



## Chair's Report July 2021 – June 2022

**NO YOUNG PERSON  
CHOOSES TO BE HOMELESS.**



**WE'RE HERE TO HELP  
WHEN THEY ARE.**

**“WHEN PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED  
MARGINALISATION OR HARM, IT'S SO  
REWARDING TO SEE THEM FEEL SAFE...”**

## KINDNESS, COLLABORATION AND A CAN-DO ATTITUDE ARE PAYING OFF

Whilst we'd rather not be needed as a service at all I'm really pleased to report that over this last year, despite the tail end of the pandemic continuing to bite, Sussex Nightstop has been able to respond when needed. The hard work that has gone into our strategy of recovery and re-growth is bearing shoots and it is wonderful that once again we have been able to play a critical part in a young person's journey to a place to call home.

Every one of the 166 nights a young person has stayed with our hosts over this year is a night safe from the risks of rough-sleeping, but moreover, an experience of kindness and compassion when everything else may feel bleak and scary.

## REAL NUMBERS MEAN REAL PEOPLE AND REAL CHANGE

80% of the young people who stayed with Nightstop this year moved on successfully, many of them sustaining work, study and other positive life chances in the process.

Focusing on the young people behind the numbers has been at the centre of our work over this year as we have set out to refresh the way we communicate with everyone who is in touch with us. Our [Instagram account](#), launched in November 2021; an upgraded [website](#) in August 2022 and refreshed service materials are warm, inviting and positive in their outlook. We'd like our young people to see in us what we see in them.

We think we've made progress in strengthening this area of our work but we look forward to further consultation with young people planned for our current work plan year to check that's the case!



Whether young people end up staying with us or not, we've been looking at every young person referred to us as a valuable encounter and the opportunity to provide an experience where they feel listened to. Ending our 2021-2022 year with 39 referrals we have already, only four months into this current 2022-2023 year, received 26 new referrals. Our numbers are increasing and with it the experience of more young people facing the uncertainty of homelessness we are sure.

## PURPOSELY INCLUSIVE



We have always been proud to be a service that welcomes everyone and works without judgement. And in our aim is to be recognised and valued as an inclusive organisation we have set out this year to look honestly at the young people we serve and what improvements we might make to reflect their needs better.

A pivotal activity in our work plan this year was Diversity, Inclusion and Equality and Inclusion training with Watch this Space.

Led by Mo Kanjilal, Trustees, staff and volunteers took the time for action-based reflection and learning. With a particular focus on how we can improve our offer and response for young people of colour, we have revisited our language and our recruitment materials and we are asking this specific feedback of young people themselves as to what more we should be doing.



Our Director's continued participation in Depaul UK's Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Steering group has brought further knowledge into Sussex Nightstop and enabled us to share our experiences.

Further training this year will strengthen our understanding and practices working with young people of colour, those experiencing neurodivergence and young people identifying as LGBTQ+.

## A PRIORITY AROUND GROWTH

Our objective to further expand our volunteer network this last year has been one we've thrown ourselves into, welcoming new volunteers to the roles of hosting, on-call support and community ambassador.

We're delighted that at the time of writing we have six new host applicants in training and a further six at the beginning of their recruitment journey with us. As new host Sue says:

"I have been fortunate in being able to provide my son a safe, happy and loving home. He now has a career in his chosen field and is a wonderful gentle man. Having given my room to an undergraduate, a friend's friend in need and other young people, I thought Nightstop was the ideal way for me to give to the wider community.

The training was very thorough and I have the handbook to hand when hosting and when not. I can't say I wasn't nervous the first time Nightstop called me, but also a little excited. It was a very positive experience, definitely for me and hopefully for the young person.

For me it is nice to know that I am making a positive difference, however small, to a young person's current life experience."

The commitment of all our current volunteers and their flexibility in responding to young people in crisis has once again been truly inspiring. We hope that our Volunteer Celebration kindly hosted by the Regency Townhouse this Spring went some way to expressing the deep gratitude we have for them all for making Sussex Nightstop possible. They have been both stars of the service and, in our new welcoming videos, stars of the screen:



However, it would be remiss not to be clear about the challenges we face here. Nightstop hosting is a unique role and along with the natural ebb and flow of any volunteering service we are also working in a context of competing and compelling demands upon peoples' spare room – home working, generating income and Ukrainian hosting.



