordable housing. As part of the support she was issued with a food bank voucher. The client called to comment on how kindly she had been treated by staff at The Oaks and that they had given her chocolate cake. Also, when she opened her food parcel there was 200g of chocolate inside the box. Hence her delight and joy in calling us to say, “Poor people like chocolate too!”.

This phrase has had a real impact on me as we continue to serve our local community. Too often people are defined by their differences: *homeless - mental health - unemployed*, however, we have more in common than our differences. As we support people in challenging situations we endeavour to provide support that looks at the individual by providing them with dignity and respect.

Thank you to all those people who support people within our community and have the ability to realise that poor people like chocolate too.

If you would like to know more about the work that AHAG does please contact us on info@ahag.org.uk, visit our website www.ahag.org.uk, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter ([info@ahag](https://twitter.com/info@ahag)).



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Changes at AHAG

We have seen some changes to our staffing since September. We have recruited two new case workers—Annette works on Mondays and Josh on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This will help us to meet the current demands for our service.

Sarah has been a case worker for AHAG for five years and has made a real difference to so many people in a housing crisis. She has now taken on the additional role of our marketing/fundraising officer for eight hours a week and will continue to be a case worker for her remaining hours. As well as having previous marketing experience she has a real understanding and passion for the charity. If you would like to contact Sarah please email her at: sarah@ahag.org.uk

Sheila has been volunteering with us for a number of years. Sheila is stepping down for a while and we would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and support of AHAG.

We have a new volunteer, Glyn, who will be supporting us with our marketing and fundraising. Glyn has a vast knowledge of sales and marketing within the pharmaceutical industry and we really value his skills and input as we raise awareness of the work that we do.

More changes

Since September we have changed one of our drop in locations to St. Mary's Church. The advantage of this is that the church is more centrally located making us more accessible to the local public. Our current drop in hours are:

Mondays - Aylesbury Job Centre Plus **10am-11.30am**

Wednesdays - St. Mary's Church, Aylesbury **10.30 am to 12.00 midday**

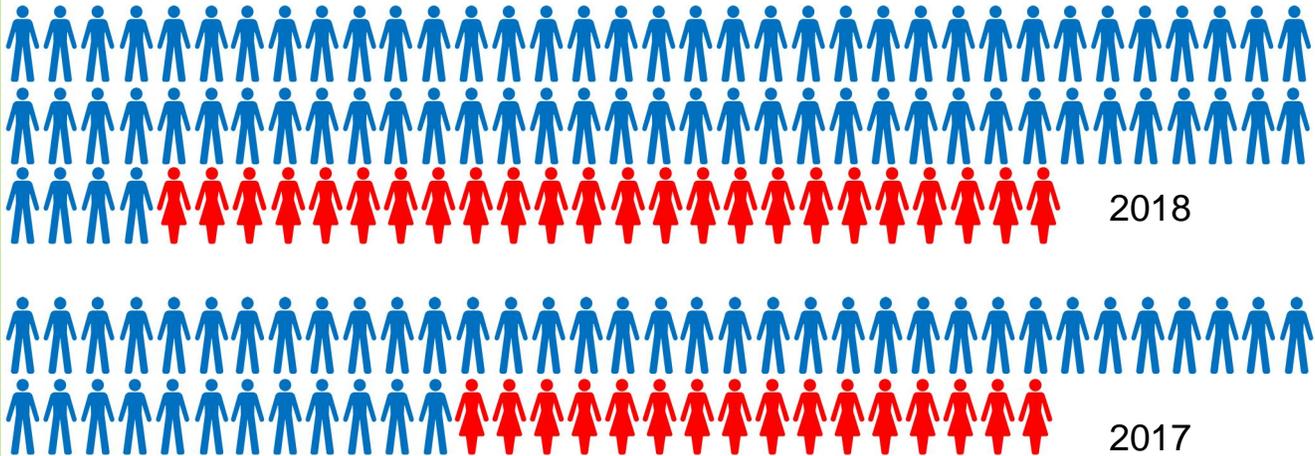
Fridays - Aylesbury Library (temporarily Aylesbury Study Centre) **12.00-1.00pm**

More news

AVDC was successful in securing funding to support rough sleepers in Aylesbury. This funding has enabled rough sleepers to stay in emergency temporary accommodation and receive ongoing support to secure longer term housing. It has also funded the cost of an outreach mental health nurse and drug and alcohol support worker which has been invaluable for our clients. To date we have been able to provide 14 people with emergency accommodation. The funding is currently from September 2018 to March 2019 but it is hoped that it will be extended for an additional 12 months.

Increase in numbers

Whilst the total number of clients receiving support has only slightly increased, we have seen a significant increase (56%) in new clients between April and September of this year compared with the same period last year.



Finally...

In many ways the clients' words are so much more powerful than mine. I finish this newsletter with a thank you from one of the people that AHAG has supported.

“Being homeless as a result of domestic abuse was by far the most challenging and confusing time of my life. I was referred to AHAG by the refuge and from the first day I met Sarah I knew I was in good hands. Sarah was calm and friendly and interacted with me in a dignified and professional manner. I was provided with a wealth of information not just about housing but also other welfare services within Aylesbury. For the first time in a long time, I felt seen and in control of my destiny.

Sarah made me feel like I was her only client. Since I have no family in the country, I deeply appreciated the warm chats that accompanied our weekly meeting. Most of all, I am grateful for the tremendous support and advice that Sarah gave me that resulted in me being able to secure a private rented property. No decision was made without me and my preferences were accommodated every step of the way.

As I begin to rebuild my life, it gives me great confidence to know that I have the whole team at AHAG routing for me. Also I have peace of mind knowing that they are simple a call away should I need advice. So thank you Sarah, Rhian and everyone at AHAG for giving me a hand up when I needed it the most. Thank you for going beyond the call of duty and for treating with the utmost respect at all times. Forever grateful.”