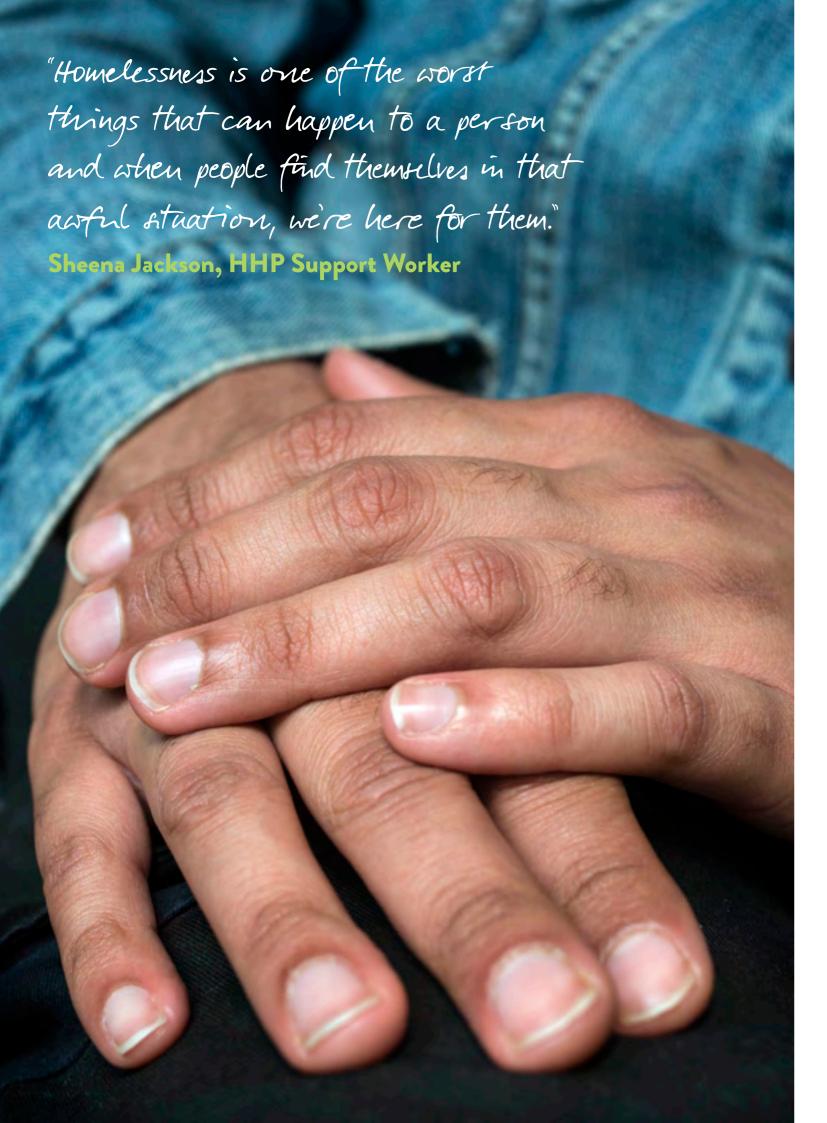


IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022 UPDATE



HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT

Harrogate Homeless Project provides people experiencing homelessness with a safe place to stay and the support they need to build confidence and move towards independent living.

Our vision is that nobody in the Harrogate District has to sleep rough and people experiencing homelessness will have all the necessary support they need.

As we mark our 30th anniversary, we take a look at the difference we have already made to people's lives and how we plan to increase our impact in the future.

Who we help?

We work with a variety of people ranging from those in need of support through relationship breakdown or financial issues to individuals with multiple complex needs such as substance misuse, mental health issues and offending behaviour.

We believe that nobody deserves to be homeless and with the right opportunities, guidance and support we can help those who are experiencing homelessness towards a life off the streets.

