


thePavement

The *FREE* monthly for Scotland's homeless

May 2009



**POLICE
AND
OUTREACH
... and is the
line between
the two
blurring?**



*"I wonder if we could interest you in
signing our petition?"*

the Pavement

www.thepavement.org.uk

Issue 7 (Scotland) / May 2009

Published by

The Pavement Scotland

PO Box 29332

Glasgow

G20 2BE

Registered Charity Number 1110656

E-mail: scotland@thepavement.org.uk

Editor-in-Chief

Richard Burdett

Scotland Editor

Karen Chung

Web Editor

Val Stevenson

News Editor

Catherine Neilan

Reporters

Imran Ali, Nathan Bleaken,

Mike Edmondstone, Rebecca Evans,

Ania Golinska, Noelia Martinez,

Pauline McColgan, Jim O'Reilly, Naomi

Osinnowo, Amanda Palmer, Eugenia

Cabaleiro Pereiro, Simone Richardson,

Clarissa Sebag-Montefiore, Carinya

Sharples, Giedre Steikunaite, Carlo

Svaluto Moreolo, Katy Taylor, Rebecca

Wearn

Photographers

Rufus Exton, Jenny Häggglöv Benjamin,

Katie Hyams, Hugh O'Malley

Contributors

Agnes, Flo, Evelyn Weir

Cartoonists

Nick Baker, Neil Bennett, Cluff, Pete

Dredge, Kathryn Lamb, Ed McLachlan,

Ken Pyne, Steve Way, Mike Williams

Printed by

Evon Print Ltd, United Kingdom

The Pavement is written for your entertainment and information. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the publication, *The Pavement* cannot be held responsible for the use of the information it publishes. The contents should not be relied upon as a substitute for medical, legal or professional advice. *The Pavement* is a forum for discussion, and opinions expressed in the paper are not necessarily those of *The Pavement*.

The Pavement (print) ISSN 1757-0476

The Pavement (Online) ISSN 1757-0484

The Editor

Should you give your name?

This month we've a lead story (page 5) that questions the closeness of the relationship between some outreach teams and the police, particularly how this could affect the way readers perceive outreach workers. Although it focuses on examples down in London, this trend is UK-wide, and one readers should be aware of.

This issue also marks a drive to expand and improve our directory of services, *The Other List*, both in these pages and online. Our website is being rebuilt to include easier access to the directory and a news archive.

Also this issue we're repeating some of *Nurse Flo's* advice. Because it was important, we're going back to her column on what to do with needlestick injuries – but as a poster (pages 24 - 25). She gave advice on the dangers of needles, whether you use or not, and we hope the poster will drive the message home.

Karen Chung

Scotland Editor

chung@thepavement.org.uk

Contents

Cover

Questioning the closer links between police and outreach workers – See the story page 5.

Centre spread

Get on the housing ladder with an £850 home – a low cost home from Canada. See the story page 14.

Photography by Christian Blyt © 2008

News

Pages

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| <i>Blurring the line</i> | 4–5 |
| <i>Olympic clean up</i> | 6 |
| <i>Scottish news</i> | 7–9 |
| <i>News-in-brief</i> | 10–17 |

Street Life

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| <i>Street Shield – the homeless hero</i> | 20–21 |
| <i>Toe Slayer – the podiatrist</i> | 23 |
| <i>Dear Flo – answering questions on health</i> | 24–25 |
| <i>Homeless city guide</i> | 26 |
| <i>Missing People</i> | 27 |
| <i>The List (incorporating soup runs)</i> | 36–27 |
| <i>Ask Agnes – our agony aunt</i> | Back next month |

*“If clients aren’t cooperative,
we need help from the police
to get their ID”*

CHARING CROSS POLICE STATION

Blurring the line

When the police visit you is it as enforcers of the law or outreach workers?

Outreach workers across the UK are receiving support from local police officers, with the two groups working in tandem in many boroughs and leading one industry insider to talk of the police being “embedded” with homeless groups.

After discovering that outreach teams in west London’s Fulham and Hammersmith area were being assisted by a constable and a community support officer, *The Pavement* has discovered a wider trend of co-operation that stretches across London.

The START outreach team in Southwark, St Mungo’s in Westminster and the company Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI), which operates outreach in several boroughs, all regularly work alongside the police in their outreach work.

Although the level of police involvement varies, they appear, in some cases, to be working with outreach teams in all their dealings with rough sleepers living on the streets. The relationship is not confined to the policy meetings organised by local authorities, where police and outreach organisations have worked together in the past, but has been extended to much of the day-to-day work done at street level. There are now fears that such a strong level of police involvement with outreach teams could put undue strain on relationships between outreach workers and the homeless.

In 2008, Homeless Link published a handbook called *Working Constructively with Enforcement*, on how the police should work with outreach. It describes enforcement as “a high risk strategy”, and warns against police action leading to “geographical displacement – where rough sleepers are

moved on from an area, they have little choice to move to another”. Crucially, the extent to which police could use their powers to forcibly extract information or to give ASBOs to uncooperative street sleepers also seems unclear.

The most straightforward reason for outreach workers needing police assistance is protection, says Hai-Anh Hoang of the St Mungo’s BBS [Building Based Service] team. “We work alongside the police most of the time,” she explains. “It’s necessary for the police to be there if clients are abusive or hard to control.”

But Ms Hoang concedes that the presence of police officers can make people unwilling to give out personal information. “We try not to let clients know how closely we work with the police,” she admits. “[But] if clients aren’t cooperative, we need help from the police to get their ID.”

A recent letter from Sergeant Dave Wiggins of north London’s Islington police to a member of a resident’s association website, kingscrossenvironment.com, reveals more about the objectives behind this co-operation. Responding to a resident’s complaint about rough sleeping and street drinkers in the King’s Cross area, the sergeant writes that the reason for the increase in street drinking in the area is, “because Camden Police’s Kings Cross SNT [Safer Neighbourhood Team] have been working intensively on their side of King’s Cross, pushing the beggars, street drinkers etc into our part of Kings Cross.”

In this scenario, outreach workers, the police and the council all focus their efforts on one place at a time, with the result that rough sleepers are forced into new areas,

away from the attentions of the authorities, the public and CCTV.

This satisfies demands from residents’ associations, who often want to see the visible evidence of homelessness removed from their neighbourhoods, but allows for little of the potentially long-term support that outreach teams could be giving to rough sleepers, aiming to help even the long-term rough sleepers into permanent accommodation.

To get a sense of local council attitudes to rough sleepers, *The Pavement* called Camden Council, posing as a new resident in the King’s Cross area who was concerned about rough sleepers near their home. The council’s information service said to ring the police directly, saying: “there’s nothing else the Council can do apart from get police to move them on.” Even when asked about the possibility of contacting an outreach service or a charity, *The Pavement* was told contacting the police was “the best and quickest option”.

Perhaps the most important factor motivating this level of heightened cooperation between outreach services and the police is increased demands made on outreach programmes and local authorities to meet government targets on cutting homelessness. Continued funding for certain outreach programmes will depend on decreasing numbers of homeless people leading up to the London Olympics in 2012.

In this context, it is possible that necessity could force outreach services to be further subsumed into police work, and the aspect of outreach that provides care and support will be lost.

Jim O’Reilly

Olympic clean up

How will Canada's homeless cope with the 2010 Winter Olympics

In the run-up to next year's Winter Olympic Games, Vancouver's authorities have confirmed that homeless people living within the Olympic zones will be removed by police, and arrested if they refuse to leave.

But despite this harsh approach, officers insist the homeless will be given space in shelters or help to go wherever they want. "The City of Vancouver and Vancouver police will work with homeless people either to help them find shelter or – if they don't wish to be sheltered – to help them relocate," says police chief Steve Sweeney. "Those who refuse to move, may be arrested."

It is estimated that more than 1,200 people are sleeping on the streets of the city, the largest in western Canada.

In recent months, police have been accused of giving tickets to homeless people more frequently for petty offences such as jaywalking.

But Detective Constable Sweeney says police will not be getting any extra powers, and that there were no plans to sweep Vancouver's streets of marginalised people. "We will not be engaging in any kind of social cleansing," he says, referring to the brutal treatment of people before the games in previous host cities.

The Olympic Games have a long legacy of land grabs and evictions of the poor, mentally ill, beggars and homeless, in order to present a sanitary facade for visitors during the games. A 2007 study by the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions found that in every city it examined, the Olympic Games had become – accidentally or deliberately – a catalyst for mass impoverishment and forced

evictions. This 'Olympic effect' has been witnessed across the world.

"There is currently a multifaceted crisis in housing supply, particularly of affordable social housing. This has arisen from decades of the privatisation of the existing social housing stock combined with gross under-funding of new building," says Martin Slavin, of the Olympic watch group Games Monitor. "Into this crisis comes the Olympic games 'gentrification' effect to compound the crisis at the poor end."

As far back as 1988 in Seoul, more than two million people were driven from their homes to make way for the Olympics. In the South Korean capital, more than 720,000 people were thrown out of their homes as 48,000 buildings were destroyed. Tenants were evicted without notice and left to freeze on the streets; some survived by digging caves by motorway embankments. Homeless people, those with mental health problems, alcoholics and beggars were rounded up and put into prison camps, and those who tried to resist were beaten by thugs and imprisoned.

Four years later in Barcelona, the Spanish government used the Olympics as an opportunity to 'cleanse' the city of beggars, prostitutes, Roma communities, hawkers and street sellers. Around 400 poor and homeless people were subjected to "control and supervision." Furthermore, house prices around Olympic zones rose by 240 per cent between 1988 and 1992; as a consequence, an estimated 59,000 people were driven out of the city because of rising house prices caused by the Olympics.

