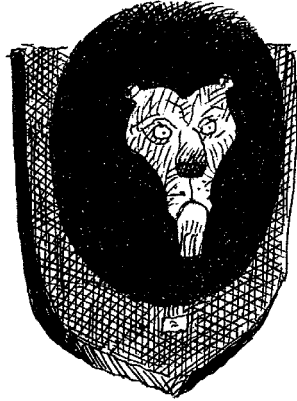
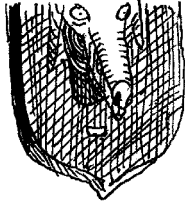


the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for the West Midlands' homeless

October 2014





Mike Williams

"I used a silencer on that one"

Editor-in-Chief
Richard Burdett

West Midlands Editor
Amber Woodfull

News Editor
Amy Hopkins

Web Editor
Val Stevenson

Reporters
John Ashmore, Elizabeth Barker
Lizzie Cernik, Rebecca Evans
Jasveer Kaur, Nicholas Olczak
Jim O'Reilly, Garnet Roach
Carinya Sharples, Chris Swann
Fraser Tennant, Rebecca Wearn

Photographers
Rufus Exton, Katie Hyams

Contributors
Susie Rathie, Toe Slayer, Evelyn Weir

Cartoonists/Comic Artists
Neil Bennett, Cluff, Pete Dredge, Kathryn
Lamb, Ed McLachlan, Ken Pyne, Steve
Way, Mike Williams, Mike Donaldson

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The Editor

The Pavement West Midlands need you!

Hello to you all in my first edition as editor! It's been a highly enjoyable (albeit hectic) first month in my new role as editor of *The Pavement West Midlands*. There may be a change at the helm, but I will strive to maintain the high standard of information and stories that my predecessor has worked so hard to establish!

This issue, our new journalist Elizabeth Barker takes a visit to the critically acclaimed 'Hard Times' exhibition in Birmingham. We bring you details of the new Birmingham Network Nightspot service, talk about the launch of SIFA Fireside's new premises and we revisit Wolverhampton-born entrepreneur Thomas Harvey-Berwick and his journey to tackle homelessness across the pond in the USA.

Lastly, I turn to you to ask to get in touch if you would be interested in contributing to *The Pavement*. I am looking for more journalists, but particularly from 'service users' and 'sector bods' to write for us in a more personal way – to keep our fingers on the pulse of what's happening on our streets. If you want to write for us, or have a story, get in touch at the address opposite.

Amber Wood full

Editor

westmidlands@thepavement.org.uk

twitter.com/Thepavementwm

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'John' - one of the photographs of *Big Issue* vendors by Paul Wenham-Clarke. These formed the 'Hard Times' exhibition, which moved from St-Martin's-in-the-Fields, London, to Birmingham's St Martin's in the Bullring in September.

Photography by Paul Wenham-Clarke © 2011

www.wenhamclarke.com

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West Midlands news

All the homeless news from across the region

Vendor portraits in Brum

Sean and Charlotte are pictured in the back seat of a car (see pictured over the page), his head resting upon her chest, her arm draped lovingly around his shoulder. Look closer, however, and the scene isn't quite as romantic as it first appears. Sean and Charlotte are homeless, living out of a Peugeot 205 and hit so hard by sleep deprivation that they struggle to stay awake for the photograph.

This image is one of a series of portraits taken by acclaimed photographer Paul Wenham-Clarke for 'Hard Times', a powerful and thought-provoking exhibition marking 20 years of the *Big Issue*. The show, which ran at Birmingham's St Martin-in-the-Bullring church until the end of September, had over 100,000 visitors at its London outing and has already received the prestigious Gold Award from the Association of Photographers.

Paul, who has worked in the commercial photography world for 23 years and is a senior lecturer in photography at Arts University College, Bournemouth, was offered the commission following the critical success of 'When Lives Collide', his first major issue-based project which was exhibited at the OXO Gallery on London's South Bank. This controversial collection explored the affects of road traffic collisions upon victims and their families through a series of portraits.