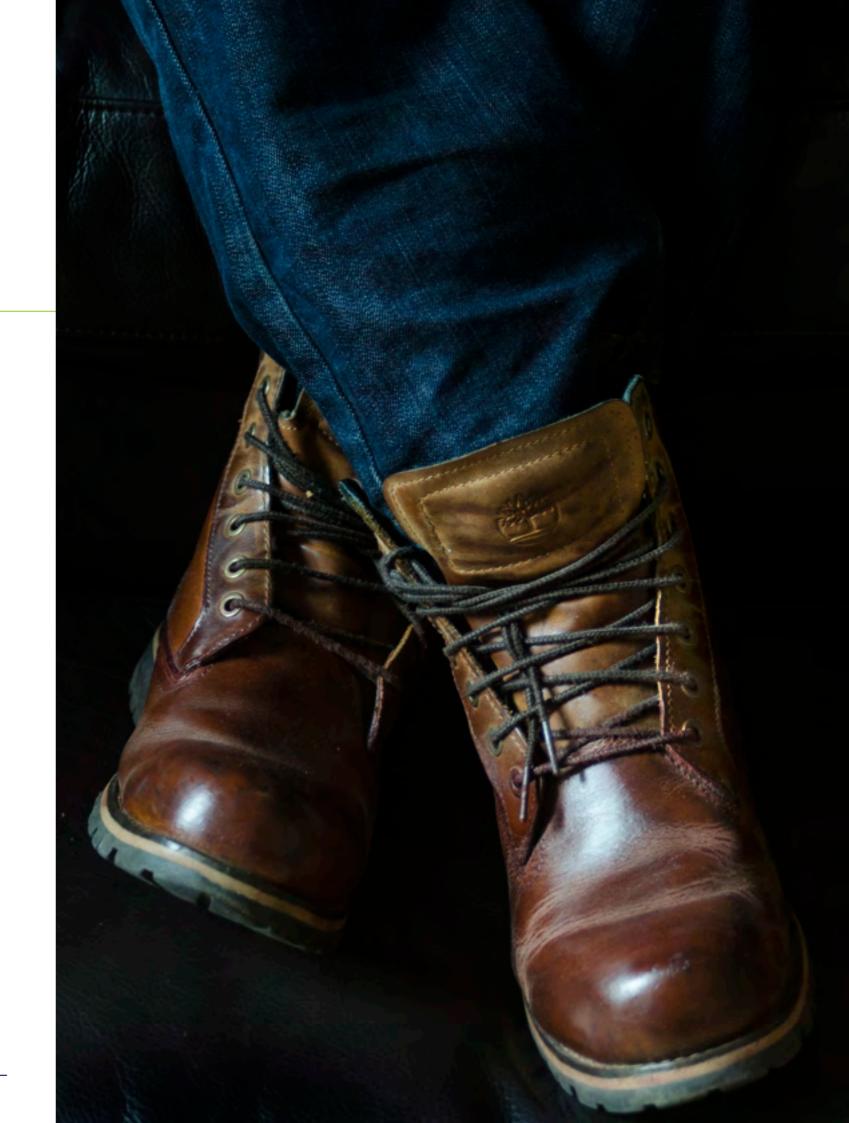
Keith's Story

Housed and employed after just 10 months

Keith grew up in Harrogate and developed issues with alcohol and his mental health when family relationships broke down. He moved to the south of England, stayed with friends and had several failed relationships. His alcohol issues worsened, acting as a trigger for violent offending. He ended up in London rough sleeping where outreach workers referred him to Harrogate Homeless Project due to his local connection.

He arrived low in mood, dishevelled and anxious. We provided emergency accommodation, support to resolve benefit issues and referral to local alcohol treatment services before offering him a hostel room. Keith stabilised in the hostel and received psychotherapy, advice around anger management and relationships, encouragement to open communications with his family and registered with a GP and a dentist.

He continued alcohol treatment in our move-on accommodation. Abstaining from alcohol, in full time work and fully supported, his confidence developed enough for him to reconnect with his family. Just 10 months after being referred to us as a rough sleeper, Keith received an offer of a Housing Association one bedroom flat in Harrogate and we helped him furnish it with donated furniture.





We are a high impact local charity which serves the whole Harrogate District, passionately working on combating homelessness and providing the following services for those in need.

Our day centre, Springboard, provides food, shower and washing facilities, skills workshops, activities, psychotherapy, GP and other medical and therapeutic services. Our staff are on hand to offer people support with

their housing situation and practical help with applications and access to other services.

We run a homeless hostel on Bower Street in Harrogate, which offers temporary accommodation for 16 people and also provides 5 emergency bunk spaces for those with nowhere else to stay.

When our hostel residents are ready to take the next step we can help them get settled into one of our move on homes or other accommodation. Move-on houses provide a stepping stone to independent living with added support from our staff and volunteers.



In 2021 we acquired 8 new self-contained move-on flats on Bower Street, next door to the hostel, where residents can gain greater independence with support still close at hand.

GP Service

Our hugely successful weekly GP service was launched at Springboard at the end of 2017. In the first 36 weeks, 227 patients were seen. Mental health problems featured in just under 30% of visits, whilst 13% required medical help for a chronic disease such as asthma or diabetes and 16% for acute infections. Many cases presented with multiple issues, and an estimated 7% of visits to the GP resulted in the homeless person avoiding having to be admitted to hospital.

Primary care records for homeless people are often missing, or have large gaps, raising the acute need for these records to be shared and therefore accessible across all medical services. The high level of mental health problems points to the need for improved mental health team support for the homeless. The service has highlighted the vulnerability and risk to health which homelessness, and a lack of easy access to primary and secondary medical care services, presents.

In the year 2021/2022

we provided

5 9 4 5

nights of accommodation
to people experiencing
homelessness.
This is an increase from

nights of accommodation due to restricting occupancy as a result of the pandemic but also an increase in people presenting as homeless.

This is an increase of 124%.

Since re-opening the food service in May 2022 we have served 1631 meals up to the end of August.

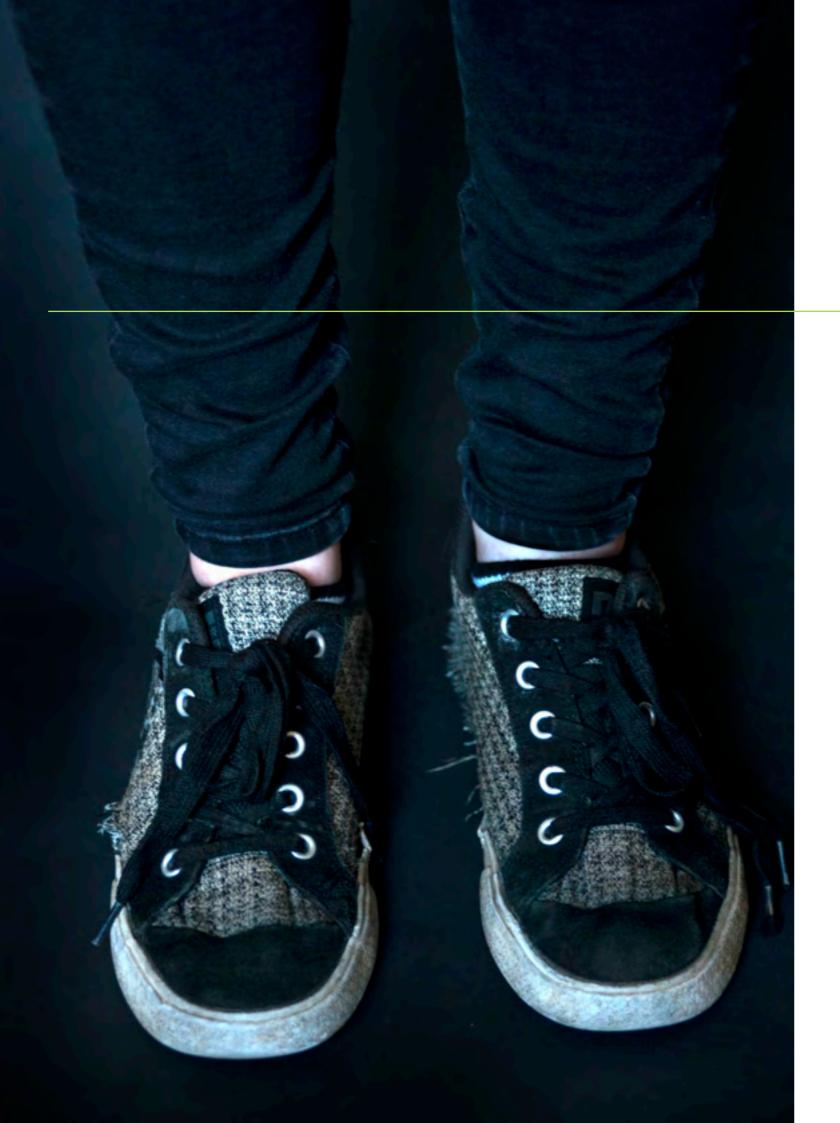
The average occupancy for 2021/22 in the hostel is

