

Relief for Rough Sleepers this winter

This winter was a particularly challenging time for many of us, especially with the snow and frost creating additional hazards on the roads, making just getting to work or school and performing simple tasks like shopping a major obstacle. We are generally more reluctant to move out of our warm, comfy bed or chair at this time aren't we?

Well, imagine if you were homeless....you had no comfy bed to sleep in, you faced risks to your life every day and especially at night, including literally freezing to death.

In West Norfolk 23 people were rough sleeping at this time! There was serious risk to health, so with our partners The Borough Council, Genesis Housing and the King's Lynn Night shelter Purfleet remained open 24 hours a day 7 days a week when the snow hit us hard. Purfleet were able to operate the night shelter 5 nights and the King's Lynn Night Shelter operated it over the weekends.

We were able to offer shelter to anyone sleeping rough in our community where a warm bed, hot food and access to showers were available in a safe place where they felt comfortable as they knew us already.

Gemma, 23, says, "if it wasn't for Purfleet being open I honestly don't know where I would be now...dead I think! They are really friendly here and they care about us too which makes us all feel better".

We are pleased to report that we have been able to support 6 people into supported accommodation and we will be moving 8 more into accommodation over the coming weeks. We endeavour to ensure no-one will remain on the streets and with our partners will make sure the new changes aimed at reducing homelessness make a difference very quickly.

Paula Hall



Some of the beds ready for clients seeking shelter

A good news story



Hi, my name is Nick and just over a year ago I was referred to Purfleet via the Council as I was homeless and sleeping in the back of a car. I was offered a room at Gaywood Hall Drive and when I first moved in I was low on self confidence and couldn't see a future. During the time I spent in the Purfleet Training house my Independent Living Coach helped regain my confidence and guided me towards gaining the skills to help me getting my own place. Now I've got my own flat and have settled in really well and would like to say a

massive thank you to everyone involved with Purfleet as without them I wouldn't be where I am now..

Praise from the High Sheriff

James Bagge, the High Sheriff of Norfolk, has been so impressed by the work of the Purfleet Trust that he came to the Centre to present them with an Award "in recognition of. Great and valuable services to the community".



James Bagge presenting the certificate to Lyuy Shaw, Health & Well-being Centre Manager

Volunteer coffee morning

This month we had a volunteer coffee morning. It was a great chance for volunteers to have a little catch up and to talk about how they are getting on at the Purfleet. The lovely Chris, Barry and Liz who are all supported volunteers with us exceeded themselves and baked some yummy cakes for the occasion.

At present we have 25 volunteer but are always on the lookout for more. Anyone who is interested in becoming a volunteer with us please do contact me Toni Pegg 01553767829 tonipegg@purfleettrust.org.uk



Building a future at Purfleet

Lucy Shaw, Health and Wellbeing Centre manager writes:

Eight clients have recently started on a CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) course delivered by Cube Learning at the Purfleet Trust. This is an intensive course which takes place from 9.00am to 4.45pm over a week and a half. On completion the clients will get a:

- BTEC Level 1 certificate in construction
- British Safety Council Level 1 Award in health and safety in a construction environment
- CITB Health, safety and environment test
- Labourer's green card

These 4 things will provide our clients with a much greater chance of getting a job within the industry and will give them confidence to start applying for jobs.

The pictures on the right were taken on day 2 of the course.



Volunteer Drivers

Want to help your local community? We are on the lookout for **volunteers** to collect the vital food donations we receive every week for our clients. This role would be best suited to someone who has their own transport and can commit to certain days and times each week to arrange pickups. Any and all help is hugely appreciated! If you're interested please email us at:

tonipegg@purfleettrust.org.uk

I, Daniel Blake Screening

The King's Lynn Community Cinema Club generously arranged a screening of the Ken Loach film, I Daniel Blake, on the 16th March in aid of the Purfleet Trust.

There was a drinks reception before the screening with amazing canapés provided by Francis Bone from the Gravy Boat (see below) and a team of Purfleet Trust clients. Ken Loach had also sent a signed DVD of the film which was raffled.



The Trust's supporters came out in force and there was an excellent turnout. Thanks to the generosity of the Cinema Club and the caterers, who gave their services for nothing, the evening raised over £2000, while the film itself highlighted some of the deficiencies of the benefit system.

MAKE ONE SMALL CHANGE

Many of us donate monthly sums to a variety of charities, both national and international, with barely any knowledge about how our money is used. Many of these charities contact us through cold-calling, postal advertising or asking us to sign an appeal while out shopping.

Unlike these organisations, we do not want to pressurise you into funding yet another charity, and we make a conscious effort to let our funders know where their hard-earned money is going, and to show them the good it does on a daily basis in their local community. All we ask is that you look at who you are already supporting and consider making **ONE SMALL CHANGE** to your monthly plan.

Every donation helps, no matter how small. For example, did you know that if 150 people donated just £5 per month, it would cover The Purfleet Trust's rent for an entire year?

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

You can help us continue our work by setting up a regular monthly donation.

You can do this by:

Downloading a standing order form from our website: <http://www.purfleettrust.org.uk/donate/>, and either printing off and sending or bringing in the completed form, or emailing it to us at



enquiries@purfleettrust.org.uk