By bringing 'Hard Times' to Birmingham, Paul hoped to place homelessness high on the public agenda and alter what is often a negative perception of *Big Issue*

vendors. "I was hoping the images would make the public have a rethink and make them realise that we are all only about two months away from being homeless," said Paul. "There really are no safety nets. The recession, in particular, has hit a lot of people hard. I think that my photographs show that seemingly ordinary people can end up in quite extraordinary circumstances."

Kevin is a former kitchen salesman who now lives in a cramped caravan not even as long as his tall frame. He is captured reclining on his tiny bed, the smoke from his cigarette filling the small space. Kevin became homeless after being made redundant in the midst of the global economic crisis and soon found himself in deep financial waters. Said Paul: "He was one of the most charismatic *Big Issue* vendors I've ever met. He had a wit and charm the punters responded to, and sold a copy every few minutes. It was no surprise to hear he had been a salesman in a previous life. He still had the gift of the gab – he flirted with the ladies and joked with the guys." Economic decline as a root cause for homelessness features heavily in Paul's work, and if one thing can be learnt from the exhibition, it is just how vulnerable we can be when times change.

The whole project took Paul two years to complete, mainly because he spent a lot of time travelling to *Big Issue* offices across the country, meeting and speaking to as many vendors as he could. So were his own perceptions changed at all during this time? "Yes, it was a bit of a journey for me because I found out about how the *Big Issue* works, and about how the vendors are self-employed. I was surprised by all of the ex-service people on the

streets. It was shocking to see how so many could end up in a situation where they have no support from the government. I found it hard to believe that this was happening in the UK; I thought it was a country that looked after its citizens."

Through Paul's intimate documentary-style images and the stories that accompany them, the fascinating words of *Big Issue* vendors are brought to life. Said Paul: "I wanted to make sure the vendors I photographed were a true cross-section of people selling the *Big Issue*, but I didn't want it to be a great big advert for the magazine – I wanted to make sure the portraits had a realism to them." It is because of this candid portrayal that Paul is mindful to point out that not all the stories have a happy ending. "The *Big Issue* manages to help some people and really does change lives, whilst it stops others from reaching the point where they've run out of options. For some, however, their lives just stay the same."

Among the final photographs on show, one in particular remains in the memory long after leaving the ecclesiastical exhibition space. Anna Jones stares boldly into the camera, her dark sunglasses, glitzy top and bright blonde hair giving her a rock star quality. Her assured composure is no accident. "Anna told me she was an ex-model and had travelled across the world, but she got into trouble with drink and drugs and fell into prostitution," explained Paul. During the height of her modelling career, Anna even worked with royal photographer, Lord Lichfield. "I admit when I first met Anna, I had some doubts about her stories, but as soon as I took out my camera, without even realising it, she started to do slight

THE CHOIR WITH NO NAME COMES TO BIRMINGHAM

Can you sing? No? Oh well, come along anyway! I'm setting up Birmingham's first choir for men and women who've experienced homelessness.

Rehearsals begin on
THURSDAY 6th October
and will continue every Thursday at
6:30pm. We'll have dinner together after
rehearsal if you'd like to stick around.

Come to:
Carrs Lane Church Centre
Carrs Lane
Birmingham
B4 7SX

(really close to Moor Street station)

For more information email or call me (my name's Bethan)
bethan@choirwithnoame.org
or 07794 100938

www.choirwithnoame.org









Natalie Putt

Age at disappearance: 17

Natalie was 17 years old when she went missing from her home in Dudley on 2 September 2003. She left the house to go to her local shops but failed to return. She has not been heard from since.

Her family are deeply concerned and want to know she is safe and well. They want her to know that they are always there for her and will help her through any problems. She can call our confidential service **Message Home on Freefone 0800 700 740** for advice and support.

Natalie is 5ft 3in tall, of slim build, with black shoulder length hair and a Midlands accent. She was wearing a white hooded sweatshirt, tight cream trousers, large gold hooped earrings, white trainers and an engraved pendant

If you've seen Natalie please call the 24-hour confidential charity **Missing People** on Freefone **0500 700 700** Email: seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk



poses, and I could tell straight away that she had been a model." Paul was so intrigued he contacted the Lord Lichfield Archive of Photography to ask whether they had any images of Anna in their library. "They even remembered her!" said Paul. "They said that she was very promising at the time." Anna has now turned her life around and says she is grateful to be alive.