80%

But in the last 6 months it is much higher.

We are currently on around occupancy.

98%



2044's Story

Homeless for 40 years

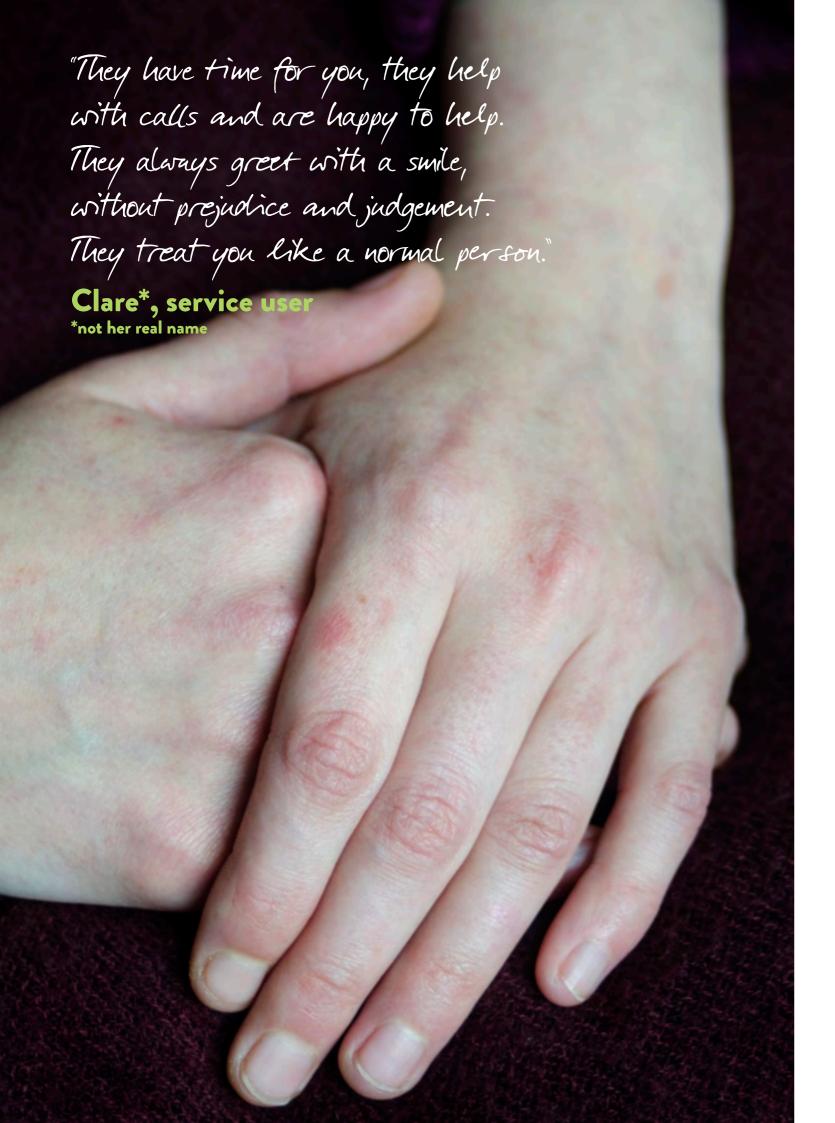
John had been homeless for 40 years, travelling all over the UK, occasionally staying in night shelters but mostly on the streets. He never claimed benefits and relied on finding occasional work on farms and scrapyards.

After a troubled abusive childhood, he had joined the forces to get away from his family and served in Northern Ireland as a young man. He left the Army at the age of 20, homeless and with PTSD. He turned to alcohol as a coping mechanism and has had no contact with his family since.

His dependency on alcohol became chronic and over the years, despite his resilience, his health started to deteriorate. He received numerous convictions over the years for being drunk in a public place and theft. He refused all offers of help or support.

Our staff got to know him gradually over a number of years. He refused to come indoors, even in winter, and staff would keep checking on him and taking him hot drinks. Over time we built trust and started to provide him with one to one individually tailored support.

With our help, John eventually moved into his own privately rented tenancy for the first time in his adult life.



Chair of Trustees statement

We are proud to present our impact report for the year ending August 2022. Through the Harrogate Homeless Project, you, our staff, our donors, our volunteers, the public and private partners, and our multiple stakeholders have made a real difference.

It is hard to imagine the despair that is felt when you have nowhere to sleep and no obvious route to a life where even your basic needs are met. Our role is to help our clients identify and follow that route to a life that most of us take for granted.

The Covid pandemic had a significant impact on our operations and the extent to which we could access and support clients. However, we made sure that we stayed open throughout the period, to make sure our clients could still access basic services, although many of our activities were understandably curtailed. We also cut back on our accommodation under the pandemic guidelines. As the main restrictions started to ease, we agreed to invest in staff to enable our services not just to get back to a pre-pandemic level, but to expand to meet the varying needs of our client base.