Similarly, the 1996 games in Atlanta – one of the most

segregated cities in America – saw many homeless people arrested and locked up without trial until the games were over, with 9,000 being arrested in the year before the games. Police issued "quality of life ordinances" which criminalised people who begged or slept rough. Around 30,000 mainly African-American families were also evicted from their homes, as developers demolished large housing projects.

In Sydney in 2000, there was much less persecution of the poor but there were still mass evictions from boarding houses and rented homes; and in 2004 in Athens, the Olympics were used as an excuse to evict 2,700 Roma, even from places where no Olympic developments were planned.

In Beijing last year, 1.5 million people were displaced for the games. Like the people of Seoul, they have been threatened and beaten if they resisted. Housing activists were imprisoned and beggars, hawkers and vagrants were rounded up and sentenced to "re-education" through labour.

In London, the mayor Boris Johnson has stood by an ambitious pledge made by his predecessor Ken Livingstone to reduce rough-sleeping in the capital to zero by 2012.

Although we are still three years away from the games, councils are under pressure to meet government targets and likewise police forces are also under pressure to get rough sleepers off the streets. Operation Poncho, the controversial practice of "wetting down" is still running in the City of London by the City of London Corporation, in partnership with the police and homelessness charity Broadway.

Rebecca Evans

Scottish news

All the homeless news from across Scotland

Pedalling for the Homeless

The highlight of Glasgow's Bike Week will take place on Saturday 20th June with the 6th annual Pedaling for the Homeless event, in aid of Lodging House Mission (pictured below).

The event has raised £48,000 over the past five years to support the work carried out by the day centre, based in the east end of Glasgow, which includes food provision, help and advice from support workers, and an education and activities programme.

The first event was set up in 2003 by a support worker with the aim of raising funds and aware-

ness of the centre and homelessness in general. A keen cyclist, he wanted to offer a day that the whole family, regardless of age or cycling ability, could take part in and enjoy. Service users are also encouraged to take part and include cycling as part of a healthy lifestyle. Many take the opportunity to train weekly, and also take part in the Pedal for Scotland event held annually in September.

Around 150 people each year take part in the 6km cycle starting in Kelvingrove Park, and ending in the SECC car park. Apart from the cyclists, there are many more who work behind the scenes such as local businesses and marshals along the cycle route, to ensure the event is a success.

The 6th Pedaling for the Home-

less event is part of the programme of events that celebrate the centre's centenary year. For more information on Lodging House Mission, Centenary Celebrations and the cycling event, visit www.lhmglasgow.org.uk

Pauline McColgan

Service provision deal falls through

Cost-cutting of homeless services in Edinburgh are in disarray after council chiefs withdrew a series of contract offers to charities at the last minute. Support services for 120 vulnerable adults across the city, who are at risk of becoming



homeless, were expected to be transferred from Edinburgh Home Link Partnership (EHLPP) to charities SAMH and Streetwork this April, but the deal fell through at the last minute. Elsewhere, other homelessness services provided on behalf of the council have been put on hold, with previous operators asked to continue them for the next six months. The process was part of a £14 million re-tendering of all council homeless support services, such as emergency advice for people at risk of sleeping rough.

Councillor Gordon Munro, the city's Labour housing spokesman, said: "The situation is a mess – just one week before the contract was meant to be transferred and nobody, either clients or the staff, knew what was going on.

"The council told us they didn't need to manage the handover process but it is now quite clear they did and the whole episode raises serious questions about the tendering process.

"What is of real concern is what is happening to both the staff and homelessness service users affected by this. We can't afford for these people to be left in the wilderness because of the council."

Recently, rough sleeping in Edinburgh has fallen, and the council has focused on a new early prevention initiative. The new approach by the council is aimed at helping those in danger of losing their homes.

Noelia Martínez Castellanos

Hep C and homelessness

Rik Hodgson of the Scottish Hepatitis C Resource Centre writes on Hep C for The Pavement

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. Hepatitis C is a viral form of this inflammation. It's a blood borne virus, which

means you can only contract the disease by getting infected blood into your bloodstream.

It can be passed on sexually but only if blood is present. The commonest route of infection is through the sharing of any injecting equipment, needles, syringes, spoons, filters, tourniquets, burners, or through putting your equipment down on contaminated surfaces. This is because Hepatitis C is a tough virus which can live outside the body for some time - perhaps 24 hours, or even longer.

Other possible risky activities include sharing toiletries, such as razors, toothbrushes, hair and nail clippers; sharing other drug-taking kit such as crack pipes and snorters, and through unsterile or unlicensed body art.

If you have ever put yourself at risk, particularly through sharing injecting equipment, then go and get tested. Hepatitis C is often asymptomatic, so it's not always obvious that you have it. However, the commonest symptoms are chronic tiredness, memory and concentration issues, insomnia, night sweats and joint pains. Many people who have it don't know about it.

The good news is that Hepatitis C is curable: 20 per cent clear the virus naturally without the need for treatment. It can also be treated, with treatment being between 40 – 90 per cent effective. Although treatment has a bad reputation on the streets, everyone reacts to it differently and some people do not suffer side effects at all.

There is lots of information out there on minimising the side effects of treatment, and you can speak to your consultant or nurse if you are experiencing side effects. A few simple lifestyle adjustments, such as not drinking alcohol, eating a balanced and healthy diet as well as milk thistle supplements, taking exercise, and drinking plenty of water, mean you can



"We told you to get a steady job as an artist, but no, you insisted on becoming a banker"

live with this virus relatively well.

There is no vaccine for Hep C, but get vaccinated for Hepatitis A & B. There is also no immunity, so you can get Hepatitis C, clear it through treatment or naturally then get it again. If left undiagnosed and untreated Hepatitis C can lead to chronic cirrhosis of the liver, irreversible liver failure, or liver cancer. It can result in early death. Hepatitis C is a health inequality issue, as it disproportionately affects people living in poverty and deprivation.

Rik Hodgson

Makeover project

A TV makeover-style project saw homeless people at a hostel in Leith brighten up their surroundings with a project designed to help them learn skills they can

eventually use in their own homes.

Residents of the Dunedin Harbour Hostel redesigned and decorated their TV room with the help of the community interior design scheme, Fab Pad. Almost 40 residents took part, sewing cushions and curtains, designing and painting, to create a comfortable lounge for both residents and staff.

Councillor Gordon Munro, who attended the room's opening on 3rd April, commented that the transformation was great: "This is a real demonstration of what the homeless residents can do given the chance." The hostel is run by Dunedin Canmore Group in partnership with Edinburgh City Council.

Ewan Fraser, chief executive of Dunedin Canmore Group, said: "The launch of the TV room has been a great opportunity to recognise the work of the residents and to see the skills they have learnt being put to

use. It just shows that by working together so much can be achieved."

Staff

The Voice

The Voice, a new magazine for people experiencing homelessness and other disadvantages, is a tool to improve literacy skills and an outlet for all those who enjoy writing.

Edited by tutor for the HALP project (Homelessness and Adult Literacy Partnership) with the Glasgow Simon Community, it welcomes contributions of all kinds from poems to jokes. You can contact them at: petermcdonald@glasgowsimon.org

HALP Project Glasgow's Simon Community 472 Ballater Street Glasgow G5 0QN

Staff

Supporting Scottish life

Every day we welcome more passengers

Stagecoach is a key part of the community in Scotland, providing lifeline transport links in rural areas and some of the country's biggest cities.

We also share our success by helping local people – and hundreds of our employees devote their own time every day to local projects that make a real difference.

Supporting the community. Working with the community. Part of the community.

STAGECOACH GROUP
greener smarter travel

www.stagecoachgroup.com

News-in-Brief

The homeless news from the UK and abroad

Official counts “grossly underestimate” figures

The number of people sleeping rough in England is being “grossly underestimated” by the government, with the real figure closer to 10 times that given in statistics, the Simon Community [London] has claimed.

Official figures say there are just 484 people on the streets across the whole country, but the charity’s most recent research suggests the real number is “at least” 10 times this because of the government’s “flawed” head count system.

The group has long argued against the government’s methodology for counting rough sleepers, as it includes only people who are asleep and on the pavement: those sitting in doorways, benches or parks are ignored. Another glitch in the compiling of official figures comes when councils that count up to 10 rough sleepers on a street ignore their figures and round them down to zero.

In London alone, a recent head count carried out by the charity in just eight of the capital’s 33 boroughs found 212 homeless people bedded down for the night – almost half of the government’s figure for the whole country.

Simon Community manager Jo Nurse said: “The real homelessness figure could be at least 10 times higher than the government claims. Their tools for measurement are ineffective, as many homeless people are not physically asleep and on *The Pavement*. They could be bedded down in car parks, disused buildings or parks.

“The head count we carry out

is only a snapshot of one night in a city that is awash with money, while some people are sleeping on bits of cardboard in doorways.”

The charity claimed this high number of people slept rough despite “sub-human” policies such as Operation Poncho, which are expected to become more vigorous in the run up to the 2012 Olympics. Ms Nurse said: “Draconian tactics such as hosing people with water to wake them up and make them move on achieve nothing. And with the credit crunch, the number of rough sleepers is only going to increase because of repossessions.

“There are not enough hostel spaces available as it is, and those that are, are mostly only by referral. We need to have some compassion. These are people, human beings who need to be helped, not forced away.”

She added: “A lot of homeless people have complex, deep-rooted problems. It’s not as simple as just telling them to get a job. But the government needs to get its figures right in the first place.”

