



Chair's Report July 2022 – June 2023

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

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

**“I have put on weight, which I needed to and I don't feel as tired.
Also it has helped me apply for jobs through Jobcentre and I have
one set up for when my ID arrives”**



Celebrating 15 years of service to the local community

Sussex Nightstop has gone from strength to strength across 2022-2023. We have responded to one of the highest levels of demand we've seen in five years with young people experiencing homelessness sleeping safe in one of our volunteer host homes on 288 nights – an increase of 73% in our guest stays compared to the previous year.

With service safety and quality central to our work, our guest 'check-in' feedback after their first night stay is a good indicator and addition to the rich conversations our service coordinators have with each guest.

Guest rating: service quality



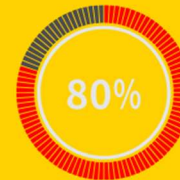
I feel SAFE in Nightstop	★★★★★
I feel well SUPPORTED by Nightstop	★★★★★
I feel WELCOME and INCLUDED at Nightstop	★★★★★

around the things important to me
(like race, ability, gender, sexual orientation, faith)

Delivering on our vision

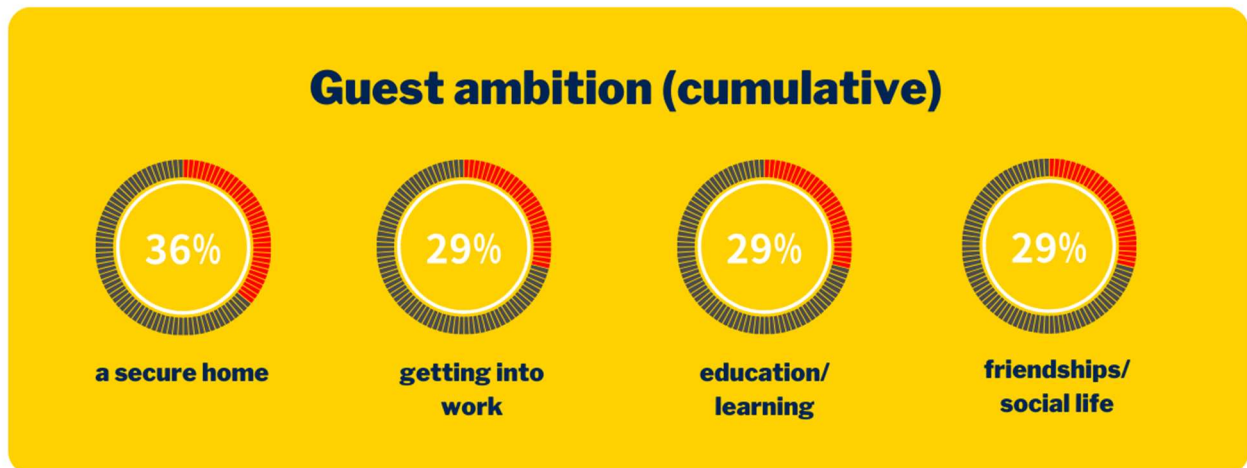
Our vision is that everyone has access to a secure and sustainable home and the opportunity to sleep safe at night. A more robust approach to insight and data makes us confident that our offer is making our vision reality. We now stay in touch with our young guests for much longer and use our trusted relationship with them to take action where we can, to prevent a return to rough-sleeping and to make our impact 'stick'.

Guest outcomes (cumulative)