In our Springboard centre we successfully reopened the food offering with a professional staff and volunteers providing highly nutritious food, supported by a network of local and national businesses. We now provide on average 20 hot meals a day. As well as the food, clients use Springboard to access the many agencies and third sector partners that

are there to help clients as they undertake individual paths into jobs and longer-term housing. The centre also provides medical services, psychotherapy services, washing facilities, showers, and many other daily needs. Our vision is that Springboard supports clients with the root cause of why they are experiencing homelessness.

All of our properties providing accommodation ranging from emergency accommodation through to supported tenancies, are also now open to full capacity. These facilities provide a vital accommodation pathway from the street to a long-term tenancy.

We enter 22/23 in unprecedented times, and there is a risk that the most vulnerable in our society will be severely impacted, increasing the demand for our services. To meet this need we are planning to expand both our accommodation, and the range of services and agencies in the Springboard Centre.

We are grateful to our donors, Harrogate Borough Council, and other key stakeholders who are supporting us to ensure that we can continue to help people grow from even the most difficult circumstances. Harrogate Homeless Project and all its supporters and stakeholders are ready and able to face the challenges that the next few years may bring.

Chair of Trustees –
Harrogate Homeless Project Limited **David Thomas**



REPORT

This report details the journey, achievements, and goals of HHP, across more than 30 years of working in the community, and more recently over the last 5 years culminating in the current services provided and why these are needed and how these services make a powerful impact within the local area.





Emily's Story

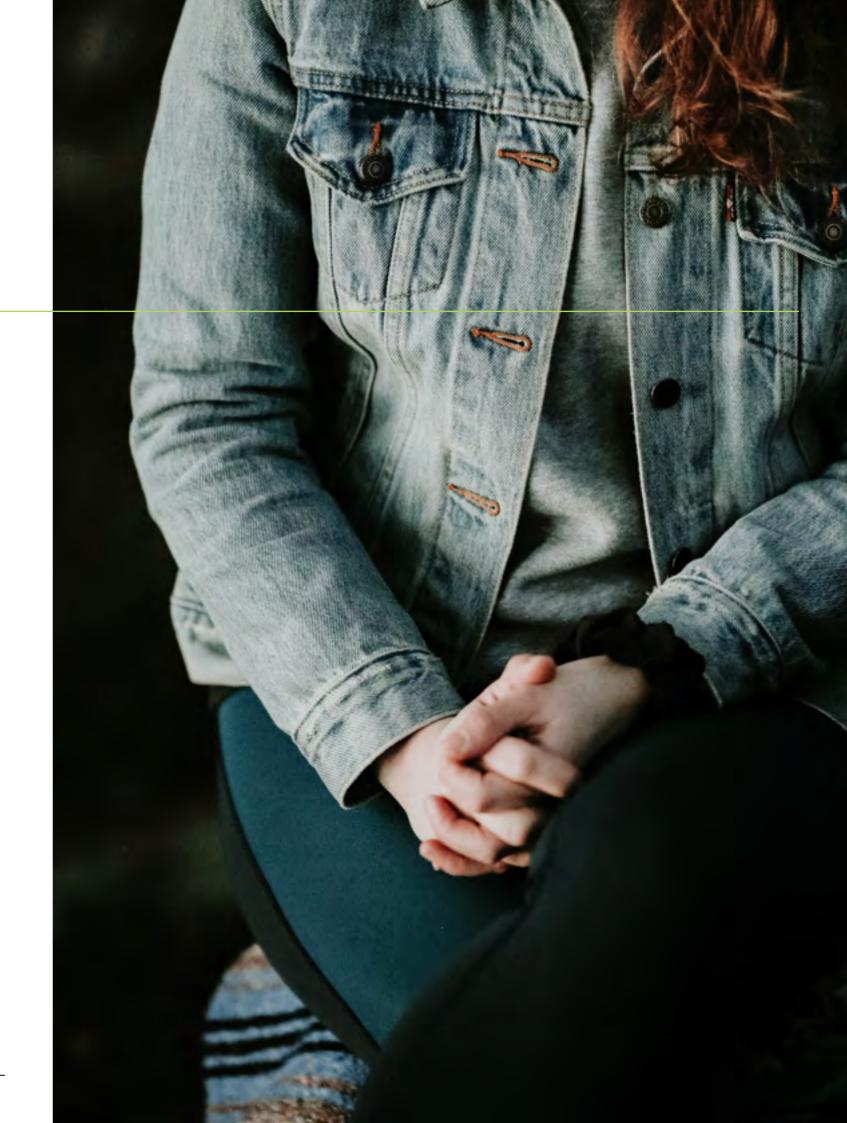
Bereaved and homeless

Emily was made homeless when her partner died and his family took possession of the home they'd shared, leaving Emily at an incredibly low ebb, feeling as though she had nowhere to go and with little hope. After spending a few nights in our emergency bunk accommodation she moved into a hostel room.

