



Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness

Summer 2015
Growing Stronger

Bringing hope and support to homeless people in Kingston



KCAH Staff Team

From left to right

Ali Bennett (Access Project Volunteer)
Georgie Forshaw (Housing Adviser)
Jan Ganney (Housing and Support Officer)
Matt Hatton (Operational Director)
Nigel Spalding (Community Fundraiser)
Jesse Appiah-Bediakoh (Housing Adviser)
Derek Ralph (Housing and Support Officer)

Not in this photo:

Angela Adams (Book-keeper)
Steve Baughan (Community Accountant)
Becky Mills (Grants Fundraiser)

Information on our many volunteers and our board members will appear in future newsletters.

Please pray for:

- Local people who have nowhere to call "home"
- The staff and volunteers as they help people put their lives back on track
- The board members as they work on a new business plan for KCAH
- Generous donors

Annual General Meeting

Everyone who is a supporter of KCAH, or is just interested to find out what we do, is welcome to our AGM. This will take place on Thursday 19 November, starting at 7.30pm, at the Everyday Church, Union Street, Kingston.

Current KCAH Services

The **Housing Crisis Intervention Service (HCIS)** offers housing advice, welfare benefits advice and a hostel placement service. People who are homeless, at risk of being homeless or with housing issues can drop-in without an appointment between 10am-1pm Monday to Friday. Existing clients can also be seen, by appointment only, between 1.30 and 3pm. Because of the level of demand, the service is not also able to deal with matters over the telephone or by e-mail. In 2014/15 a total of 450 people, mostly single people, used this service.

Through the **Access Project**, KCAH is able to house up to 37 people in its 9 rented houses for a period of up to 2 years. KCAH staff offer the tenants ongoing support with benefit claims and life skills such as budgeting and every tenant has a tailor-made Support Plan. Each tenant has their own locked bedroom and the use of shared kitchen and bathroom facilities. Some properties also have a common lounge and a garden.

Also available to all KCAH clients is the **JobClub**, which runs on Tuesday afternoons. Until recently, **football training** was also on offer on Wednesday afternoons, led by a coach from Fulham Football Club.

KCAH and the Joel Project

KCAH and the Joel Project (at St Peter's Church Norbiton) continue to work in partnership as two separate organisations. People who wish to be accommodated at Joel's 10-bed night shelter must firstly come to KCAH, as KCAH is the only referral agency. The two organisations are also in continuous conversation about arranging effective care pathways for mutual clients. We anticipate that KCAH will be moving to the St Peter's site sometime in the next 9 months.



Football training

Update on the Kingston Churches Winter Night Shelter

After consultation with church representatives in March this year, KCAH is still exploring the feasibility of a pilot Winter Night Shelter aiming to work more closely with rough sleepers who have disengaged from local services.

Further news later in the year.

Updating our mailing list

If you would you be willing to receive a quarterly e-newsletter by email instead of hard copy (saving paper and postage) please let us know. Please also let us know of any changes needed to our distribution list. The next newsletter will be produced in the autumn.

Rough sleepers in London double

According to Crisis, 7,581 people slept rough over the course of 2014/15 in London, a 16 per cent rise on the previous year, and more than double the figure of 3,673 in 2009/10.

Speaker invitations welcome

We always welcome invitations to speak to groups, large and small, about the work of KCAH and how you might be able to support us.

If you are a member of a local church how about asking us to come and speak at one of your services – perhaps at Harvest, Christmas or on Homelessness Sunday 24th January 2016?



Follow us on Facebook

We have over 200 followers on Facebook. Are you one of them? This is a good way to get up-to-date news about KCAH's work and activities.

Donations in 2014/15

KCAH's work is highly dependent upon voluntary donations. In 2014/15, we received around £114k in donations. Around 20% of this money came from churches corporately, 60% from individuals (standing orders and one-off donations) and the remainder from other organisations. A big thank you to everyone who is already supporting us

Kingston Council (RBK): Commissioning—threat or opportunity?

Kingston Council (RBK) recently decided to replace mainstream grants with commissioning from April 2016. KCAH currently receives £60k in council grants so is now exploring alternative funding sources whilst also preparing to bid through the commissioning process.

How to donate

By cheque or cash to the KCAH office

By standing order – please call us for a form

Online at JustGiving or LocalGiving (search for KCAH)

KCAH

36a Fife Road, Kingston
Surrey, KT1 1SU
Tel: 020 8255 2439
nigel.s@kcah.org.uk
www.kcah.org.uk