Official figures were also blasted last month by a Winchester-based housing group, which claimed at least 50 people were sleeping rough on the city’s streets.

The last official head count for the historic Hampshire city suggested there were just four homeless people, out of a population of 40,000.

Alan Weeks, of the local resident’s association, told councillors that the number was more than 10 times this. “There are hidden away at least 50 rough sleepers who are completely destitute and in many cases are depressed and in need of medical attention,” he said.

A spokesman for the Depart-

ment for Communities and Local Government said: “Counts provide an effective tool by which we can monitor and demonstrate progress in reducing rough sleeping levels.

“The count methodology has always been robust as independent evaluations have proved on numerous occasions, but our strategy will go further to make our monitoring of rough sleepers even more comprehensive by introducing in depth Street Needs Audits, which will identify individuals, their profile and time spent sleeping rough, whether they have an active action plan and which is the lead agency responsible for them.”

Official figures show that lenders seized 40,000 homes last year, compared with 25,900 in the previous 12 months.

Rebecca Evans

Writer makes begging “gimmick” sign

A bestselling writer in the US has started a grassroots campaign to help people who beg benefit from President Obama’s economic stimulus package.

In the streets of New York, Gay Talese is handing out panhandling signs (pictured right) that read: “Please support Pres. Obama’s Stimulus Plan. Begin right here... at the bottom... Thank you.”

In a recent interview with the *New York Post*, Mr Talese said: “The people at the bottom of the social register, they’re constantly in the recession. This is a little gimmick that may help them earn a few more dollars.” He hit upon the ‘gimmick’ one day as he walked



past a man holding a sign that said "Homeless. Please Help".

"I dropped a dollar into his container, but at the same time thought that the sign might benefit from updating – it needed a touch of stimulus, that word that dominates the headlines," Mr Talese wrote in his blog.

He then wrote the phrase on a strip of laundry board. The panhandler promised to have it on display the following day. Later, Mr Talese printed the words in large type and distributed copies to panhandlers who approached him.

"I took down the names and phone numbers of many of my street clients. All said they would display the signs I made for them, and ... I telephoned a few to ask if the message had yet had any effect. Most said it was too early to tell. But all were hopeful," wrote Mr Talese.

One man told the writer that after reading the sign, passers-by stopped to discuss it with him, and that he had made \$10–\$20 more than usual.

Giedre Steikunaite

Eastern European hostel opens in London

A new hostel has opened in London specifically targeting Eastern Europeans – the first centre of its kind in the UK.

The Olallo Project in Euston opened last December with 12 beds. Now the centre has space for more than 30 rough sleepers in eight apartments with self-contained kitchens, and is hoping to continue to grow.

The project has been denied government funding because it targets migrants from the EU Accession States, such as Poland and the Czech Republic, who have no access to the British benefit system until they have worked and paid taxes for two years. All of its £600,000 annual funding comes from the church and private donations.

As well as accommodation, there is a training centre offering employment programmes and training workshops. Migrants are helped to improve their English and use computers.

Development manager David Barratt was keen to point out that this was short-term, targeted support. "We are not supporting people who choose to work on a casual, untaxed or illegal basis, and our entire focus is on helping to prepare those who are capable of employment and then helping them to obtain it," he said. "For those who cannot work due to a lack of skills, motivation or other support issues, we are offering reconnection services back to the home country."

It is part-funded by the Poor Servants of the Mother of God and the Hospitaller Brothers of St John of God, and also by The Passage, another church-run organisation, which was one of the first to raise the alarm on the high number of A10 migrants using London's hostel system.

The problems facing Eastern

Europeans have polarised under the recession, as sterling falls in value and jobs dry up.

Mr Barrett added that minority groups can often experience prejudice when times are hard. "I know from experience that any new group to the streets – especially when they arrive in relatively large numbers and displace existing groups – tends to have a knock-on effect," he said. "Equally, with the economy as a whole in dire trouble, this is bound to affect the way our clients are being viewed."

Last month, Homeless Link figures showed 25 per cent of homeless people in London are Eastern Europeans.

Rebecca Wearn

US homeless given fiscal boost

US cities are to get roughly nine times more federal funding than expected to fight homelessness from President Obama's economic stimulus package.

From the \$787bn package, \$1.7bn is being specifically targeted for homeless people. The Emergency Shelter Grant programme is to get \$1.5bn on top of its normal funding.

If the President's \$3.6 trillion 2010 budget is passed, there will be more money for affordable and subsidised housing, and to help homeless veterans and families. The administration's two-pronged approach is to prevent homelessness, and to act swiftly to help people who have been hit by it.

Money will also go towards helping victims of domestic violence who are at risk of becoming homeless and homeless children.

Philip Mangano, executive director of the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, welcomed the

fiscal boost: "This stimulus package is very expansive and inclusive for all Americans," he said.

The nation's so-called Homelessness Czar said the stimulus was like "manna from heaven", because this extra money comes on top of the regular federal budget. On average, it is a 900 per cent increase on funding. "They weren't expecting these dollars," said Mr Mangano.

The number of long-term homeless people in the States fell by almost a third between 2005 and 2007; however, the number of homeless families has increased by around 11 per cent since mid-2008, and they now account for 34 per cent of the total homeless population. Shockingly, 42 per cent of the children in these families are under six. And a recent report from the National Centre on Family Homelessness estimated that one in 50 American children is homeless.

Val Stevenson and Giedre Steikunaite

40 per cent fewer young homeless in B&Bs

The number of young homeless people using bed and breakfasts as temporary accommodation fell by 40 per cent over the last year, according to new figures published by the Department for Communities and Local Government.

The statistics show that the number of 16- and 17-year-old youngsters living alone in B&Bs fell from 550 to 330 during 2008.

The DCLG said the decrease was thanks to measures introduced by the government to tackle homelessness among young people, which include a supported lodgings scheme and improved access to family mediation.

So far, local housing authorities have used B&Bs to secure

suitable temporary accommodation for youngsters. However, in 2006 the government announced a new series of measures to tackle youth homelessness, including a commitment to end the use of B&B accommodation by 2010.

Homelessness minister Iain Wright said: "Young people at risk of becoming homeless are some of the most vulnerable in society, and simply parking these young people in bed and breakfast accommodation without ensuring they have the skills or confidence for independent living just isn't good enough."

But while the number of youngsters being placed in B&B accommodation is decreasing, the scale of the problem of homelessness among youths is still significant.

A policy document released in 2007 by the DCLG showed that between 2005 and 2006, as many as 8,350 young people aged 16 and 17, together with 18–20-year-old care-leavers, were "accepted as being unintentionally homeless and in priority need specifically because of their age, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty".

But DCLG figures suggest the trend is gradually improving. During the last quarter of 2008, 21 per cent fewer applicants – both adults and youths – were accepted as owed a main homeless duty than during the same period in 2007.

As of December 2008, 15 per cent fewer households than the previous year were in temporary accommodation, which



"The cab driver Tracy Emin vomited on has just fetched half a million"

is the largest decrease since the figures peaked in 2004.

Carlo Svaluto Moreolo

Change at the top

The chief executive of homelessness charity Shelter has quit to become the head of a new consumer watchdog.

Adam Sampson, who has led the charity for six years, will be the first chief ombudsman of the Office for Legal Complaints, which will monitor legal services. Mr Sampson, 49, took charge of Shelter just months after plans to merge with rival organisation Crisis collapsed.

His departure comes as the charity struggles with the effects of the recession. As a result of a significant drop in the level of donations over the last 18 months, it has been forced to make job cuts, while also handling a rise in demand for its services, as more and more people lose their homes.

Mr Sampson said: "The six or more years I have spent in Shelter have been some of the most satisfying – and challenging – of my life.

"Shelter has been, and always will be, very important to me and I always knew that it would take a special job to tempt me away."

Mr Sampson began his career as a probation officer, before becoming deputy director of the Prison Reform Trust. In 1994, he joined the Home Office as assistant prisons ombudsman before returning to the voluntary sector as chief executive of drugs charity RAPT. He will take up his new post on 1st July 2009.

Rebecca Evans

Workers Registration Scheme to continue

The government has decided to continue the controversial Workers Registration Scheme (WRS) for Accession State migrants for a further two years.

WRS was introduced in 2004 when eight new countries joined the European Union. It was designed to help the UK Border Agency to monitor migrants, by asking them to pay £70 for a UK work certificate, which they are required to hold until they have been working uninterrupted for 12 months.

The scheme has been criticised for causing poor integration and forcing migrants into illegal work. One such critic, TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber, argued it made no difference to the number of migrants entering the UK. "If A8 workers do not register, they are denied all employment rights, leaving them open to abuse by unscrupulous employers. This in turn threatens the pay and conditions of other workers," he said. "The decision to prolong it is, therefore, perplexing, as it serves no real purpose.

Rebecca Wearn

Invisible TV

A website showing footage of life on Los Angeles' Skid Row, alongside interviews with the city's rough sleepers, has been set up to raise awareness of homelessness in the US.

Mark Horvath, who has lived on the streets several times, designed the site invisiblepeople.tv after being shocked at the extent to which homeless people are ignored and treated as though they were invisible. "Our views of people in poverty are not healthy," he told *The Pavement*. "Poverty does not discriminate, and homelessness

can happen to anyone. If people engaged in open communication, we could address these negative predispositions and effectively bring about real change."

The website encourages responses from visitors, yet there is no fundraising aspect to the project. "The last 10 years of working as a non-profit marketer and media producer has greatly shaped this project", he said. "I've seen lots of bad marketing and lots of bad fundraising campaigns. The non-profit community always wants to play it safe, but I just tell it like it is."