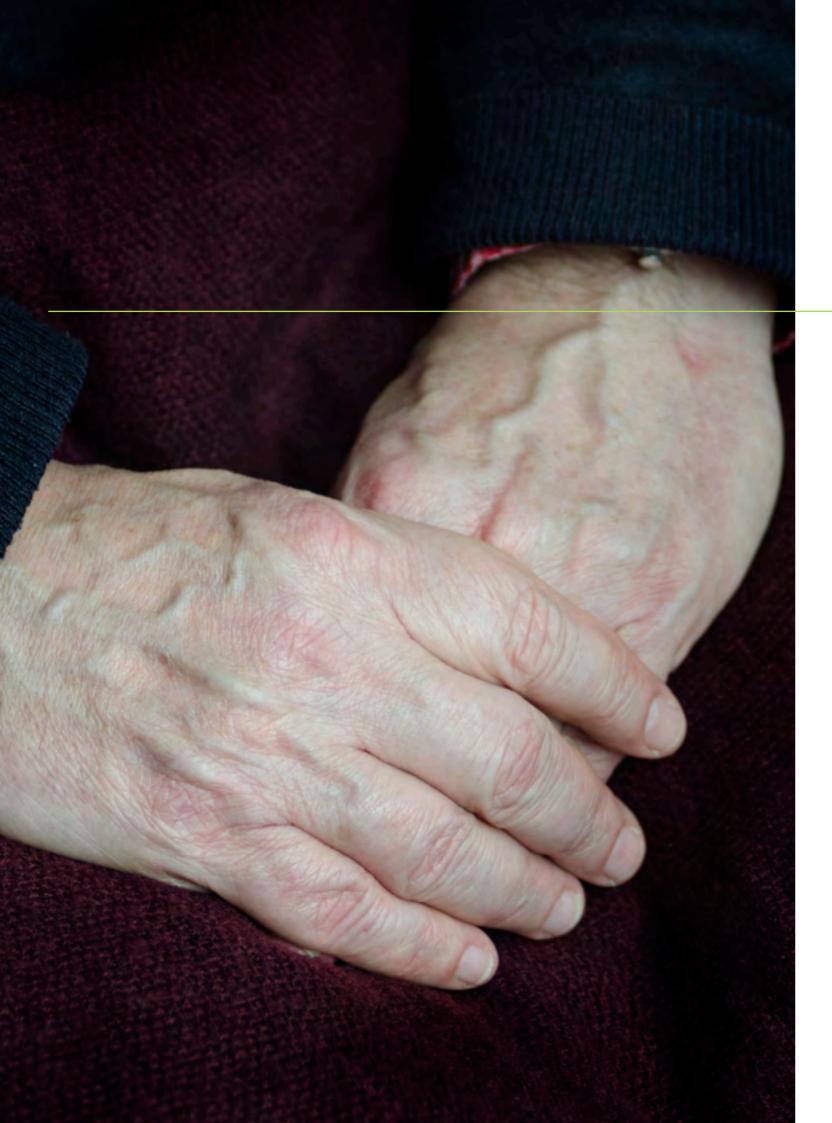
Our psychotherapy service, Streetlight, helped Emily deal with past trauma and the loss of her partner. She started addressing her alcohol issues through counselling and with her support worker. Over time, Emily regained her sense of self, revealing a lovely sense of humour and an appreciation of the support that was offered.

Thanks to her positive approach to hostel life, Emily was offered one of HHP's move on properties – a one bedroomed flat - which she loved and made her own with little personal touches such as ornaments and plants. With support, Emily went from strength to strength. She stayed on top of her bills and budgeted her limited funds. Her dream was to secure a council flat as a permanent home, which she achieved just over 18 months after coming to HHP.

Emily is really happy with her new flat and extremely grateful to the staff at HHP for getting back on her feet. She says they always had time to talk and joke with her and she doesn't know where she'd be without our support.







Will's Story

Employed after a decade without a job

Will's life was chaotic. He had various stays in the hostel which never worked out in a planned way. Then he received a community order for criminal activity and a curfew. He'd struggled in the past but decided he was ready to try again. He turned to HHP for support to stop him reoffending.

With structured input from our support workers and medical support for mental health and sleeping problems, Will's behaviour improved. After two months in the hostel, he decided he wanted to improve his literacy and numeracy skills and find employment, despite not having had a job for 10 years.

Will started feeling more confident and began to have stable contact with his son. He now lives independently, continues to receive support from various agencies and has recently secured his first job.

THE LAST 5 YEARS

2017

5 years ago saw the launch of the GP service at Springboard. In the first 36 weeks, 227 patients were seen for a range of reasons and it quickly led to a reduction of people having to be admitted to hospital.

The 5-year funding programme SAFE (Service for adults facing exclusion) also started and provided a backdrop to the last 5 years. SAFE was developed to provide a safety net and give a direct response to individuals experiencing severe and multiple issues aged over 25 years old. Those who, historically, have had poor contact, disengagement or failed to meet the threshold set by individual services and exclusions with mainstream services.



HHP ran a series of fundraising events across the Harrogate Borough district including popup shops at the Victoria shopping centre and a hugely successful supporters event at St Peters Church to raise funds and awareness.



The acquisition of 8 new move-on flats on Bower Street & the move from Wesley House to larger space in the Lover Halls allowed for an expansion of much needed services.



The Big Lottery Bid provided a partnership opportunity with Harrogate Theatre to start a theatre group for the homeless and the vulnerably housed. HHP was also heavily involved in the Homeless Not Faceless Exhibition in Ripon which aimed at supporting the changing narrative surrounding homelessness.



Covid disrupted the year, but the team at HHP worked swiftly to adapt our services that help those experiencing homelessness in the Harrogate District, as they were affected especially hard by the unprecedented situation.



THE TEAM

SUPPORT WORKERS:

HHP support workers provide direct help to individual clients who are experiencing homelessness and are responsible for assessing their situation, providing crises intervention advice, and offering support via a range of social work plans.

Their primary aim is to assist clients in obtaining access to all forms of primary health care, and other specialist agencies and guide them towards safe accommodation before working with them on employment and move on housing.

HOSTEL WORKERS:

HHP hostel workers provide cover to the hostel during the day and overnight (Night Wardens) to ensure the safety and security of the residents and the building. Hostel workers are the of contact for residents when needed and provide advice and support; working a long side support workers. Hostel workers provide office cover, complete administrative tasks such as hostel admissions and ensure concise logs are completed on a daily basis.

Hostel workers deal with members of the public, face to face or on the phone, handling enquiries appropriately along with accepting donations and issuing receipts. Hostel workers work on a rolling rota to ensure the project is staffed 365 days a year.

VOLUNTEERS:

Our team of dedicated volunteers play an essential role in supporting staff in our facilities, and we rely on their help to keep many of our services running. There are lots of ways volunteers support us, such as by offering occasional support during fundraising events and campaigns or more providing more regular help at our hostel to sorting through donated items.

When the **COVID-19 pandemic** first hit and the nationwide lockdown was introduced, we worked swiftly to adapt our services that help those experiencing homelessness in the Harrogate District, as they were affected especially hard by the unprecedented situation.

