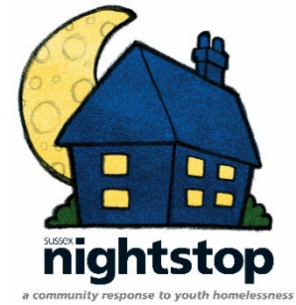


Chairs Report 2019-2020

It is my pleasure again to offer a view back over the last financial year and the achievements and highlights for Nightstop despite the new reality we find ourselves in which has had such a great impact on so many. The implications of adjusting the Nightstop service in the context of government guidelines in response to the pandemic have occupied a great deal of staff and trustee time for at least half of our year. This can make it difficult to imagine how Nightstop was before, and if they didn't already – staff, trustees and volunteers deserve a great deal of thanks and appreciation for their dedication, expertise and consistent effort and determination over the year.



Over this period, we have said farewell to Emily and are wishing Sian all the very best with her upcoming maternity leave. We have also said hello to an amazing bunch of new trustees who I am just delighted have joined us on our mission. A big welcome to Tim, Corrina, Ann and Jenny! They join at a time where we have developed and refreshed governance guidance and structures and undertaken a risk management review which has kept them busy.

We supported **23 active households**, as well as engaging 4 households and 2 chaperones in training. These households have been able to offer **303 bed nights** (across our young person and adult service), with 272 of these taken up and **70% of those who stayed going on to achieve more suitable, safe, longer-term housing**. All of this was achieved in the first three quarters of our year, with the service paused in response to the pandemic for the remainder.

Earlier in the year we received **continuation of our adult service**; a vote of confidence from our local housing and ASC partners and plenty to keep Helen busy. We also completed development of a **new referral pathway** with local domestic violence charity RISE. We have maintained our **partnership with East Sussex Fire and Rescue**, ensuring our volunteers and guests are safe in their homes. We were also awarded a 3-year commissioned partnership with **YMCA DLG and Allsorts**; developing an improved offer for young LGBTQ+ people experiencing homelessness as well as co-creating a befriending service with **Justlife**; reducing isolation for people living in temporary accommodation and getting involved in cross-agency training; coordinating Suicide Prevention training across SNS, CTS and Sussex Oakleaf.

Despite the pause in service delivery for a time, Alison and the team have been as industrious as ever with fundraising, through which we have seen the results of our **Business Ambassador** role with increased giving through **ArchAngels** network and the launch of a new 3-year corporate charity partnership with **Mortgage Medics**. We have also attracted new grant funders and **secured a further development grant** to improve our 'story-telling'. This period has also seen our **Volunteer Liaison Group** in its inaugural year and we have continued a range of **external profile activity** including TV, radio and a parliamentary reception – Go Alison!

We have continued to make a **strategic contribution** to the Nightstop network; participating in the De Paul Nightstop Steering Group. We have also **refreshed our 3 year Nightstop plan** and made a contribution to city **Homelessness and Rough-sleeping strategy** through active participation on Homelessness Providers Network. We are also a forming member of re-launched **Young People's Homelessness Working group**; advocating on behalf of and facilitating positive outcomes for young people experiencing homelessness across relevant city strategies. Equalities was also identified as a key focus for our strategic plan and we have signed up to achieve the **Allsorts Safer Space Award**; inclusive and safe environments for LGBTQ+ young people.

The future is uncertain and trying to divine how we can continue to **keep making a positive impact on homelessness in our communities in the future** is a big task. Apart from my absolute belief that we have the best group of people to keep steering us through – don't just take my word for it – in this year we also maintained our De Paul accreditation status:

"Sussex Nightstop is an excellent service. There are robust governance procedures in place and a commitment to being guided by strategy, which fosters a culture of continuous improvement. The support available to guests and hosts is high quality, relationships with partner agencies are strong, and Sussex Nightstop carries out a wide range of additional work to improve the inclusivity of the service"

A further vote of confidence for the excellent work we do and approach we will continue to apply in the coming year.