 <p>95%</p> <p>didn't sleep rough</p>	 <p>84%</p> <p>secured safe, longer-term accommodation</p>	 <p>84%</p> <p>more aware of and likely to access help and support</p>	 <p>80%</p> <p>more positive about their future</p>
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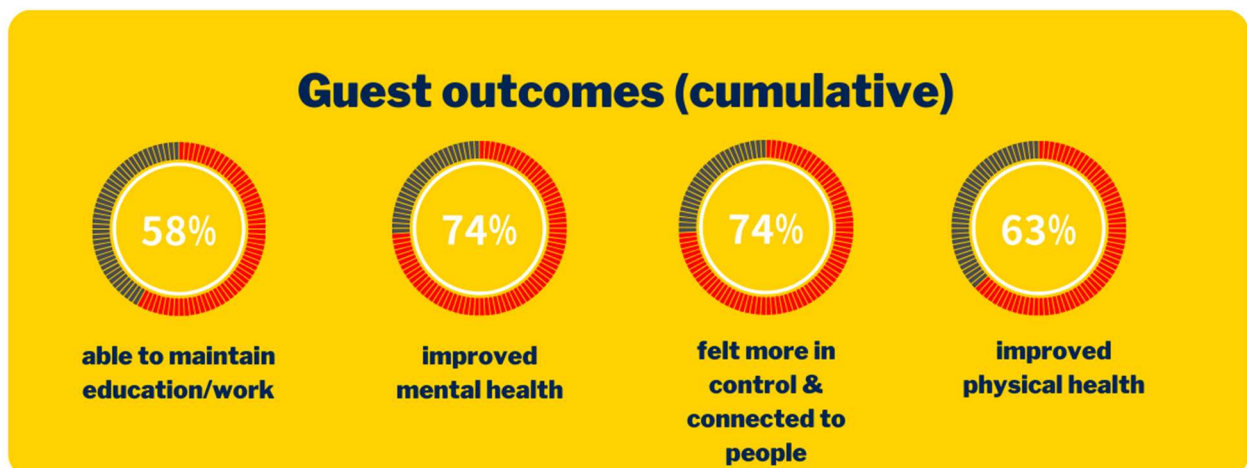
Building resilience and aspirations

Our unique model of home-hosting and wrap-around support continues to provide us with privileged insight into the experiences and aspirations of our young guests. 50% of guests this year were working or studying, including sitting (and passing) their GCSEs. Their resilience and ambition to improve their circumstances is always evident.



“Working earning money, going to college to improve English, exercise, football. All the good things in life....”

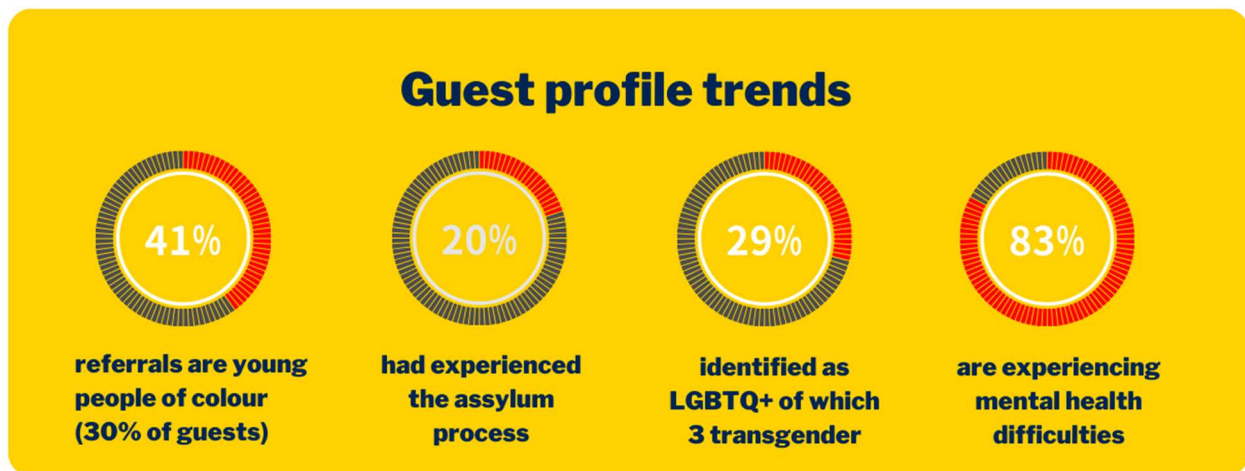
As we have seen the range and depth of complexities facing our young people rise over this year our practice of face-to-face, day-in, day-out wrap around support has become ever more important and the benefits are clear.