The team mobilised with the support from the local community, sourcing facemasks for use in all communal areas, providing hand sanitizer and hand washing facilities across all services and increasing daily cleaning of touch points on all premises. Checking in with service users daily to establish if they had any COVID-19 symptoms and daily temperature monitoring allowed the services to continue running within a safe environment.

Unfortunately, the coronavirus restrictions, put in place across the country, had an effect on reducing the occupancy provided at the hostel and those able to access Springboard facilities at one time. We adjusted throughout the pandemic and continued to provide outreach and access facilities as well as food provision and support to those experiencing homelessness. Expanding our move-on accommodation offer in response also proved successful and allowed an opportunity to offer self-contained accommodation that was COVID-19 safe.

From 2021 we have been able been to provide LFT testing to all service users along with specific COVID-19 vaccination clinics to remove barriers to access to these services.

The situation throughout the pandemic created challenges that the staff and volunteers at HHP met with enthusiasm and efficiency. It did however cause effects, such as reduced funding and a worsening economic situation which will create new challenges in 2022 and beyond.

COVIDREACTION







The last few years has seen a shift in how HHP fundraise and work with local businesses and foundations to provide our services.

We hugely appreciate our long lasting partnerships as they not only help fund our services and programs but also offer further enhanced support allowing the opportunity for organisational growth.

We believe in listening to our corporate partners and working with them to curate a relationship that is multifaceted, strategic and transformative. Focusing on how we can work together to bring about lasting change.

In 2022 Harrogate Homeless Project is marking 30 years of supporting people experiencing homelessness in the Harrogate District. The 30th anniversary has provided a backdrop to a fundraising campaign that has included both events within the community as well as a strategic aim to grow partnerships with local businesses.

Over the course of 2022, we have bolstered our individual giving programme by running a variety of campaigns within the local Harrogate community including, 30 Stories, which has provided an insight into the people we have been supporting for the past 30 years. We are also currently reviewing our data strategy, which allows us to get to know our donors in greater depth and provide them with the up-to-date information on what impact their donation has on people lives. An ongoing dialogue with donors will offer a better supporter journey and subsequently lead to more involved partnership with the community.

SPRINGBOARD FOOD SERVICE

The food service provides lunch time meals to people experiencing homelessness and vulnerable local people. Hot meals are served every weekday lunchtime between 12:00 and 13:30.

It is a key element HHP as it is here where our experienced staff build trust and rapport with local people who are experiencing homelessness to offer the right support to them at the appropriate time.

It also allows for third-party agencies to gain trust by embedding themselves within the day centre environment. For instance, St Michaels Hospice provide end of life support counselling, located at Springboard fortnightly. On one occasion when understaffed in the kitchen, both counsellors volunteered to assist with the service to make sure that we were adequately staffed. Gaining trust from people within the homeless community is key as they are traditionally hard to reach clients who historically don't go to appointments.

FOOD SERVICE MONTHLY STATISTICS

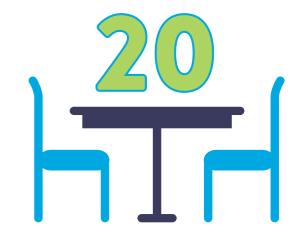
MAY - AUGUST 2022



OUR ATTENDEES FAVOURITE MEAL WAS:



SPAGHETTI BOLOGNESE



Average number of daily attendants

A special thanks to everyone and every business that donates food so we can provide this service free of charge.

Sara from Violet / HGTE

Fundraiser Story

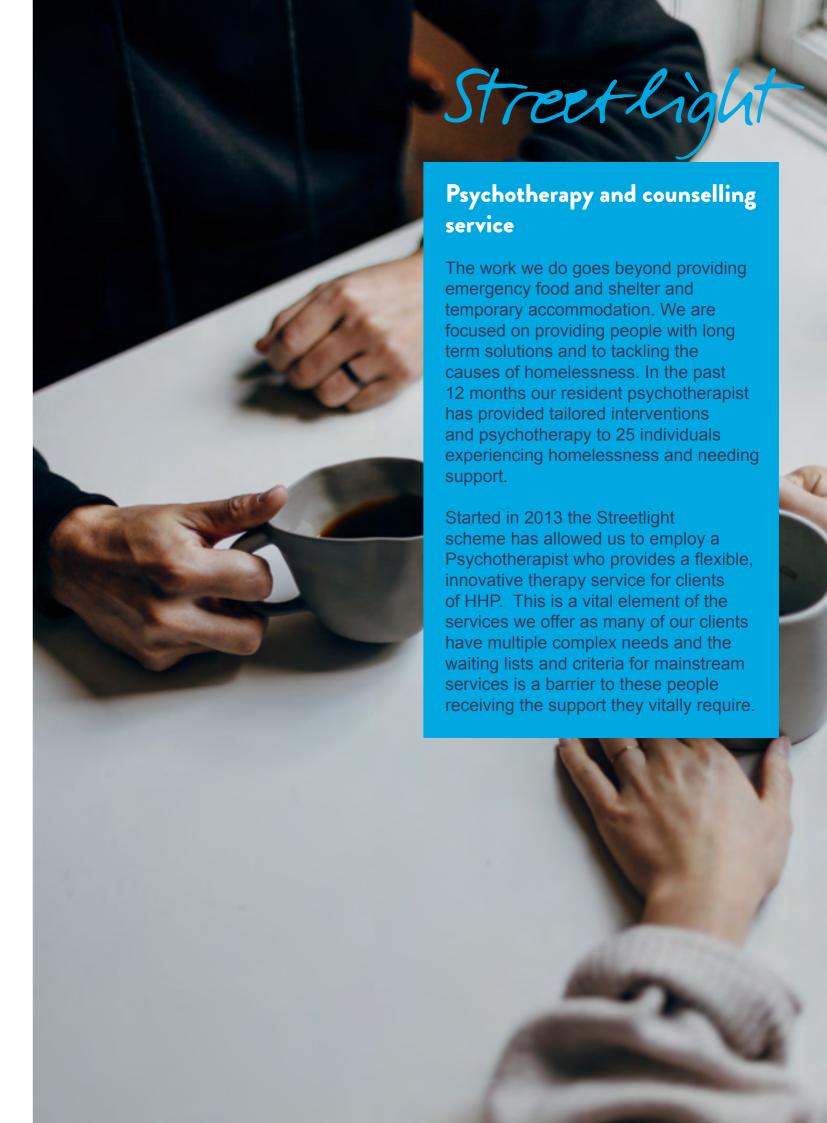
In 2016, small business owner, Sara, was noticing the worsening homeless situation in Harrogate and decided to try and give a little back. In doing so, she created the "HGTE" brand, A collection of high quality organic cotton unisex branded sweatshirts, hoodies and t-shirts and has since expanded the range to include a HGTE reusable coffee cup made from sustainable materials. To date she has raised well over £13500.00 for Harrogate Homeless Project by making a donation from every item sold in the HGTE collection.