The people Mr Horvath interviews come from a wide-range of backgrounds: from John, the small-business owner, who lost his home as a result of the global economic crisis and is now recycling bottles for money; to Jennifer, six months pregnant on the streets of Manhattan, left with nowhere to go after the winter shelter she lived in was forced to close down.

Mr Horvath said the response from visitors to the site had been 'overwhelming'; the comments for each video are a mix of outright praise for the project, and people who are facing or have experienced homelessness sharing their stories.

His eventual goal is to expand the project to an international web community, although there are more pressing concerns at the moment. "I am currently trying to survive this economic crisis myself," he said. "I just focus on one story at a time while I look for employment. My true hope is we will all find more compassion in the weeks and months ahead. There is not any one answer to this problem except that we are all the solution".

You can visit the website at <http://invisiblepeople.tv/blog/>

Jim O'Reilly



"Even Sammy's gone belly-up – when will it ever end?"

Shunning the shelter

Four people have chosen to set up camp near a stream in Oxford rather than use the city's shelter facility.

Pat Kelly, Shamen Hazzard, Dawn Lovell and a man known as Les claimed fighting and the temptations of drinking and drug abuse have forced them out of the Luther Street hostel and into tents for their makeshift home. Mr Kelly said: "I wouldn't go into the night shelter. You can't get to sleep there. I have tried but it was a waste of time."

The four live with their eight dogs and cook over a campfire. They use nearby shower and toilet facilities in the Gap Project building in Oxford's Park End Street.

Ms Lovell said: "I don't like the night shelter because of all the fighting and the drugs, and you can't get to sleep. We are all happy here. This is a place we can get off the drink. At the night shelter, all

the other homeless keep saying have a drink, and if you don't, you're not part of the crowd."

But shelter director Lesley Dewhurst denied claims that life in the hostel was harder than those in other cities. "There are people who use drugs and behave badly, but the staff act when they see these problems. We exclude trouble makers," she said.

"Many people not staying at the shelter drink at the front of the building. It's on a back-alley, so the police don't see the problems. But we're building a new yard out the front that will only be accessible to people staying at the shelter. It will be ready by the end of April and it will make it easier for the police to move people on, as they'll be able to single out those not staying here."

Mike Edmondstone

Homes for Less, Canada

Responding to continued high numbers of homeless in Vancouver, Canada, Christian Blyt, an associate professor at the city's Emily Carr University, got his students to design an unusual solution – small cabins.

Their Homes for Less project designed and made small wooden houses, measuring 64 square feet, to provide a dry, private rooms. And each cost under £850 to build.

Prefabricated wood frame homes can be manufactured in components in a factory, and its hoped that more will be built in the near future. Although the prototype homes started on display on Granville Island, Vancouver, until November last year, they've since been moved to a site where homeless men and women can occupy them.

It is currently estimated that between 8,000 and 15,000 people are homeless in and around Vancouver.

A photograph of the diminutive houses is on our centre spread, as is a website to get more detail.

Staff

Look Ahead quashes sale rumour

Look Ahead has not sold its Aldgate Hostel premises to Tower Hamlets, both the charity and the council have confirmed.

Following up on reports from readers that the hostel had been disposed of for a consideration of £20m, and was subsequently being leased back to Look Ahead, *The Pavement* contacted both parties.

A spokesperson from the housing charity stressed the situation had not changed since our last report on the matter. "It is business as usual at the hostel. It has not been sold," he said.

"We're committed to continuing to provide a good service for homeless people in the area. We are continuing to work closely with Tower Hamlets Council."

A Tower Hamlets spokeswoman reiterated no sale had taken place.

Cat Neilan

Dome living

Designers in Italy and America are hoping that plastic domes will help in the fight to provide shelter for their homeless communities.

In Italy, architecture and design group Zo_loft has produced plans for a 'wheely shelter' (artist's impression below). Consisting of a large rubber tyre, housing two plastic tents that pop out either side of the tyre's rim when needed, the shelter can be folded up and pushed along during the day and then popped out at night. The shelter also comes with a large back that fits in the centre of the wheel for storing items.

The designers hope that by having two tents, which look like giant cylinders sprouting out from each side of the wheel, the

shelter will provide homeless people an area in which to live and store their possessions.

Zo_loft hopes the design will bring a whole new language to the streets: according to the firm's promotional material: "The businessman is the one with the overnight bag; the homeless man will be the one with the coloured wheel."

On the other side of the Atlantic, US designers are hoping that a wooden-framed igloo-type structure will help provide shelter. Much larger than the Zo_loft design, these permanent structures are being distributed by the 7th Haven organisation across the States to help house some of the country's 500,000 former servicemen.

After this, the company hopes to set off around the world with its design, in an attempt to build seven million cost-effective and energy-efficient homes for the homeless and poor in the next seven years.

Nathan Bleaken

Japanese cyber homes

Japan's growing number of jobless are finding new ways of

coping with the costs of living, by making their permanent home in small booths – measuring no more than a metre wide – in cyber cafés around the city.

The people who populate these booths are Japan's cyber drifters – men and women who have little work and just enough money to afford the cubicles that constitute their home. Most have ended up in Tokyo after travelling throughout the country in search of work. They pay \$500 (£330) a month for the small, box-like compartments, which have no ventilation or natural light but represent the cheapest accommodation available in Japan's over-populated capital.

Cyber drifters are not a new phenomenon – people have been sleeping in these cafes like this for nearly 12 years. In fact, it is so common that Western travellers choose it as an alternative to paying for hostels when visiting the country. But with the credit crunch coming on the heels of Japan's decade-long recession, it is becoming an increasingly practical alternative for those who have lost their jobs.

As previously reported in *The Pavement* (Issue 18), Japan has struggled with tens of thousands of rough sleepers as a result of the country's economic meltdown in the 1990s. The global credit crunch has done nothing to improve the situation. Estimates vary, but anecdotal figures suggest that although the number of people without permanent accommodation had declined significantly (down from 25,000 five years ago to 16,000 last year), it is returning to record levels.

This is also causing conflict between "new homeless", whom one report described as "younger, angrier and unadjusted to the conventions of life on the streets" and the longer-term homeless communities.

Nathan Bleaken



Waterloo Dispersal “a success”

Local authorities have hailed the success of the Waterloo dispersal zone, half way through its six-month implementation in Lambeth, south London.

Since being introduced on 5th January this year, 90 people have been dispersed and five arrests had been made as *The Pavement* went to press.

A three-month review held by The Bishops Safer Neighbourhood Team, which is made up of local residents and businesses within the ward, revealed the panel had received nothing but positive feedback. A spokesperson for Lambeth Council added that businesses on London's popular Southbank had been particularly impressed with how rough sleepers and street drinking has been significantly reduced.

However, Councillor Mark Bennett, Lambeth Council's cabinet member for community safety, said the scheme was as much about rough sleepers as it is about local residents and the business community. “We are pleased to have significantly reduced rough sleeping and ensure it does not become a persistent problem,” he said.

“But at the same time many rough sleepers are victims of crime rather than the perpetrators, and we don't want to simply move them elsewhere, so we have used this opportunity to step up our outreach work to help homeless people get off the streets.”

Regular readers will note there is no official link between the numbers of individuals being dispersed or moved on and a reduction in homeless figures.

Dispersal zones are being introduced in the UK through legislation contained in section 30 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

Currently the Waterloo Zone is the only active dispersal zone in Lambeth. Dispersal zones have been previously used in Clapham, Brixton, Streatham and Norwood, but Lambeth Council gave no information about future plans.

Rebecca Wearn

Skid Row the movie

The story of a rough sleeping virtuoso cellist called Nathaniel Ayers and the friendship that develops with journalist Steve Lopez has been given the Hollywood treatment.

But the film, which stars Robert Downey Jr and Jamie Foxx, features “hundreds of homeless background actors”, and appears to have loftier aspirations than just making money.

Partner groups such as Participant Media and DoSomething.org have led campaigns such as ‘Teens



What a waste

We don't keep our fresh, natural food overnight to sell the following day. We never have and we never will.

For years we've worked with registered charities helping the homeless by offering our unsold sandwiches to them at the end of each day.

Unfortunately, some still get chucked away.
(And that really upsets us.)

If you know of a charity in need of good food,
please tell them to call Edward Metcalfe
on 020 7932 3339.

★ PRET A MANGER ★

for Jeans', in which youngsters were encouraged to donate their jeans for teenage rough sleepers, and 'Feed the Need', which collected 1.2m lbs of food, as part of the film's "social action".

Meanwhile, the people behind the film have dedicated much of their press time to talking about working with the 450 homeless extras, as well as the issues that the film delves into. The press pack itself contained facts and figures about the extent of homelessness in LA County, where it is estimated there are more than 73,000 homeless people.

Extras casting coordinator Maryellen Aviano said: "The downtown community completely embraced the movie because [director] Joe Wright spent several months working with them and invited them to share their experiences. The film gave them an opportunity to step up and show how resourceful they can be as a community."

Wright described the experience as "without exaggeration, kind of life-changing". He added: "It taught me a lot of humility and to never underestimate anyone."

Downey said it was "quite an immersion" and "a fantastic leap of faith", while Foxx applauded Wright for having "[taken] a risk and he made it work".

Not due out in the UK until September, it has received mediocre reviews from US critics so far.

Cat Neilan

Iranian Slumdog

It was the fairy tale story that only seemed real in the movies – a slumdog who becomes a millionaire. But now police in Iran have discovered that there was a real life Slumdog living on their streets.