However, some worrying trends have emerged over this year, linked to cost-of-living impacts and related reduction in suitable housing options:

- A third of young people who stayed with us last year stayed twice as long: 21 or more nights

- Many of our young people consider themselves to be neurodivergent (diagnosed and undiagnosed)
- A concerning over-representation of some young people engaging in the service - noticeably those often most traumatised and at risk of marginalisation:



This has amplified the importance of our diversity, equality and inclusion work and the need to ensure that young people's voices are heard and reflected in the service. Working with both Watch This Sp_ace and Allsorts, our Trustees, Staff and Volunteers have continued to improve their inclusive practice, access and support for young people of colour and those identifying as LGBTQ+.

“I think it’s made me more determined to deal with ‘minor’ issues around racism, that are often just ignored or not considered serious enough to warrant action.”

Racial inclusion and allyship training attendee

Setting up referral points with local college partners, we have also taken our ‘front door’ out into the community. Going where young people are rather than expecting them to find us, we hope to improve awareness and access and we will continue to expand these community referral points with other local agencies.

This work can never stand alone and understanding what young people need and want from us is vital. Our Spring 2023 Youth Focus group re-launched a fresh plan for this work, continuing through one-to-one conversations with our Nightstop guests, and now we are seeking the community perspective of young people who may need us at some point.

Key points of service confidence:

- understand and feel ‘held’ by the Nightstop service boundaries
- even if they felt fearful of staying with strangers, they knew it would be safe
- benefited from the Nightstop offer being co-located in the same place as wider

young homelessness and advice services

Recommended improvements actioned as a result:

- a plain English overhaul of our postcard for young people
- working with our new and existing volunteer host households towards offering greater continuity of nights
- opening up new community referral points into Nightstop

A community responding

We are nothing without our volunteers and our plans for growth have continued in earnest. Welcoming six new households this year - their impact has been immediate.

“I’ve found it a varied experience, sometimes mundane, sometimes challenging, sometimes deeply interesting, but feeling I’m helping provide respite to the diverse mixture of young people who need it. As a newcomer it’s been really reassuring to know that the on-call team is there all the time and that the next day I will be able to discuss any concerns or issues.”

Rosie, host

We know that to meet demand and provide the stability that young people find in longer continuous stays, we need more host households and have more to do so our host households better reflect our service beneficiaries.

Recruitment remains a priority for 2023-2024.

Firmly embedded across our activities our volunteers are not only hosting. Our volunteer On-call Team of seven enables us to provide a reassuring 24-hour point of contact –

**Our volunteers
have given
11,900 hours
of their time in
2022-2023**

without them a young person cannot stay. Our community ambassadors are a crucial part of our recruitment activities and awareness-raising in their localities.

We can not thank our volunteers enough. They remain tirelessly dedicated to providing the highest quality of experience for our young guests and it is a privilege to count them amongst our team.

Funds and finances

Our individual donors, community and corporate supporters have grown and continued to wrap themselves around us and we are incredibly grateful.

Our business ambassador Richard Zinzan of Archangels Architects and Sam Murphy, new Trustee and Director of our corporate partner Mortgage Medics tirelessly championed our cause, resulting in a high profile at networking events (and impressive raffle revenues!) and healthy demand for our inaugural Tryathlon event.



SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP
Summer Fun TRY-ATHLON

TEAM FUN AND A GREAT CAUSE
16th September 2022

"The atmosphere in the office the day after the Tryathlon was noticeably different.... a real lift!"

- ✓ Volleyball tournament
- ✓ Fun pub-style quiz
- ✓ Mouth watering cake-off

Sponsored by
Daniel Associates.

The year ended with a new partnership: Artists Open Houses. Like Sussex Nightstop, the participating artists in this local initiative have for many years been warmly welcoming strangers into their homes – the resonance with Sussex Nightstop is obvious and the community of participating artists have truly embraced us and shown extraordinary generosity in donating art pieces to our first Art Auction, which raised £3,000.