"Harrogate is a little bubble, on the surface it's very affluent but you only have to scratch beneath the surface of any town and the social issues are the same wherever you go."

In 2022, Sara with the use of the HGTE brand hopes to increase the products on offer and raise even more awareness and donations for Harrogate Homeless Project.

"By creating a brand championing the town HGTE, it's all about Harrogate but equally it's the town looking after it's more vulnerable people. That's how I see it."





42 Communications

Volunteer Story

Helen - Volunteer

Fundraising Business Story

Telecoms specialist Xi Communications has donated £500 to Harrogate Homeless Project after launching a partnership scheme with the charity earlier this year.

The firm, which is based in Windsor House in Harrogate, supplies and manages cloud telephony, broadband and mobile contracts for local businesses.

It has pledged to donate £30 for every new local business phone line, broadband circuit or mobile connection that is ordered or transferred to Xi.

The £500 donation is the first payment under the scheme, which was launched to mark Harrogate Homeless Project's 30th anniversary, which is being celebrated this year.

Tony Mellor of Xi Communications said: "We have enjoyed getting to know the team at Harrogate Homeless Project over the past few months and learning more about the incredible work they do in our community, supporting people who are facing homelessness, addiction, poor mental health, and food poverty.

"Harrogate Homeless Project is there for people who have nowhere else to turn and we are proud to be supporting the charity on behalf of our customers through this unique partnership."



Francis McAllister, CEO of Harrogate Homeless Project, said: "We can't thank Martin and Tony of Xi Communications enough for their sustained financial commitment to HHP.

"Support from local businesses like Xi and the wider community allows us to provide a range of services to people experiencing homelessness and tailored support to help them move forward to sustaining their own tenancy and being part of the community again. an independent future."

The hostel is halfway between my house and Harrogate town centre; so, since moving here, I've passed it every time I go into town. I used to notice the hostel and wonder about it. It looked such a lively, interesting place; and the people there were so friendly and often liked to talk to my dog when walking by. Then one day I read an article, about the work of Harrogate Homeless Project. The article said that HHP were looking for more hostel volunteers and I thought: 'I think I could do that.'

Since I started volunteering in 2016 my role is to assist the hostel workers in running the hostel during an evening shift. For example, I answer the door and the telephone; I sort and put away donations from the public; I prepare the rooms for clients who are using [the emergency accommodation] No Second Night Out scheme; I do welfare checks; I help the residents with any queries they may have. I generally do my best to help keep the hostel a safe and comfortable place for the residents to live in during my shift.

I like the people best, of course. I have huge affection and admiration both for the staff, who are so calm and patient and kind, and for HHP's clients, who are making their way through this troubled world with great courage and resourcefulness despite many difficulties.

I'd like to say to anyone who is thinking of volunteering that whatever their gifts and talents, they will be very warmly welcomed and valued at HHP. They will be supported by wise and dedicated staff. Every day is different at the hostel and at Springboard and every day brings interesting challenges and developments. So, volunteering at HHP is exceedingly rewarding. I think that I would say it is also a just and right thing to do. It seems to me that there is considerable social inequality in Harrogate and joining in the work of HHP is a step in the direction towards mitigating that.



As we move forward from the pandemic, we expect an increase in people experiencing homelessness.

With a worsening economic situation, compounded by a rise in prices of essential items and services, we are starting to see an increase in the number of people using our services. Many services that people have also traditionally relied on, such as foodbanks, are seeing huge volume increases and in that environment the route to becoming homelessness may be all too easy, and the journey to get off the streets and maintain an independent life much harder.

As an organisation we try to take an active lead in shaping the community's response by working alongside our partners and local government. Homelessness is an extremely complex issue that is affected by many factors. We see our role as understanding that complexity and finding bespoke solutions for our clients.

We operate in a tough and increasingly competitive world. Many of the organisations and individuals that support us are also adversely affected by the broader environment. However, our clients and supporters understand the need to maintain and build a strong, efficient and flexible organisation offering a consistent quality service whilst providing excellent support for our staff and volunteers in their demanding and challenging work.

HHP FUTURE PLANS AND VISION:

We will work to develop services that alleviate the root causes of homelessness and not just the impacts. We will continue to work in collaboration with other agencies and charities to avoid any potential duplication, increase effectiveness, build better services for all, and deliver stronger outcomes.

We will work with our funders to create real change, maintaining low overhead costs to ensure resources are spent on meeting our client needs. We will monitor our impact, identify trends and report back on key themes to be a constructive and informed influence on future policy and service design.

We will work to play a key role and will be a leading voice in the new North Yorkshire local authority Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy, with the aim to reduce and hopefully eliminate homelessness.

By building on the community support we have developed over the past 30 years, we will develop new ways of involving people, creating volunteering roles and opportunities to support an effective and local charity. We will provide high quality support and training to local volunteers so that local people have an opportunity to play a part in tackling

homelessness. We will maintain our roots as a local and independent charity.

Our organisation will be flexible, outward focused and continue to demonstrate best governance and management practice.

Specifically we will:-

Develop and enhance the services at Springboard

One of our big ambitions is to expand the services at our Springboard day centre in the Harrogate town centre. It is here where we build trust and meet people's basic needs.