Paul hopes that 'Hard Times' will reach out to those that don't normally buy the Big Issue, and make them think about the hidden lives of Britain's homeless. And Paul believes he has already got people thinking. "I walked round my own exhibition and had a secret listen into a few conversations," he confesses. "It was really interesting to hear so many heated debates about the best way to help people at risk." Thanks to Paul's powerful portraits, the debate can only get hotter.

Elizabeth Barker

Crisis Welfare Network in the West Midlands

The Crisis Welfare Network focuses on investigating how government welfare to work programmes and strategies are supporting vulnerable people to engage and sustain in employment and training.

A series of events to discuss this highly topical issue are taking place across the country, and will be coming to Stoke-on-Trent on Friday, 30 September, with an appearance from local MP Tristram Hunt.

The seminar event will focus upon the current proposals set out the by coalition Government and how they intend to support people who are furthest from the labour market into suitable – and, most importantly, sustainable – employment.

The event takes place at The Bridge Centre, Stoke-on-Trent

and is in partnership with Brighter Futures, a social community housing organisation that enables vulnerable people to live independent and fulfilled lives. Speakers will include representatives from Stoke Citizen's Advice Bureau, staff from Brighter Futures and the Crisis Welfare Network, as well as the keynote speech from Tristram Hunt.

The event will also allow you to voice your opinions on what needs to be done and to reflect upon the current proposals, giving senior officials a better understanding of regional and national views "from the ground".

To register for a fee of £10 or to find out more contact nikita.smith@brighter-futures.org.uk

Staff

Can you stop to make a difference?

Network Nightspot Birmingham wants to recruit volunteers for the citywide scheme it will launch across the city and in Solihull on 1 November.

NetworkFour, the brains behind Nightspot, aims to empower and enable the community by offering a chance of hope and transformation to those who need it most. They are working in partnership with DePaul UK to establish this service across Birmingham in order to prevent youth homelessness and ensure that all young people have access to safe, secure and appropriate accommodation. They aim to break the downward cycle of homelessness by providing temporary relief for vulnerable people in their time of need.

Gary Wicker, Chief Executive of NetworkFour, explains why the scheme is so important and what it aims to achieve: "We aim to provide a safety net at a moment of great vulnerability. It's important that we reach out to capture this genera-

tion that feels society has turned its back on them to offer them hope, opportunity and transformation”.

Safe emergency overnight accommodation in the homes of trained volunteer host families is available to young people aged 16–25 who are at the brink of being made homeless, and is given on a night-by-night basis until more appropriate and sustainable accommodation solution can be found.

At the point of being made homeless, a young person will be assessed by an approved referral agency for their suitability to stay on a Nightspot scheme. The scheme sets out to give these vulnerable young people “breathing space” in a safe environment where they can work through the options available to them. The following day, the young person will be collected from the host’s home and will see a mediator before going back to the referral agency.

Nightspot is looking for host families to volunteer to provide a safe and welcoming environment for a young person. They will give them a spare room or bed for the night, an evening meal, the opportunity to have a bath or shower and the use laundry facilities, as well as breakfast the following morning. Most importantly, the families must be willing to be a comforting ear if needed, to help the young person with what they are going through.

Network Nightspot Birmingham volunteers are ordinary people who are willing to open the door of their home for a few nights a month to help young people who are in desperate need of support and shelter. About half of the young people referred to Nightspot are under 18 years of age.

The organisation is also looking for volunteer drivers, who are able to transfer night-stoppers from their referral point to their host families. These individuals need to be friendly and approachable at all times as they are in a position

of trust and looking after young people who may be very frightened.

Supporters to help with fundraising are also welcomed, as are office staff to help with and the key task of taking referral calls.