We have more to do. So we've created a robust recruitment strategy and upped our campaign effort, which includes online information sessions, featuring one of our very experienced hosts, Sez Morse:

**GOT A SPARE ROOM? LET'S USE IT TO HELP SOMEONE WHO NEEDS IT**

**BECOME A SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP HOST**

JOIN OUR ZOOM INFO SESSION WITH HOST Q&A

- SHORT-TERM STAYS
- EXPENSES PAID
- TRULY REWARDING

MON 31 OCT 6.30-7.00PM

**SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP**

**PUT YOUR SPARE ROOM TO THE BEST USE EVER!**

**BECOME A SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP HOST**

A HUGELY REWARDING VOLUNTEER ROLE

FIND OUT MORE: ZOOM INFO SESSION WITH HOST Q&A

WEDS 16 NOV 2022 6.30-7.00PM

**SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP**

**WANT TO HELP HOMELESS YOUNG PEOPLE? USE YOUR SPARE ROOM FOR SHORT STAYS WHILE WE HELP THEM FIND A NEW HOME**

PLEASE JOIN OUR NETWORK OF BRILLIANT, KIND VOLUNTEER HOSTS

- SHORT-TERM STAYS
- EXPENSES PAID
- TRULY REWARDING

**SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP**

ZOOM INFO SESSION WITH HOST Q&A

THURS 1 DEC 6.30-7.30PM

## A FIRM FINANCIAL FOOTING

Challenges have continued throughout the longtail of COVID but as usual we're responding with new initiatives in the pipeline. Time invested in funding during service closure periods during the pandemic have paid back this financial year with a sound base upon which to grow.

We were thankful of the sterling fundraising efforts from our young busking supporter Scarlett, who took to the cold streets before Christmas and raised a substantial amount. We continued to work with her and the media after Christmas which boosted support considerably and resulted in a grand total of £3,349 raised.

Scarlett joined us for a thank you at Nightstop's Spring celebration for volunteers.





In January we received a surprise donation of £1,250 from the Fleet Alliance Benefits & Social Team, which inspired us to broaden our reach in the Sussex business community. With valued input from our Business Engagement Group we created a detailed strategy and action plan, which started in June when we attended Sussex Business Expo and subsequently won business support from tax consultants Kreston Reeves for the next year. Work continues in this area.

The end of our financial year was marked with a significant milestone from our fantastic business supporters, Mortgage Medics. Thanks to their generous support, including a payroll giving scheme, they presented Nightstop with a cheque for a whopping £10,915!



Successes in our fundraising efforts this year mean we look forward to new support from The Betsy Foundation and The Chalk Cliff Trust.

We also continue to work with our partners on the City's Make Change Count campaign, giving residents, businesses and visitors the choice to support homelessness charities as an alternative to giving directly to individuals on the street.



## A BETTER EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FACING HOMELESSNESS

Re-building referral pathways and strengthening our work with operational and strategic partners has been a cornerstone of this year's activity in seeking to improve the Nightstop guest experience. From ensuring that young people can easily find their way to our front door, to accessing the widest range of support available to them, we've been engaged in conversations and fact-finding to help us understand the needs of young people and in turn give them a better experience.

The launch of ongoing outreach meetings with our social work colleagues in Children's services, monthly pathway reviews with the YMCA DLG Youth Advice Centre Team as well as Director representation on the Homeless and Rough-Sleeping Network Steering Group and participation in the re-launch Advice Services network have all supported us in this objective. From a strategic perspective we look forward to the building of new Nightstop community referral pathways over the next year and we are proud to have been partners in the launch of the Working Together to End Homelessness Report.

Operationally, our Trustee Quality group have continued their monthly oversight of the service, focusing on both risk management and guest experience.

## A STRONG AND COMMITTED BOARD

We said goodbye to trustee Peter Wileman who left Nightstop this year after seven years, having hosted with us for two years prior. His expertise as safeguarding lead was hugely valuable to us and we miss his guidance, kindness passion and commitment to our cause.

Corrina Collins also left our Board of Trustees having keenly contributed to the Business Engagement Group as well as Trustee meetings.

We are in the process of recruiting three new trustees, ensuring we don't miss the opportunity to actively increase the diversity of people and skills in these key roles.

## A SUPERB TEAM EFFORT

None of this year's achievements would be possible without the commitment and support given so generously by all our volunteers. Huge thanks and much appreciation to you all, especially hosts who have responded to increased service demand with longer availability. This has made a huge difference to the service and individuals using it.

We are also very grateful to our business supporters, growing in number thanks to our business ambassador Richard Zinzan of Archangels Architects and the loyal support of Sam Murphy from Mortgage Medics. See the next page for all our generous supporters.

The small but hardworking team cannot go without a mention, especially the service coordinators Sian and H who deftly manage the many jenga-like arrangements that must fall into place to support safe and successful hosting. And Liz, who's infectious enthusiasm and hard work has ensured we have a growing and enthused supporter base.

But special thanks must go to our Executive Director, Alison Marino, who's tireless efforts impressively span maintaining service quality, planning strategy and improvements, representing Sussex Nightstop in the city and among the DePaul network, as well as managing the charity day-to-day and getting hands on to cover staff leave and absence.

Thank you to everyone involved in the kind community that makes up Sussex Nightstop.



Tim Williamson, Chair of Sussex Nightstop

November 2022



MUCH APPRECIATION TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS



THE 29TH MAY 1961 CHARITABLE TRUST

The Tilley Foundation

Accredited by De Paul UK



A service for everyone