When officers were called to the ramshackle home of Talet



"I love it when we just drift through life..."

Habibian in Shahr-e-Kord, in the west of the country, they expected to just be recording the details of his death. They were not prepared for the rich bounty they discovered.

Mr Habibian, who had spent his life begging and pleading for favours, had been hoarding more than £7,000 in cash, precious jewellery and ornaments, and was also the owner of a number of lucrative businesses and acres of fertile farmland.

Police have not established why Habibian, whose assets are expected to be worth millions of pounds, spent most of his life on the streets, but to his neighbours he will always be remembered as the local beggar.

Nathan Bleaken

Homeless World Cup expands

Funds from the Vodafone Foundation have helped create six new roles at the Homeless World Cup, including a chief executive,

international development director and fundraising managers.


Mel Young, co-founder and president of the Homeless World Cup, said he hoped this would help his organisation effect real lasting change.

"What the world needs now, in the current climate, is the emergence of new leaders and new entrepreneurs with a completely new set of values," he added. "These people are scattered throughout our partner organisations. We now want to fulfil this potential and build a powerful grass roots movement using football to change the world."

The first Homeless World Cup took place in 2003 and aimed to develop grassroots football projects in more than 75 countries. More than two-thirds of the players are recovering drug or alcohol addicts. Founders hope to reach one million people who are homeless with the benefits of football.

Rebecca Wearn





Tired of sleeping out, but don't want to go the hostel route? Maybe there will be an alternative in the future – see story page 14. More information about the Homes for Less project is on the blog: <http://blogs.eciad.ca/design/>

STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 5

THE CLASH!

GENTLEMEN, I TRUST YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON SLEEPING HERE ARE YOU?

NO WHERE ELSE TO GO, HAVE WE?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN OFFERED ACCOMMODATION NOW, JOHN?

THAT I ACCEPT AND IN? NO

WELL YOU HAVE THE BUT I DON'T AND I' ENFORCE THE LA SLEEP HERE TO

ENOUGH, MY HOMELESS FRIENDS. YOU'VE INTERFERED WITH MY PLANS TOO OFTEN, AND SO I'M HERE TO SEE YOU OFF MY STREETS!

I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME BUT KNOW WHO YOU ARE. MET YOUR PAWNS AND FOR YOUR MINION, SUPER STRE

I'M SPRING-HEELLED JACK, AND I'M THE ORGAN GRINDER ALRIGHT. I'M HERE TO CLEAR THE STREETS SO MY CRIMINAL LEGION CAN MOVE ABOUT UNNOTICE

COULD
BE HAPPY
ONE.

CHOICE,
M HERE TO
W. DON'T
NIGHT.

ME,
I'VE
UGHT
NETH.

ED!



THEY'RE **STUBBORN**,
THESE ONES, AND
STREET SHIELD
HAS HELPED THEM
STAND THEIR GROUND!

I'VE TRIED IT ALL TO CLEAR
MY STREETS, EVEN TALKING **KERBSIDE**
COUNCIL INTO **HOT-WASHING**, **ASBOS**
AND **MOVE ONS**, BUT STILL THEY
WON'T MOVE. NOW I'LL HAVE
TO DO IT THE **OLD FASHIONED WAY!**



TRY,
PLEASE!

I THINK I WAS
SENT TO **STOP YOU!**

NEXT MONTH • THE STREET ARENA



"Since you ask, it's Uranus"

Foot care

Clipping your toe nails – the dos and don'ts

The art of cutting toenails is a subject about which much has been written, but what should we really do? Those of us who have experienced the agony of a true ingrown toenail will testify to their potential to make our lives an absolute misery. But magazines are full of conflicting advice. Cut the corners off. Don't cut the corners off. Cut a 'v' shape in the middle. Don't cut a 'v' shape in the middle. So what should we do in the tricky quest to cut our toenails correctly and prevent painful problems in the long term?

Toenails take a long time to grow – they take 12 to 18 months

to get from the bottom to the top. It might not seem like that as we battle to keep them short enough to be comfortable, as it looks like they are growing really quickly. A key message for ideal toenail management would be cut them. Don't pick or tear at them, because ragged edges are much more likely to leave you at risk of an ingrown toenail. Never poke them: cut them. Small nail clippers aren't the best option for toenails, so try to use small- to medium-sized scissors or proper toenail clippers. It's better if you have your own set, as sharing can lead to infection. Cut your toenails straight across, and don't

make any 'v' shape in the top of the nail plate. Avoid digging into the corners if you can help it, just cut the corners straight across on the same line as the rest of the nail. Cut your nails short, with just a little bit (maybe about 2mm) of the free edge (the white bit) showing above the nail bed (the pink bit).

If the skin around your nail becomes red and swollen, and one side is painful, you may have an ingrown toenail. If so, you should speak to your doctor or local centre about getting referred to a podiatrist. An ingrown toenail may also get infected and while antibiotics will help the infection, they won't take away the splinter of nail that causes the problem – you need a podiatrist for that.

If your nails seem a bit thicker than normal, there could be a number of causes. Your nails may have suffered trauma, possibly from an accident or from repeated bumping from badly-fitting shoes. If they are thickened and also a little yellow or crumbly, you may have a fungal nail infection. This is much more difficult and time-consuming to treat than the skin infections, just because it is more difficult for the antifungals to penetrate.

If you wear nail varnish on your toenails, give your nails a chance to 'breathe' without polish from time to time, otherwise you might find that you get little white spots on your nails.

Oh yeah, and the last bit about toenails: don't follow my 11-year-old's habit – don't bite them!



Evelyn Weir

Lecturer in Podiatry
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh

Dear Flo...

Needlestick injuries – part one

Two months ago, in these pages, I covered needlestick injuries. This is when your skin is punctured by a needle, either as a user around other people injecting or just coming across discarded needles. The message is worth repeating, but rather than reprinting my words, I thought it better to produce a visual aid.

So, this month is *part one* of Nurse Flo's quick guide to needlestick injuries and safety.

The dangers in getting a needlestick injury from a needle are three-fold: infection could be caught from the blood on the needle, bacteria from the dirty needle itself, or from contaminated drugs the needle may have contained.

With blood borne viruses, some live a short period outside the body, whereas others persist for months; if you see old blood on a needle, don't assume it's safe.

Even an unused, discarded needle has potential risk with the bacteria from the environment being present on the needle, for example tetanus.

And, it's important to consider the potential for the needle to have remnants of drugs that contained bacteria, such as clostridia.

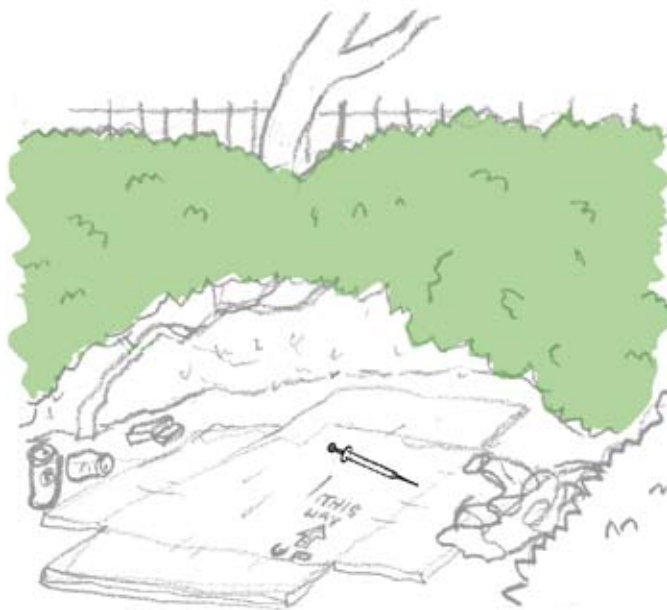
Before we get back to '*what to do if...*' next month, be aware of the dangers, and try to avoid getting a needlestick in the first instance.

Finally, if you are an intravenous drug user, help everyone stay safe by disposing of your used needles in a safe place – ideally in a sharps container. Good health,

Flo

Next month, part two – what to do if you are punctured by a needle.

Watch out for discarded needles:



No. 1

Where you bed down

Always check the area, and if possible scout it out before nightfall. If in the dark, try to sweep the area with a stick or piece of cardboard before you bed down – do not feel around with your hands!



No. 2

Amongst discarded clothing

Needles can be found in discarded clothing, either as they've been dumped together or as they've been carried in a pocket.

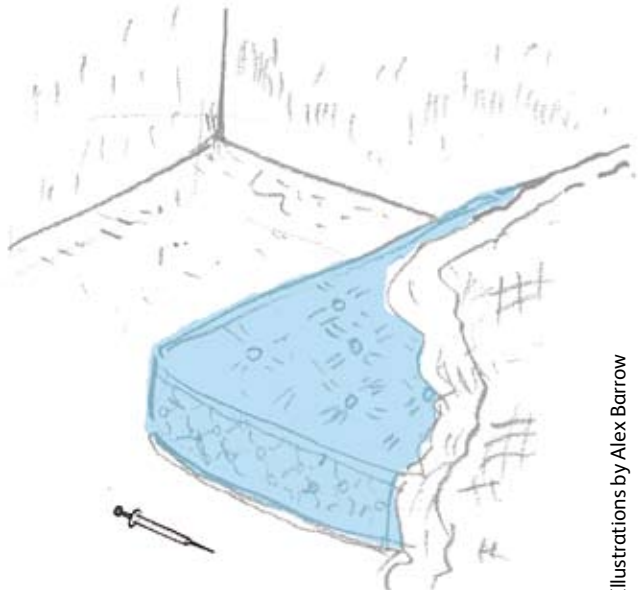
A needle in a pocket might look unused, but unless it's sealed in a packet, don't assume it's clean.