If you want to be part of this much-needed project and have a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable young people, contact Gary Wicker by email on garywicker@networkfour.org or nightstop@networkfour.org, or for more information, visit www.networkfour.org

Amber Woodfull

SIFA to celebrate new home

As we reported in our July Issue, SIFA Fireside has moved into new, purpose-built premises. The charity works alongside those who are socially excluded or disadvantaged, addressing alcohol issues and homelessness, and empowers and supports people to meet their short- and long-term goals. To celebrate their new home, they will be holding a combined AGM and new building launch on Friday, 14 October, at their new offices: 48–52 Alcock Street, Birmingham, B9 4DY.

The event kicks off at 10.45am with the arrival of Birmingham’s Lord Mayor, and will also include tours of the new building, input from service users, and a lunch and healthy eating workshop provided by social enterprise ChangeKitchen.

If you would like to attend, please email kerryslowey@sifafireside.co.uk by 7 October.

The Pavement West Midlands wishes you all the best for you in your new home!

Staff

Wolverhampton man done good

In 1984, a 21-year-old visionary by the name of Thomas Harvey-Berwick, rented a crumbling and dilapidated house in Wolverhampton, and used it as a base to house and feed local homeless people. This philanthropic venture eventually became the Fernbank Care in the Community project, a unique business which to this day provides supportive accommodation for homeless vulnerable adults with mental health issues. Harvey-Berwick successfully housed and moved hundreds of residents back into the community – a true ‘care in the community’ enterprise that began long before the term was universally adopted.

Now, almost 30 years later, he has taken his extensive talents to Cleveland, Ohio, where he has set up a business to tackle the chronic but seemingly needless homeless situation that exists in one of the richest countries in the world.

Although it has been his lifelong ambition, Harvey-Berwick’s move across the Atlantic was made possible only because of his association with an icon of popular music. “I’ve had a very long friendship with the legendary Martha Reeves [American R&B singer], who at one time in her life was a councillor in Detroit,” he explains with obvious affection. “She invited me over to do pieces of work as a consultant for a range of different services that she was trying to get off the ground in Detroit for the mentally ill and for veterans, people who had served their country.”

In his time in the States, Harvey-Berwick has noticed a number of similarities and differences between how the US and UK deal with homelessness issues. “The fact is the needs of people run parallel,” says Harvey-Berwick. “We have people that have issues with dependency,

people who have issues with health – physical and mental. We have people who have issues with their life choices who need help in balancing them. All of these are issues similar to what you find in the UK.

“One of the differences is that in the UK there is a lot more choice. The US is a much younger country and some of the services are not as developed compared to standards in the UK. The UK has some very good care models that I know the Americans are very interested in and given time and the sharing of information, I think the UK, in turn, will be very interested in some of the services run in the US.”

“In the US there is a service called Section 8, which is similar to our housing benefit as it allows people who are on low incomes or on no incomes at all to gain housing. It helps people like veterans who have served their country and who don’t have housing. They may have a disability and have spent time in a local veterans’ hospital, which qualifies them for a voucher which is used to provide their housing.”

However, despite the strides that have seemingly been taken, Harvey-Berwick is often disappointed by the misconceptions about homelessness that prevail in the US: “The attitude that exists between the working people and vulnerable people makes it clear that a lot of educating still needs to be done. Some people, basically, can work but choose not to, but then there are people out there who are begging and it is real: it’s about being able to differentiate between what’s genuine and what is not.

“A lot of it is gut instinct, a lot of it is hit-and-miss. Sometimes we get it right for people and sometimes we don’t. The US is a far harsher environment: they don’t have the social state, they don’t have the capacity, but they do want to embrace methods used in the UK, so it’s a learn-

ing experience on both sides.”

Having battled for years with local authorities to run services for the homeless in Wolverhampton, Harvey-Berwick’s message to government, local or otherwise, is unequivocal: “We need our governments – in the UK and US – to look at individual services and to move away from allowing personal agendas and the politics of local government to influence how we look after homeless people.

“From a UK perspective, we need to be realistic. A lot of people come to the UK from all over the world, which is fantastic, but many have difficulties in managing the way that we live in this country. There is a lot of stress, which can sometimes cause health issues. We have great advantages for people with work, but we also have great disadvantages with people trying to get work. We have to ensure

that there are enough services to help if things do break down.”

