

Surrey Homeless Alliance News



Issue 1: October 2015

The Surrey Homeless Alliance aims to promote a Surrey wide strategic approach to raising awareness of homeless services across Surrey and a commitment to tackling homelessness.

Homeless alliance strategy continues across Surrey

The Surrey Homeless Alliance is the collective name for the 11 boroughs and district councils of Surrey, working together with the relevant services to tackle homelessness in Surrey. Funding previously received from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has supported the formation and work of the Surrey Homeless Alliance.

The Surrey Homeless Alliance action plan adopts a county-wide strategic commitment to prevent homelessness, in all local authority areas of Surrey. Key tasks include:

- Standard rent deposit schemes
- County-wide branding
- Enhanced services for rough sleepers and young people
- Web-based self-assessment tools
- Sharing good practice amongst homelessness professionals in Surrey

Save the date!

Surrey Homeless Alliance conference

12 November 2015, 9am-1pm, Elmbridge Borough Council Chambers, Esher

A chance to meet with other borough colleagues and homeless service providers to look at challenges faced across Surrey for single homeless people. The day will include introductions to the Single Homeless Alliance West Surrey and East Surrey Outreach Service initiatives, focus groups around hot topics such as the increase in female homelessness, plus a presentation on the welfare reform impact by Homeless Link. **Invitations will be sent by email and will require an RSVP.**

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Introducing the collective borough projects

Single Homeless Alliance West Surrey (SHAWS) project

This project aims to end rough sleeping in west Surrey and further develop the services available for single homeless clients. The Borough councils of Elmbridge, Guildford, Runnymede Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Waverley and Woking have worked together to implement new services to support rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping.

- In Elmbridge and Spelthorne the service is called **Single Homeless Support Service**
- In Runnymede and Surrey Heath the service is named **Team Around the Person (TAPP)**
- In Guildford, Waverley and Woking the service is known as the **Single Homeless Alliance for West Surrey (SHAWS)**

All three services support people who are aged 18 and over, are rough sleeping or have a past/history of rough sleeping and have support needs in one or more areas in life, such as health issues, substance misuse etc. The service started in July, in some areas and so far 30 clients have been offered support.

Cath Stamper, Director at York Road Project, is managing the service that covers Guildford, Waverley and Woking. Cath commented on the progress so far: "In six short weeks we have taken on 20 new cases – three new to homelessness and 17 with complex needs. Four clients have been helped into supported housing in Woking and another has started an access to law course. Partnership working is an essential aspect of the service so that the team can offer ongoing support to the client. We work are working closely with drug and alcohol teams, CMHRS and GPs amongst many others."

East Surrey Outreach Service (ESOS)

This service is about empowering change to break the cycle of homelessness across east Surrey.

A new homeless outreach service that has been commissioned by Mole Valley, Tandridge, Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead Councils has been operational across East Surrey since June 2015. The service is now fully staffed with management, two full-time and one part-time support coordinator in post. They are a sign posting and advice service that can refer clients to supported housing schemes and statutory service for additional support with substance misuse and welfare needs. Over the last three months they have assessed 52 homeless or at risk clients. Out of these we have been able to support 21 clients through supported housing placements across Surrey. One client has secured his own council tenancy and one client has been reconnected with his family. They have been able to do this by working with the local councils, existing agencies and support providers.

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The Surrey Homeless Alliance has awarded a grant to LeatherHead Start

LeatherHead Start successfully received a grant from the Surrey Homeless Alliance to develop a series of training workshops in partnership with Catalyst for single homeless people.

Catalyst (formerly SAdAS) is a non-profit organisation working with people who are dealing with issues stemming from drug and alcohol misuse and mental health. These issues include housing, criminal behaviour, broken relationships with family and friends, and trouble getting back into work.

The workshops, starting in November, will be delivered in Guildford, Woking and Leatherhead. The purpose is to help people who experience homelessness to understand and manage the emotional reactions which might be causing barriers to their engagement in moving towards independence. We look forward to seeing how these workshops get underway in our next newsletter!



Rough sleepers count scheduled for November

The Department for Communities and Local Government has advised all local authorities to provide a single figure each year of an actual count or an estimate of the number of rough sleepers thought to be sleeping out on a single night in their local authority district. The 11 boroughs and districts of Surrey will be taking their count on a night in November and will need to submit to the DCLG by 15 December. Figures last year saw a 39% rise on the previous year, demonstrating a need to develop more services to end rough sleeping in Surrey. Details of the count will be featured in our next newsletter.

About this newsletter

This quarterly newsletter is produced by Transform Housing & Support on behalf of the 11 borough councils working together as the Surrey Homeless Alliance.

Do you have news to share? If so, please do get in touch, it would be great to hear from you! To share news or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Sarah Chalmers, Assistant Homelessness Coordinator: schalmers@transformhousing.org.uk