No. 3

In disused buildings and squats

Be vigilant when entering a disused building or squat, even if you've been told it's clean. It might not be being used as a shooting gallery, but sometimes an individual may have injected there.

The problem is exacerbated because there's often clutter or debris to camouflage the needles, and if there's no electricity, light conditions are likely to be poor.



HOMELESS CITY GUIDE



squat



empty building



dangerous neighbourhood



danger



guard dogs



an attack happened here



good place to drink / smoke



unfriendly place



friendly place



soup run (with rating)



strong police presence



potential for work



good food thrown away here



safe for sleeping



message board x mins that way



security guard

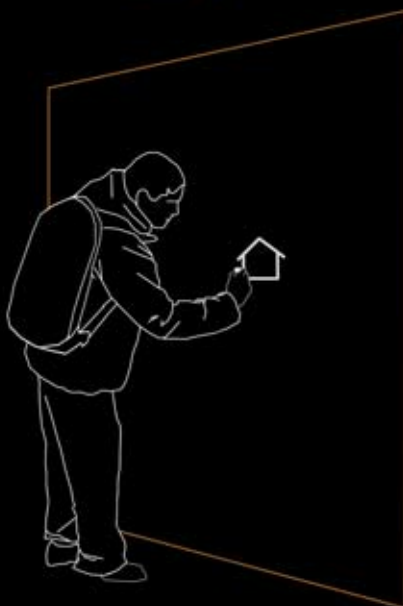


you'll get moved on here

step 1



step 2



MAKE YOUR MARK AND HELP OTHERS TO READ THE CITY

Make non permanent marks to keep the system up to date and stay within the law.

missing people
Help. Charity No. 1040119

If you have seen Aniko, please call the 24-hour confidential charity Missing People on Freephone 0500 700 700 or email: missingpeople.org.uk

Aniko is 5ft 8in tall, of large build with grey eyes and brown shoulder length hair.

There is great concern for Aniko and she is urged to call our confidential service Message Home on Freephone 0800 700 740 and we can forward a message on her behalf.

Aniko has been missing from Hendon, since 3rd May 2009.

Age at disappearance: 33

Aniko Kovacs



"Aargh, it's Blind Pooh"

Homeless Information Pages Glasgow
Lots of useful information and advice on homeless services in and around Glasgow www.hipinglasgow.com

WEBSITES GLASGOW

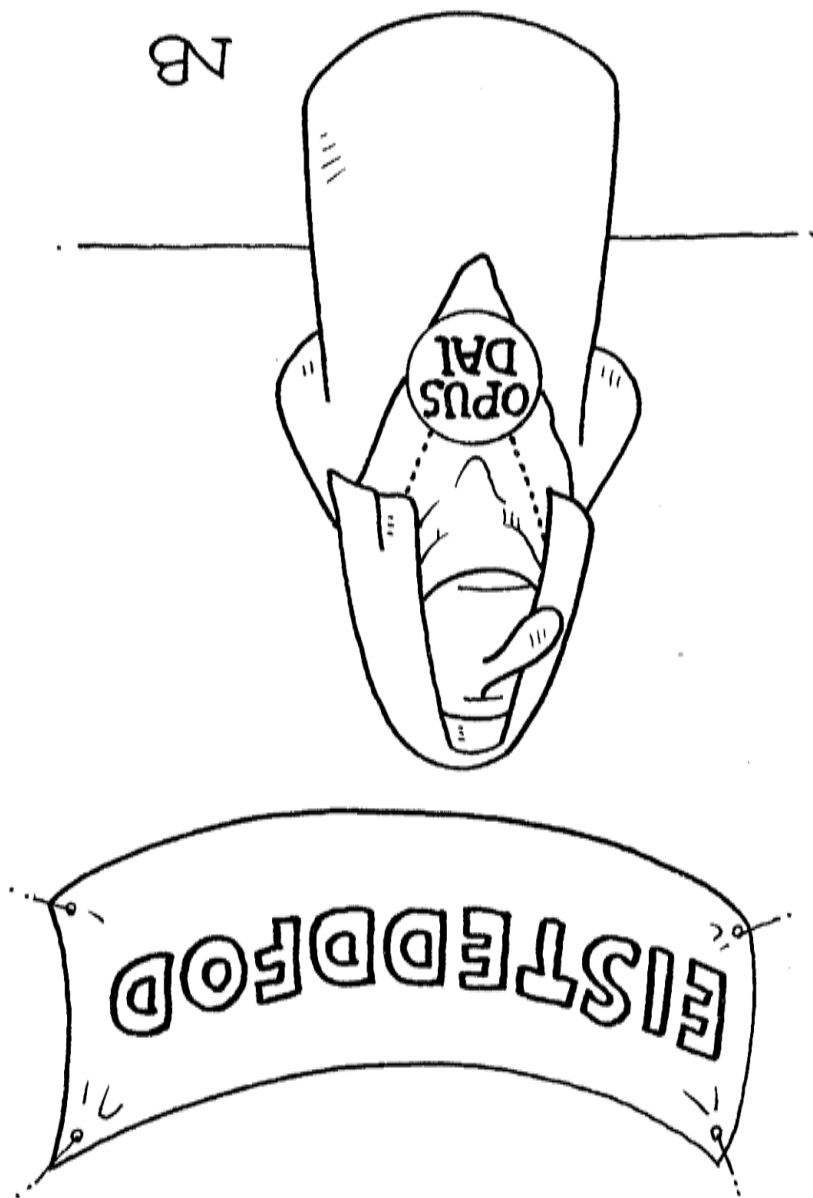
In Edinburgh including hostels, advice and support centres. Also has information on over 8,000 services outside Edinburgh www.homelessedinburgh.org

Homeless Edinburgh
A comprehensive website containing information about services

WEBSITES EDINBURGH

Streetmate
An independent site with substantial information on housing, working and learning, built for those homeless who use the internet and want to do-it-themselves as much as possible. www.streetmate.org

Stonewall Housing
Addresses the housing needs of lesbians and gay men. Provides temporary, supported housing for 16 – 25 years old lesbians and gay men. www.stonewallhousing.org



Little Sisters of the Poor
43 Gilmore Place, EH3 9NG
0131 229 5672
Every day 1 - 2pm and 6 - 7pm
FF

Missionaries of Charity
18 Hopetoun Crescent, EH7 4AY
0131 557 8219
Every day except Thur:
3.45 - 4.30pm
FF

Salvation Army
1 East Adam Street, EH8 9TF
0131 662 4455
Mon: 9am - 12 noon; Tue and Thur:
3 - 9pm; Fri: 1 - 4pm; Sat: 6 - 9pm
FF

St George's West
58 Shandwick Place, EH2 4RT
0131 226 2428
Mon - Sat: 9am - 3pm
FF

Soup Van
Every night: 9 - 9.45pm
Runs from Waverley Bridge to
Grassmarket and North Bridge
FF

SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS GLASGOW
Balvicar Street
G42 8QU
Thurs: 7 - 9pm
FF

Cadogan Street
Glasgow G2 7AB
Runs at these times:
Sun: 9 - 10pm; Mon: 7.30 -
9pm; Tues: 8.45pm - 12.30am;
Wed: 9 - 10pm; Fri: 8 - 9pm
FF

Rokpa Glasgow
Kagyu Samye Dzong
The Tibetan Buddhist Centre
7 Ashley Street
Glasgow
G3 6DR
0141 332 9950
FF

St. Columba's Church
St. Vincent Street, G2
Sun: 7.30 - 9pm
FF

St. Patrick's Church
North Street, G3 7DA
Thur & Sun: 8pm - 9pm
FF

St. Simon's Church
Dunaskin Street, G11 6PQ
Sun: 1.30 - 2.30pm
FF

Waterloo Street
G2
Thur: 10pm - 12am
FF

SPECIALIST SERVICES GLASGOW

Glasgow Rent Deposit and Support Scheme
3rd Floor, Crowngate Business
Centre, 117 Brook Street, G40 3AP
0141 550 7140
Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
AS, BA, H

Glasgow Women's Support Project
31 Stockwell St, G1 4RZ
0141 552 2221
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 10am
- 4.30pm; Wed: 2 - 4.30pm
Information, advice and initial
support for women who have
experienced sexual abuse

TELEPHONE SERVICES
Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

Frank
0800 776 600
Free 24-hr drug helpline

Get Connected
0808 808 4994
Free advice for young people
(1 pm - 7pm daily)

Job Centre Plus (benefits agency)
To make a claim
0800 055 6688
For queries about existing claims
For Income Support, Jobseekers
Allowance or Incapacity Benefit
0845 377 6001
For Social Fund enquiries
0845 608 8661
For the Pensions Service
0845 60 60 265

WEBSITES

Message Home Helpline
0800 700 740
24 hrs daily

National Debtline
0808 808 4000

Runaway Helpline
0808 800 7070
Free line for under-18s
who have left home

The Samaritans
08457 90 9090

SANeline
6 - 11pm
0845 767 8000
Out-of-hours helpline for those
affected by mental health

Shelter
0808 800 4444
Housing info and advice
8am-8pm daily

UK Human Trafficking Centre
0114 252 3891

TELEPHONE SERVICES
EDINBURGH
Edinburgh City Mission
0845 658 0045
Providing a listening service
for anyone in emotional crisis.
Also offers face-to-face coun-
selling by appointment

