



HOMELESS ACTION RESOURCE PROJECT LIMITED **“HARP”**

HARP is a registered Charity. It is supported by Southend Borough Council who provide grants to fund staff. The local community, including schools and the public and particularly churches, funds its running costs.

Background

The organisation began as a Job Club in 1987 in Valkyrie Road but with an increasing number of homeless people using the service, it developed into Southend Centre for the Homeless with the later addition of Southend Night Shelter. These then split into two organisations running successfully for many years. Their services were run on a shoestring, relying heavily on volunteers, donations and a grant from Southend Borough Council.

The Council encouraged the two organisations to join together to provide a more cohesive service to homeless people. Therefore in 2002 the Day Centre and Night Shelter joined to become HARP.

A new Board of Trustees was set up with responsibility for the administration of HARP. In March 2003 they employed a Chief Executive, Gill Garwood, to oversee the operation of HARP and a Financial Controller, Genine Warner, to manage its financial system.

As a professional and innovative organisation we provide quality services aimed to meet the needs of homeless people in Southend and empower them towards independent living.

Up to 2,000 people seek our assistance each year. They may be homeless, either living on the street; “sofa surfing”; in inadequate accommodation eg no cooking facilities or at risk of losing their accommodation eg due to unpaid bills.

Around 40% of homeless people are young, aged between 16 and 29.

Approximately 10% of people are sleeping on the street. 99% of long term rough sleepers will have lost accommodation due to an underlying drug, alcohol or mental health problem.

At HARP we recognise that it is not enough to provide accommodation for people with such high needs. The right type of accommodation with the right level of support is needed if people are to sustain a tenancy. As well as accommodation and support, people need to have purpose and be part of the community and this is incorporated into the work we do.

Our aim is to provide appropriate accommodation so that no-one in Southend need sleep on the streets.



Integrated Service

We aim to provide an integrated service and this is achieved by staff working across sites. Therefore service users will work with the same staff throughout their contact with HARP. Currently there are 6 teams working across 5 sites:

Teams

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|-------------------------|--|
| Initial Contact Team | Initial Assessment and Emergency Support including food and clothing |
| Resettlement Team | Help in finding accommodation including our Night Shelter |
| Rehabilitation Team | Medium Stay Accommodation with Support Plans including Meaningful Activities for ex drug users |
| Training & Support Team | Meaningful Activity Programme at Day Centre |
| Learning for Life Team | Street Outreach, meaningful activities and supported accommodation working with long term rough sleepers |
| Acorn Team | Medium Stay Accommodation and support, particularly for young people |

Services

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|---------------|--|
| Day Centre | Drop in Service Monday to Friday 0900-16.30 |
| Night Shelter | Emergency and Short Stay accommodation (14 beds) |
| Ceylon Road | Medium Stay Drug Rehabilitation Unit (7 beds) |
| Genesta House | Medium Stay Drug Rehabilitation Unit (8 beds) |
| 180 York Road | Medium Stay Complex Needs (5 beds) |
| Heygate House | Medium Stay Complex Needs (6 beds) |
| Acorn Project | Medium Stay Flats & Bedsits (37) |
| Charity Shop | Providing work based experience and furniture for service users as well as selling furniture to the public |

What's new?

There are exciting plans to set up a new 19 bed combined Day and Night Centre.