



Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

February 2016
It's cold out there!

Bringing hope and support to homeless people in Kingston

Your prayers are asked for:

- ◆ The churches and volunteers participating in the pilot Winter Night Shelter, seeking to make a difference to the lives of our most entrenched rough sleepers
- ◆ Everyone taking part in the YMCA Sleepeasy on 26 February

Thanks for the Christmas gifts!

A massive thank you to all the organisations and individuals who donated items to KCAH in the run up to Christmas, including the Rucksack Project, Tiffin Girls School, Southborough High School, the Sugarcraft Club, Hanbeet Korean Church, Surbiton Hill Methodist Church, the Harris and Holle Knitting Club, the Art of Living, Esher College, Alternative Networks Ltd, Royal Holloway Feminism Society and ASDA Roehampton. Some of these items were given out as Christmas gifts to our clients.

We are now very well stocked up with food and clothing. So, at the present time, **our only needs are for sleeping bags, new underwear and socks, jogging trousers, cleaning materials and ring-pull food tins.**



Where will you be sleeping on Friday 26 February?

'Sleep rough so others don't have to' is the slogan of the YMCA Sleepeasy being held on Friday 26 February in the Memorial Gardens, Kingston. Participants can choose between the Sleepeasy Classic (over 12s), Extreme (over 17s) and a Sofa Surf version for children, which can be done at home

Last year, KCAH received over £8k from the Sleepeasy, so we are keen to help publicise and support the event again and to raise even more.

For a **publicity pack**, call us on 020 8255 2439.

To **participate**, register online at ymcaslw.org/sleep-easy or call Sarah Ward at the YMCA on 020 8339 7308.

If you can't take part yourself, please **sponsor 'Team KCAH'** (Matt Hatton and Nigel Spalding) 020 8255 2439. or email nigel.s@kcah.org.uk.

Sam's Story

Sam was initially referred to KCAH by Kingston Hospital because he wasn't able to give any address to which he could be discharged.

Sam had extensive short term memory loss and it took KCAH staff several weeks to simply glean some basic information from him and get him some ID. During this time Sam was sleeping on the streets and visiting KCAH daily for support and for food. Because he was so vulnerable, we were able to secure a place for him at the Joel Project. But Sam still struggled to remember where he was staying and who was helping him. One day in September, Sam left the night shelter in the morning and did not return. Fortunately, prior to his disappearance, we linked him in with the Homeless Healthlink Service (HCLS) run by SPEAR, so his keyworker was able to create a safeguarding alert across the borough, asking the he be put back in touch with KCAH.

A month later, Sam resurfaced. On the day he returned to KCAH, his HCLS keyworker immediately came to our offices and arranged for him to be taken to hospital to be assessed. On the 30 December, after a lot of inter-agency working, Sam was successfully referred to supported housing through Kingston Council.

Sam is now safe, secure, happy, and getting the help and support he both needs and deserves.

Who's on the KCAH Board

From left to right are: Tariq Shabbeer, Roger Boulton, Ken Lowes (Chair), Eddie Mooney, Cathy Seymour, David Kirby, Kerry Thomas (Vice-Chair) and Bob Bailey (Treasurer).



Churches Winter Night Shelter

A one-month pilot night shelter - targeted at the most entrenched rough sleepers - is up and running for February. Christchurch New Malden, All Saints, John Bunyan Baptist, New Malden Baptist, St John's New Malden and Everyday Church Kingston are providing the venues and they, along with Surbiton Community Church, Christchurch Surbiton, and Kingston United Reformed Church, are providing the teams of volunteers

More volunteers are needed for the following shifts. If you can help please email Rachin Makin at kingstonchurch-esnightshelter@yahoo.co.uk (or call the office on 020 8255 2439 so we can pass on a message).

Night shifts Sun 7, Mon 8, Sun 14 Mon 15, Tues 16 (9.30—2am & 2-4am), Sun 21 Feb and Mon 22 Feb.

Morning shifts Mon 8, Mon 15 and Mon 22 Feb,

Evening shifts Mon 8, Sun 21 and Mon 22 Feb,

Ways to donate to KCAH

By cheque or cash to the office

By **standing order**—ask us for a form

Online through Virgin Giving —search for KCAH:

Using your mobile—text "KCAH36 £10" (or £2 or £5) to 70070

Basic advice for homeless people

Visit the RB Kingston Homeless Assessment Officer, Guidhall 2, 020 8547 5003.

Come to KCAH's drop-in advice service 10am to 1pm Monday to Friday

Out of hours: contact RBK OOH Service 0208 547 5800 and/or Streetlink .0300 500 0914.

KCAH

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