Mental Fight Club
A creative/arts site for those
with mental illness.
uk.geocities.com/gabriele-
jenkinson@btinternet.com/

The Pavement Online
Soon to have an online version of
The Other List, which will soon be in
several translations to download.
www.thepavement.org.uk/
services.htm

Proud to be mad
A campaigning site for those
with mental illness
www.proudtobemad.co.uk

MEDICAL SERVICES GLASGOW

The Physical Health Care Team

55 Hunter St, G4 0UP

0141 553 2826

Mon - Fri: 1 - 5pm

Has two GPs and a team of nurses

and office staff who also run

clinics at some hostels. Appoint-

ments not necessary. They also

provide support for people who

and want someone to go along

with them. There is also an

addiction and mental health

team based at this address

A, D, FC, MH, MS, SH

PERFORMING ARTS

tbc

SOUP KITCHENS & SOUP RUNS

EDINBURGH

Barony Contact Point

101 High Rigg, EH3 9RP

0871 700 7777 / 0131 622 1867

Tue: 10.30am - 4pm;

Thur: 10am - 1pm, FF

Calton Centre

121 Montgomery Street, EH7 5EP

0131 661 5252

Tues: 6 - 8.30pm

FF

Carriubher's Christian Centre

65 High Street, EH1 1SR

0131 556 2626

Sun: 8.30 - 9am

FF

Grassmarket Mission

79/3 Grassmarket, EH1 2HJ

0131 225 3626

Mon: 7 - 9pm; Tues: 6 - 7pm;

Wed: 1 - 4pm; Fri: 1 - 4pm and

6 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 10.30pm

FF

Jericho house

53 Lotian Street, EH1 1HB

0131 225 8230

Sun: 10am - 2pm; Weds

and Thurs: 6 - 7.30pm

FF

ENTERTAINMENT & SOCIAL

EVENTS

tbc

EX-FORCES

AWOL?

01380 738137

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen and Families Associa-

tion): Mon - Fri: 9am - 10am

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

Veterans UK

0800 169 2277

Free help and advice for vet-

erans and access to dedicated

one-to-one welfare service

www.veterans-uk.info

EX-FORCES EDINBURGH

Whiteford House

53 Canongate, EH8 8BS

0131 556 6827

Ring first

Mon - Fri: 7am - 5pm

Accommodation for homeless

ex-service men and women,

including ex-merchant mariners.

Can accept married couples

JOB CENTRE PLUS

See Telephone Services for helplines

MEDICAL SERVICES EDINBURGH

Edinburgh Homeless Practice

(Cowgate Clinic)

20 Cowgate, EH1 1JX

0131 240 2810

Mon, Wed - Fri: 9am - 12.45pm,

1.45 - 5pm; Tues 9am - 12.45pm

Health service for homeless people,

including a general nursing and

treatment room, mental health

care, 10 GP sessions a week, as well

as dental services two mornings

a week. Also provides a chiropody

service, occupational therapist,

clinical psychologist and psy-

chiatrist. A bathing service and

clothes exchange is available too

A, DT, D, FC, MS, MH, SH

DRUG / ALCOHOL SERVICES

GLASGOW

Cocaine Anonymous Scotland

0141 959 6363

www.cascotland.org.uk

Helpline offering help and support

to those with or recovering from

an addiction. Also offer meetings

and literature on addictions

A, AD, C, D

Drug Crisis Centre

The West Street Centre, 123

West Street, G5 8BA

0141 420 6969

www.turningpointscotland.com

24hr service offering informa-

tion and advice to those who

abuse drugs. Also residential drug

rehab program. Family support

unit operates on this site.

D, NE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

EDINBURGH

Bethany Christian Centre (Men

only)

6 Casselbank St, EH6 5HA

0131 554 4071

For homeless or vulnerable men

with alcohol or drug problems who

wish to take part in a work training

programme www.bethanyct.com

CA, ET

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

GLASGOW

Glasgow Simon Community

- Resettlement Training Service

12 Commercial Road, G5 0PQ

0141 420 6105

Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm

Runs short courses that help people

look at their choices, rights and

opportunities in settling down. Open

to anyone over 16. Courses are

organised on a rolling programme

and run between 10am and 4pm

www.glasgowsimon.org.uk

C, ET

Emmaus Glasgow

101 Ellesmere Street, G22 5QT

0141 353 3912

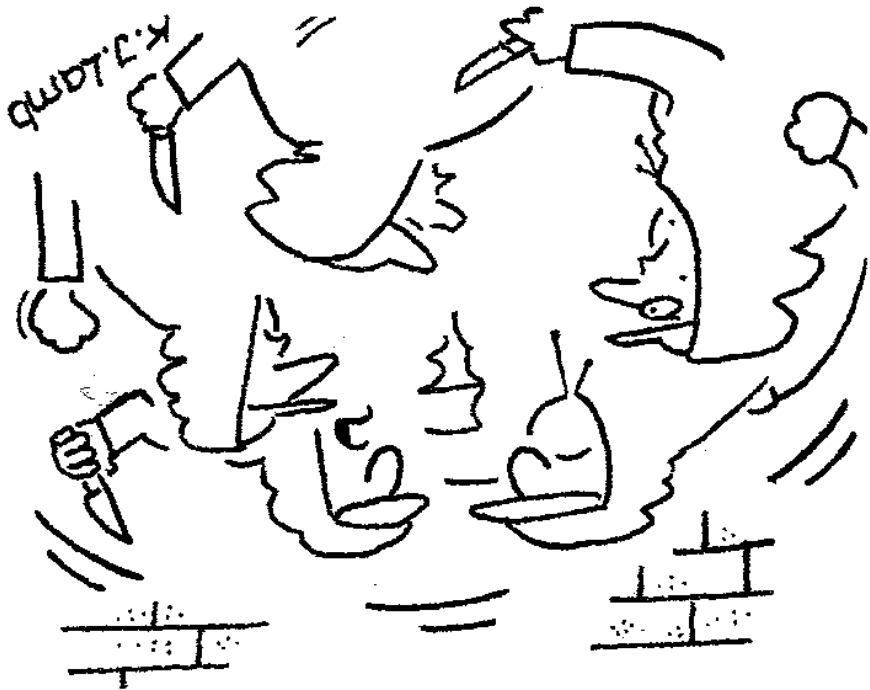
www.emmausglasgow.org.uk

Provides accommodation and

work for homeless people

AS, CL, ET, TS

„Group mug, everyone!“





Referral from LEAP on:
0131 332 3228

Salvation Army – Ashbrook
492 Ferry Road, EH5 2DL
0131 552 5705
90% residents are over 40. Ring or drop in 24 hours a day

Men

Gowrie Care – Caledonia House
41 Lothian Rd, EH1 2DJ
0131 229 1747
Ring first (Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm). Over 25 only

Women

Cranston Street Hostel
2 Cranston St, EH8 8BE
0131 556 8939
Ring first. Will not accept women who are over six months pregnant.

Young people (16-21)

Bedrock
55 Albany St, EH1 3QY
0131 557 4059
For young women who have a baby under 12 months or are pregnant as well as residents up to the age of 25.

Open Door Accommodation

Project
7-12 Adelaide Street, Liv-
ington, EH54 5HG
01506 430221
Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a local connection to West Lothian
Ring first (8am - 8pm daily)

0131 557 4059

Rock Trust
55 Albany Street, EH1 3QY
admin@rocktrust.org

Stopover (Edinburgh)
40 Grove Street, EH3 8AT
0131 229 6907
Young single homeless people aged 16-21 with a range of support needs
Ring first

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS GLASGOW

All with low-support needs

Salvation Army – Hope House
14 Clyde Street, G1 5JW
0141 552 0537
24hr Direct access
A,AS,BS,F

Laurieston Centre
39 South Portland Street, G1 9JL
0141 429 6533
24hr Direct Access
A,AS,BS,F

Talbot Association – Kingston
Halls Direct Access Hostel
344 Paisley Road, G5 8RE
0141 418 0955
Ring first
BS,C,DT,ET,F,H,L,MS,MH,SH

Turning Point Scotland – Link Up
112 Commerce Street, G5 9NT
0141 420 1929
A direct access service for homeless people in crisis as a result of mental health, drug, or alcohol problems
A,AS,AD,C,D,FC,MS

Women

Govanhill Women's Project
14 Polmadie Street, G42 0PQ
0141 423 5599
Works with single homeless women aged over 25 from the Glasgow area. The project is not suitable for women under 25 or those wanting to be accommodated with a partner or with children in their care. Ring first

The Mungo Foundation – Rachel House
503 Baltic Street, G40 4SG
0141 556 5465
Provides supported accommodation for single/pregnant mothers aged 16 to 25 and children up to ten years old

Young people

Council for Homeless Young People
171 Wilton Street, G20 6DF
0141 945 3871
chyp@btconnect.com

Residential support for youngsters and young, single homeless people

Quarriers Stopover
189 Pollockshaws Road, G41 1PS
0141 420 3121
For young people 16-25. Accommodation is on the upper levels of a four-storey building so not suitable for people with physical disabilities
A,C,D,ET,H

The Mungo Foundation – London Road Project
1920 London Road, G32 8XG
0141 778 1184
Works with 16-25 year olds who cannot access mainstream accommodation. (Open 24 hrs)

DRUG / ALCOHOL SERVICES

Alcohol Focus Scotland
166 Buchanan St, Glasgow
0141 572 6700
Call-in, phone or email: Mon - Thurs: 9am - 5pm; Fri: 9am - 4.30pm
A,C,ET

Breathrough
James Duncan House, 331 Bell Street, G4 0TJ
0141 552 9287
A joint health and social work project offering services to people with drug and alcohol problems. It also incorporates methadone prescribing.