Our strategic plan is to increase our impact by developing further services and skills training to support our clients and help them access other services and providers. These services should be able to provide early support to people who are at risk of homelessness.

Since January 2021, Springboard has transitioned into new larger premises, allowing for further external collaborative work with third party agencies. We are looking at increasing the provision of services to allow for a wide ranging offering for our clients. This collaborative and multi-agency approach is essential in helping our clients get the support they need. Springboard will have more space, access to more services and agencies, and longer hours as we seek to respond to the changing environment.

Increase our accommodation

We will continue to work with agencies and supporters to expand our accommodation to meet the needs of the area and clients that we serve. We are actively seeking additional property that we can use for emergency accommodation and would also aim to increase our move-on housing as we a provide a full support journey for our clients moving towards independence.

Ensure that we have an engaged, skilled and committed workforce

The dedication, compassion and skills of our staff are essential for the future of our organisation. We will enhance the range of training and development, create a nurturing environment, and ensure that our reward structure is fair.

Expand our counselling service, Streetlight
Our Streetlight therapeutic process helps to
support clients in accessing skilled counselling.
This can enable people to tackle the root

This can enable people to tackle the root causes of their situation and support their journey from temporary to more permanent accommodation where appropriate.

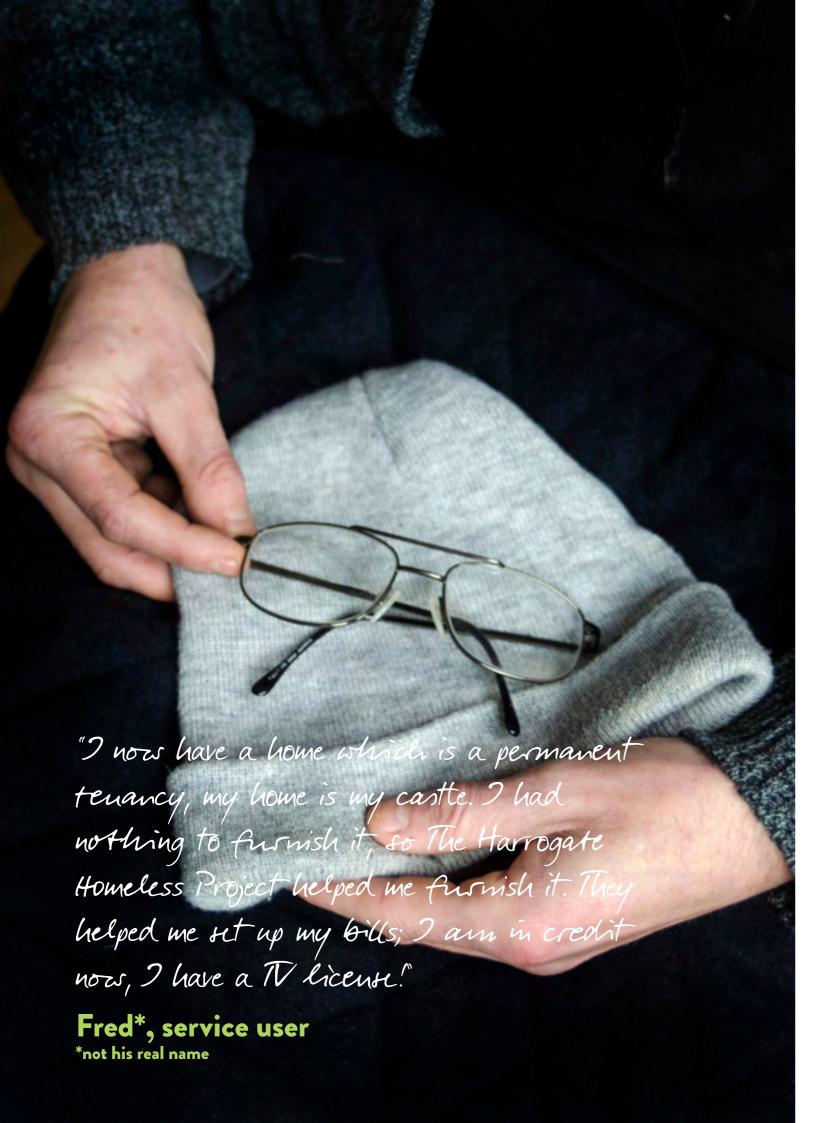
Increase the number, skills and experience of our volunteers

HHP remains a community response to an issue in the local area. established in 1991 by Churches Together in response to rough sleeping observed in the town. HHP was initially staffed by volunteers and local volunteers are more vital than ever to our organisation's ongoing success. They dedicate time, skills and a passion to delivering the best possible services for people experiencing homelessness. We aim to build on the solid foundation of volunteers that we rely on and help them further their skills therefore providing a better service to those in our care. By offering positive and rewarding volunteer opportunities, with quality training and support we can tackle homelessness, enable people to move on and build a strong and vibrant local community. Clients can also support others as part of their personal development.

Work collaboratively with our funders

We aim to rise to the challenges posed by COVID-19 by furthering our long-standing partnerships with local businesses and increasing our network of supporters who share our values and goals.

Our 30th anniversary has been a unique opportunity to raise our profile, thank our current supporters and build links with new supporters across the district. We have reached out to the local community and businesses that might be interested in being part of our work and in supporting us.



THANKYOU

We understand that it is only by working together that we will end homelessness. We're grateful for the generous support from hundreds of people and organisations who have helped us over the last few years. Here are a select few organisations who have helped us immensely over the last couple of years especially.

Chadwick Charitable Trust

Frank Pearson Foundation

Harrogate BID

Harrogate Borough Council

Hartley Charitable Foundation

Liz & Terry Bramall Foundation

Lloyds Bank Foundation of England & Wales

North Yorkshire County Council

The A M Fenton Trust

The Bartlett Foundation

The Bostock Foundation

The lan and Fay Elliot Trust

The McDevitt Family Trust

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HARROGATE HOMELESS PROJECT LTD