



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

Registered Charity Number 1158052

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2023

The New Winter Night Shelter has been open since mid-November.

As at 14th March, the Shelter had operated for 120 days, on average there have been 6 guests staying in the Shelter, which means that to date approximately 700 night's shelter, together with food and financial allowances have been provided to destitute asylum seekers who would otherwise have been either sleeping rough or very vulnerably housed. More than 20 separate individuals have been supported. Our current plan is to operate until the end of April, close and do further work in the building during the Summer and reopen in October.

The building, which is adapted to house ten people, is owned and managed by the Methodist Church. WYDAN runs the shelter and looks after all the daily issues with the guests and the volunteers. Downstairs is a large living space with lounge and dining areas, and upstairs there are ten bedroom spaces and a separate volunteers bedroom.

Funding is secure for this winter, and there is already some in place for years 2 and 3 of what we hope will be an ongoing project.



Every day the shelter needs to have someone to cook an evening meal and two volunteers present all the time it is open between 5pm and 9am, including two people to sleep overnight. Filling the rota of volunteers is a challenge, and new people are always needed to come forward – **if you feel able to help, on a regular or occasional basis, particularly between now and end of April, please contact us via susan.bean@btinternet.com and join the central WYDAN volunteers list.**



For further information, please contact the project manager, Katrina Burton, on email: shelter@wydan.org or chair of trustees, Ted Britton on email: edward.britton@ntlworld.com

WYDAN'S More Settled Accommodation



We have two, four bedroomed properties, one in Harehills and one in Beeston. and a two bedroomed flat in Harehills. These are all now well-established homes, with a feeling of warmth, safety, security and sanctuary. Our guests are provided with financial allowances, shopping and befriending.

Recently two of our longer-term Night Shelter guests have been able to move into one of our houses. From this secure base we hope they will be able to press forward with their asylum claim and eventually achieve settled status in the UK.

WYDAN'S Partnerships Though WYDAN have no formal partnership agreements with other organisations, we are active members of NACCOM (The No Accommodation Network) and Housing Justice through which we keep abreast of national trends and innovative ideas from similar projects.

Closer to home, WYDAN work closely with the Support Workers at PAFRAS and Red Cross to ensure that the asylum seekers we accommodate and support are in real need of, and suitable for, the accommodation and support WYDAN can provide.

Through informal links and through active involvement in Leeds Migration Partnership and other initiatives, WYDAN seek to ensure that the provision we make is complimentary to that provided by other local charities such as LASSN, St Monica's, LEDAS and Abigail Housing.



We're strongest when we work together

WYDAN's links with churches, other faith and community groups, continue to be vital to the ongoing wellbeing and success of the project. In some instances, these links have remained strong in others the links have weakened – We are working to re-energise those areas of support.

Donations are always welcome!

By post to WYDAN, c/o Andrew Rathbone, 256B Burley Road, Leeds LS4 2LA, cheques made payable to WYDAN.

Direct to the WYDAN's bank account no 20323123.
Sort code 60-83-01.

Online via the Charities Aid Foundation platform
<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15943>

Gift Aid: Please let us know if we can claim gift aid on any donation (provide first line of address and postcode).

A small number of supporters make regular donations by Standing Order. We would love more people to consider support in this way.



It always comes down to this