



West Yorkshire Destitute Asylum Network (C.I.O)

Email – shelter@wydan.org

www.wydan.org

One Community Centre, Cromwell Street Lincoln Green, Leeds LS9 7SG

(Postal Address)

WYDAN NIGHTSHELTER NEWSLETTER WINTER 2019

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the shelter.

Our shelter continues to run successfully. Opening every evening approximately 6pm - 9am at various 'host' organisations across Leeds where our guests receive a warm welcome, evening meal, bed and breakfast. Our Shelter provides a warm welcoming place of safety and sanctuary to our guests for whom for the majority of them the only alternative would be sleeping out on the streets. Since we opened at the end of July we have provided accommodation to 21 individual men, and for most of this time the shelter has been full with no vacancies.

The huge difference that the shelter makes to the lives of our guests we witness every day. 'Masoud' was referred to us during the first week of October, when he came to us he had been sleeping on the streets. When he first arrived at the shelter he was obviously very tired and distressed by his situation. He was very hungry and cold. We showed him to his bed and explained how the shelter works day to day. He spoke very little English and was obviously scared by his situation, he was very quiet and had difficulty communicating both through his language barriers but also because he was unused to people being kind to him and had very little trust. His lack of eye contact was quite disconcerting.

During the past months the difference in Masoud has been quite exceptional. He now has a case worker who is supporting him with his application for asylum. He has registered with the Homeless GP services and his physical and mental health needs are being taken care of. He has also started going to English conversation classes and his communication is much improved. He seems so much happier and generally healthier. By providing his very basic needs of food, somewhere safe and warm to sleep, we have seen what a positive impact the shelter has on Masoud where he is able to deal with day to day life once his basic needs have been met.

We continue to work closely with our referral agencies. Karen Pearse Director of PAFRAS tells us about what difference the shelter makes to their clients lives.....

'Our partnership working with the night shelter is so important for PAFRAS and for the people we support. It provides a safe and supportive space to refer destitute clients, allowing

them to meet basic human needs like a bed, a roof, hot food, and washing facilities. Even having the ability to simply clean teeth is important.

When clients are homeless and sleeping rough and/or sofa surfing their lives are chaotic. Mental and physical health deteriorates when people don't know where they will be spending the next night. Staying at the night shelter provides stability meaning that clients can engage with casework at PAFRAS and look at more long term solutions. Social isolation is reduced as there are supportive people to talk to, both those with shared lived experience and people from the local community. The night shelter provides bus tickets which allows people to travel to appointments, college or other parts of the city.'

Appeal for Hosts

We currently have 30 host organisations and our host rota is full until the 18th May 2020. Our Recruitment Team are working very hard to recruit more hosts so that we can open all year round. If you are a member of a Church or organisation and think you may be able to host the shelter for a week please do get in touch with us shelter@wydan.org

Appeal for Funds

To provide shelter all the year round for up to 10 men the WYDAN Night Shelter needs to raise substantial amounts of money each year. It is anticipated that half of our budget will be provided by grants, but for the rest we are dependent upon donations from individuals and groups. Are you in a position to help us with a 'one off' or with a regular donation? If you are able to contribute financially to the work of the shelter you can donate in the following ways

By Cheque – Payable to WYDAN (postal address above)

Bank Transfer – WYDAN Unity Bank Account Number – 20323123 Sort Code 60 83 01

Roving Volunteers

Most of the volunteers who help at the Night Shelter are provided by the Host organisations but in some cases Hosts need extra support. To provide this we have a group of Roving Volunteers. These volunteers have previously helped at other Shelters and want to continue to support us, or they have approached us as individuals wishing to volunteer. If a Host is short of volunteers we circulate the Roving Volunteers to see if any are available to help. Sometimes we call on Roving Volunteers when WYDAN runs the Shelter 'in-house', that is where we have premises but there is no organisation to provide volunteers. Being a Roving Volunteer is a valuable and rewarding experience. Anyone wanting to find out more about joining our Roving Volunteers should contact Keith Mollison at firstseason@btinternet.com . We are always interested in adding to our list of Roving Volunteers.

Charity Number 1158052