



## KINGSTON CHURCHES ACTION ON HOMELESSNESS

### Background to the Post of Asset Coach

KCAH aims to relieve the distress of homelessness or the threat of homelessness. Our focus is to work with single people in housing crisis and, primarily, those who do not qualify for getting help from the local authority. KCAH serves, first and foremost, those who are in the borough of Kingston upon Thames. The services of KCAH are free, confidential, impartial and independent.

The KCAH office is located on the grounds of St Peter's Church, Norbiton, sharing the converted church hall with the Joel Community Services Night Shelter - a permanent, all year round long church night shelter which KCAH refers clients into.

KCAH runs a Housing Crisis Intervention Service (HCIS), a popular Monday-Friday morning drop-in service which offers housing and welfare benefits advice. It is also a crucial conduit for helping secure housing options for our clients in crisis. KCAH is also well-known for running winter night shelters and over the past winter, we ran a cutting-edge night shelter scheme; it was different because it was open access throughout the night, dog friendly and attracted even the most entrenched rough sleepers through the door.

Our other key focus is 'The Accommodation Pathway Project', providing supported accommodation across the borough for single people who have experienced homelessness with low to medium support needs. KCAH currently rents 11 houses from private landlords and can place up to 43 tenants in shared accommodation for a maximum two year stay.

#### **The Accommodation Pathway Project**

The successful candidate will be joining this Project to create a team of four: a manager who oversees the Project and two Housing Support Workers (one full-time, one part-time). And with the injection of funding from Big Lottery, we are now able to add this exciting new post of 'Asset Coach'.

Traditionally, support in this project has been based heavily on addressing what is not going right for a tenant. Bringing in an Asset Coach marks a significant shift in culture as to how we want to offer support. Instead of focussing solely on the difficulties that our tenants are experiencing, this worker will help the tenant concentrate on their strengths, their ambitions and whatever can make a difference to help them to build confidence, motivation and resilience. So many of our tenants have skills and talents that have been forgotten or laid dormant for too long. The role of the Asset Coach is to reignite their passions and zest for life!

The Asset Coach will have a fluid caseload which is identified from the support plans created with the tenant by the Housing Support Workers (HSWs). Consequently, the Asset Coach works seamlessly with the HSWs to help make each support plan live and dynamic. The Asset Coach is tasked with helping make opportunities happen for our tenants - whether it is to do with leisure pursuits, volunteering or employment. Crucially, the work will also be about networking in the community to find ways of making these opportunities happen. It could be anything: music making, learning carpentry skills, gardening, playing football or going to a match, riding a bike, sailing a boat, going fishing or securing a work placement for someone who has been long-term unemployed. Can you help to make someone believe that the world is their oyster again?