LOT 13 **SOLD** £400

LOT 25 **SOLD** £250

LOT 14 **SOLD** £450

SUSSEX NIGHTSTOP

No place like home

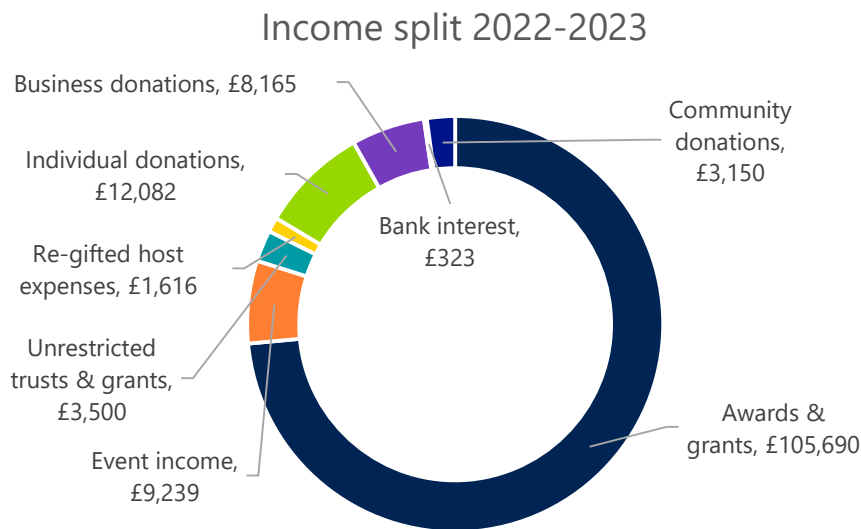
ARTISTS OPEN HOUSES

A word from our treasurer

There was a significant amount of uncertainty as we entered 2022-2023 as to how the fundraising environment would recover post covid and with that we set an ambitious income target of £105,690 within a budget balanced by the release of unrestricted reserves.

Taking a mixed-fundraising approach we have generated income of £143,765.

Grant awards continue to be our major source of our income, but with the great support of our supporters and volunteers, we increased our business and individual donations during the year. In addition we raised £9,239 from our very successful Tryathlon event.



Our fundraising success combined with efficient management of costs means we end 2022-2023 with a surplus of £3,718, and reserves of £78,515 (of which 46% are restricted) and committed to work that continues into 2023-2024. We therefore start our next financial year in a strong position.

	2022	2023
Income	£ 68,227	£143,765
Expenditure	£125,145	£140,047
Restricted Reserves	£0	£35,905
Unrestricted Reserves	£74,797	£42,610
Total	£74,797	£78,515

For 2023-2024, we expect demand on our service to grow further and with it the level of frontline staff support needed to respond. As such we plan to make judicious use of unrestricted reserves where thresholds allow to increase capacity and have budgeted a breakeven budget that will allow for inflationary increases in most of our expenses.

The Sussex Nightstop team

Our work is driven by an experienced, skilled and committed Board and staff team who aspire to the highest quality of delivery and governance in how we achieve that.



This year we said goodbye to trustee Dr Ceri Davies-Tyrie after four years of service. As past Chair of Board, Ceri's legacy has been a Board that operates at the highest level of diligence and accountability. We treat that legacy preciously. We also said farewell to our Treasurer of 10 years, John O'Sullivan who

steered our finances with an exacting eye for detail and most importantly, established an open financial culture where understanding was supported and challenge welcomed.

Co-running with John to ensure a smooth transition we are delighted to welcome Gareth Anderson as our new Treasurer and our Board has been strengthened further by the welcoming of new trustees Denise Mcsween, James Kilmartin (Trustee Safeguarding Lead) and Sam Murphy.



We sadly said goodbye to our longstanding service coordinator Sian, but her care and compassion for our young people remains a golden thread through our continued work. Her replacement Tom joins H in coordinating our vital frontline work with young people. We are incredibly fortunate to have their combined knowledge and experience; it's their skilled input with our young people and service coordination that is so impactful. Mitchelle joined as Comms & Engagement Assistant and along with Liz brings formidable energy and creativity to our outreach, nurturing the collaboration and community response central to our success and importantly ensuring that young people find us when they need us.

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



Tim Williamson, Chair of Sussex Nightstop

November 2023

A huge thanks to our funders and supporters

We rely on funds from grants and trusts to carry out our vital work and invite them to share in our successes this year.

THE 29TH MAY 1961
CHARITABLE TRUST



Thanks too to the Mrs A Lacey-Tate Trust and the British Humane Association

As a community response to youth homelessness, we look forward to continued growth of our supportive business community. Thanks to the many Sussex businesses who supported us with raffle prizes and other fundraising activities this year.



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A service for everyone