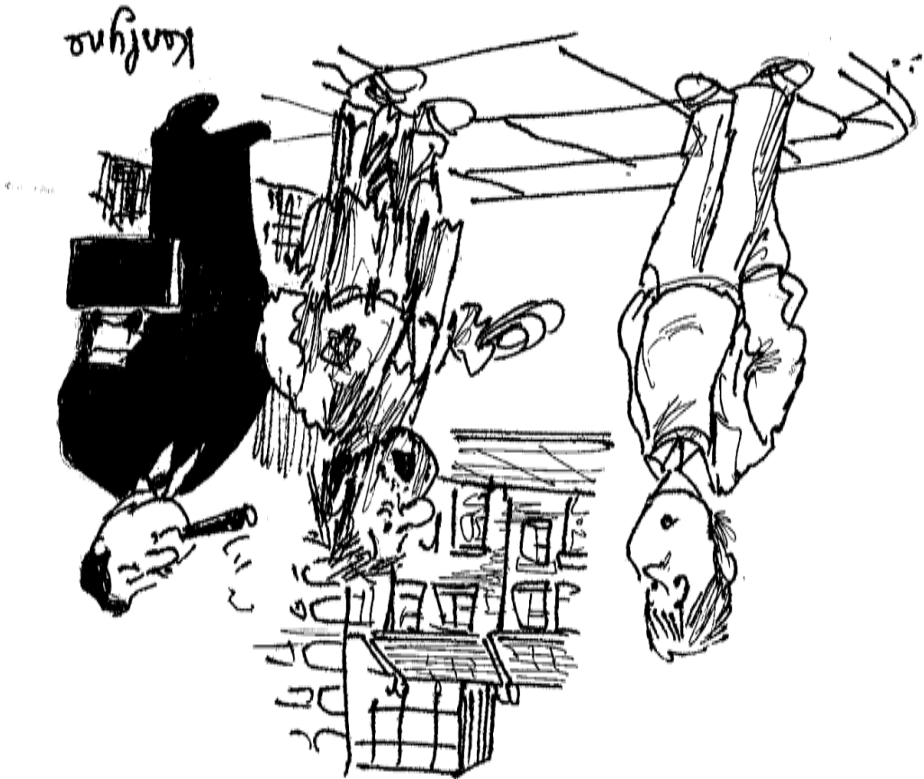
A,C,D,MS,NE

Drinkline Scotland
Freepost, PO Box 4000, G3 8XX
0800 7314 314
Advice and info for people with alcohol problems or anyone concerned about alcohol misuse
A,C

DRUG / ALCOHOL SERVICES EDINBURGH

Castle Project
14 Niddrie House Drive, EH16 4TT
0131 669 0068
Mon - Thurs: 9am - 4.30pm; Fri: 9am - 4pm
D,NE,OL,OB,SH

"He's my financial advisor"



The Access Point
17-23 Leith Street, EH1 3AT
0131 529 7438
Mon, Wed - Fri 9am - 5pm;
Tues 10am - 5pm
Advice and information for
single homeless people
AS, BA, FC, H, MS, SH

ADVICE SERVICES GLASGOW

Glasgow Shelter Housing Aid Centre

274 Sauchiehall Street, G2 3EH
0844 893 5560
Mon & Thu: 1-4pm, Tues
& Fri 10am - 1pm
Outside these times, there is
a 24-hour helpline for advice
and support - Shelterline:
0808 800 4444
AD, C, H

GAMH Homeless Support Project

123 West Street, G40 1DN
0141 554 65200
Mon - Fri: 9am - 5pm
Provides flexible emotional and
practical support, information
and advice for homeless people
in Glasgow with mental health prob-
lems. Phone, write or just drop in
C, MH

Hamish Allan Centre

180 Centre Street, G5 8EE
0141 287 1800 or freephone emer-
gency out-of-hours 0800 838 502
Assessment of entitlement to
housing. Temporary accommo-
dation may be available while
eligibility enquiries are made
H, TS

Glasgow City Council

For anyone who is homeless,
in need of advice about homeless-
ness issues. Staff will be pleased
to discuss your circumstances
with you in a private interview
room and provide advice on what
can be done next to help you
www.glasgow.gov.uk
AS, BA, C, DA, H, TS

SAY Women Accommodation

3rd Floor, 30 Bell St, G1 1LG
0141 552 5803
Provides support and counselling

to young women aged 16 - 25
who are homeless or threatened
with homelessness and are
survivors of rape or sexual abuse
AS, C, SH

BENEFITS AGENCY

See Job Centre Plus and
Telephone Services

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

EDINBURGH

Barony Contact Point

67a York Place, EH1 3JD
0131 622 1865 / 1867
Mon 6.30 - 9pm drop-in; Tues
10.30am - 4pm, 7 - 9pm (art group);
Thurs 10am - 1.30pm (drop-in);
Fri 11am - 2pm (women-only);
Sunday 11am - 4pm (drop-in)
C, MH

Cowgate Day Centre

22 Holyrood Road, EH8 8AF
0131 557 6055
Every day: 10.30pm - 11.45am;
12.45 - 4.15pm. Appointments
every day: 7.30 - 11.45am
AD, BA, BS, F, L, LS, MH, SK
Service users can also use the
centre as a mailing address

Four Square (Scotland)

28 North Bridge, EH1 1QG
0131 225 4143
Mon - Fri 9am-5pm (drop in) or
phone for an appointment
AS, BA, BE, CL, ET, H

The Ark

2 New Street, EH8 8BH
0131 557 1197
Mon - Fri: 7am - 12 noon; Advice
sessions: Mon - Thurs 9am
- 4pm; Fri 9am - 12 noon
AS, BA, CL, FF, H, L, TS

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS GLASGOW

Glasgow City Mission - The

Shelling
24 McAlpine Street, G2 8PT
0141 221 2630
Mon - Fri: 10am - 5pm (drop in);
Mon, Tues, Wed: 8 - 10.30pm
(advice and information)
BS, C, CL, DA, ET, FF, H, MS, SH

Lodging House Mission
35 East Campbell St, G1 5DT
0141 552 0285
BS, CL, E, F, IT

Salvation Army - The Laurieston Centre

39 South Portland Street, G5 9JL
0141 429 6533
AS, A, BA, C, DA, ET, F, H,
IT, LF, MS, SH, TS

Wayside Day Centre

32 Midland Street, G1 4PR
0141 221 0169
Mon, Tues, Wed and Fri: 9.30am
- 5pm (drop in 12noon - 4pm), Thurs
9.30am - 3pm (drop in 12noon
- 3pm). There are specific services
for women and rough sleepers as
well as health, addiction and other
specialist services at specified times
A, BS, C, D, F, MS, SH

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS EDINBURGH

All with low-support needs

Bethany House

12 Couper St, Leith, EH6 6HH
0131 467 1010
Bethany Supported Housing
65 Bonnington Road, EH6 5JQ
0131 553 1119
Ring First

Castlecliff Hostel

25 Johnston Terrace, EH1 2NH
0131 225 1643
Cunningham House
205 Cowgate, EH1 1JH
0131 225 4795
Ring or drop in

Dunedin House

4 Parliament St, Leith, EH6 6EB
0131 624 5800
Ring or drop in
Gowrie Care - St John's Hill
1 St John's Hill, EH8 9TS
0131 557 5502
Ring or drop in: Mon - Fri 9am - 2pm

Randolph Crescent Hostel

2 Randolph Crescent, EH3 7TH
0131 220 1607

the OTHER list

The directory of Scotland's homeless services Updated 27th April 2009

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Key to this list: | Accom assistance – AS | Alcohol workers – A | Art classes – AC | Barber – B | Benefits advice – BA | Bathroom/showers – BS | Bedding available – BE | Careers advice – CA | Clothing – CL | Counselling – C |
| Debt advice – DA | Dentist – DT | Drugs workers – D | Education/training – ET | Free food – FF | Food – F | Foot care – FC | Housing/accom advice – H | Internet access – IT | Laundry – L | Leisure activities – LA |
| Leisure facilities – LF | Tenancy support – TS | Luggage storage – LS | Medical services – MS | Mental health – MH | Music classes – MC | Needle exchange – NE | Outreach worker links – OL | Outreach workers – OB | Pavement stockist – P | Safe keeping – SK |
| Sexual health advice – SH | SSAFA – SS | Tenancy support – TS | | | | | | | | |

The Other List has details of homeless services in Edinburgh and Glasgow. It's still relatively new, print and online, but if you've any changes or suggestions write to us at the address on page 3, or email: scotland@thepavement.org.uk

New Stockists: 3
Updated entries: 4
Services added: 1

ADVICE SERVICES EDINBURGH

Advocaard
332 Leith Walk, EH6 5BR
0131 554 5307
www.advocaard.org.uk
Mon – Fri: 10am – 4pm
MH

Edinburgh Cyrenians – Smartmove project
57 Albion Rd, EH7 5QY
0131 475 2356
Mon - Fri 10am - 4pm
Advice, information and support for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness
AS, H, TS
www.streetwork.org.uk

Streetwork UK
Mon - Fri, immediate practical help and advice for vulnerable people on the streets of Edinburgh
Service Delivery Team
2 New Street, EH8 8BH
0131 556 9756
Women's Service
4 Bellevue Street, EH7 4BY
0131 476 2023
AS, A, BA, C, D, H, NE, SH