So after almost 30 years, what keeps Harvey-Berwick energised and engaged? “I have spent 27 years working in this service. I have used my own money, my own resources, my own sweat and my own blood in investing in trying to help the most vulnerable people and underprivileged people in society,” he says with pride.

“Doing this kind of work makes me remember where I came from. I was brought up in the care system. I was lost in the care system. I was abandoned in the care system. I was a child in the care system. This job makes me remember where the focus ought to be: with the people it serves.”

Fraser Tennant



“He’s applied for his first loan”

Drugs and hostels

New guidelines have been released for tackling drug use in hostels

Small, inexpensive changes to the way hostels and shelters are run could make a real difference to residents trying to get clean, according to a new report.

The study looked at the effect of hostel living on homeless drug users and found that shelters mostly have a detrimental effect on users' efforts to avoid substance misuse. However, researchers claim that "the impact of hostel living on drug consumption is not, however, always negative or straightforward."

Despite a focus on improving hostels in recent years, the report from Oxford Brookes University found that wide-ranging issues – from the availability of drugs to a lack of privacy – often added to the risk of drug use.

"The amount of drug-related support that participants received from hostels varied greatly," said the report. While some hostels performed well, others provided little or no support and it was down to individuals to seek their own assistance outside the hostel.

Of the 40 homeless drug users who had recently stayed in hostels or emergency night shelters across London and the South East, some said that despite the problems, they still felt safer in a hostel than on the streets. However, according to the report, "some participants said that they preferred to sleep on the streets rather than in hostels as they felt safer, could sleep better, and were able to be with partners and pets."

The 14-page report placed a strong emphasis on personal relationships between those working in hostels and residents.

"Individuals liked having key workers to whom they could talk openly and honestly about their

drug use and other problems, and they especially liked key workers who were themselves ex-users and so understood their lives and problems," said researchers. "When drug-related support was not offered, residents usually felt that it meant that staff did not care about them.

"Some also expressed concern that they had to hide or deny their drug use within the hostel because staff would watch and monitor them rather than try to help them."

These relationships are one of the key areas where researchers said hostels could improve their performance without straining budgets.

"By investing time and effort in developing positive hostel relationships and a warm and welcoming atmosphere, hostel staff might find that they can bring about some fundamental, yet relatively inexpensive, improvements to hostel living," said researchers.

Caral Stevenson, co-author of the report, said the recommended changes would be positive for anyone staying in a hostel, not just drug users.

"Several cheap changes that hostels could make to improve the environment for all residents would be to encourage staff to have a warm and friendly attitude to residents and help them feel welcome and safe," she told *The Pavement*.

"They could improve the cleanliness of the hostels and control the noise by perhaps adding fittings to fire doors so they don't slam shut and/or offering ear plugs."

Pairing compatible people together if rooms must be shared would help to make people feel safer, added Stevenson, while "staff should respect privacy and knock on doors before entering rooms."

Researchers concluded that "staying in an emergency hostel or night shelter mostly had a very negative impact on levels of drug use" – reinforcing the negative images many readers have of hostels.

However, the study also found that the quality of the service offered by each hostel – and crucially, the attitudes of staff and the use of agency staffed who are deemed less committed – could make a real difference to someone's chance of getting clean.

Mike McCall, executive director of operations at St Mungo's, a charity housing over 1,700 people in a mix of emergency shelters, hostels and semi-independent homes, welcomed the report, which he said echoed the charity's own views.

"We've learned from experience that treatment options at the hostel, including needle exchanges, on-site prescribing, and one-to-one counselling can make all the difference, and the worry is that these services will continue to disappear with cuts in funding," said McCall.

Although McCall admitted that St Mungo's uses agency staff "if needed," he stressed the quality of its fulltime employees. "We pay decent rates, and seek people with good levels of commitment and experience."

Garnet Roach

News in brief

The homeless news from across the globe

Homeless people victims of slave trade

Following the rescue of 24 “slaves” from a traveller’s site in Bedfordshire, it has emerged homeless people are being abused as slave labour.

The dramatic police raid at the site has received huge national and international coverage, as details of the conditions in which the men were held emerge. Detective Chief Inspector Sean O’Neil, from the Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Major Crime Unit, said: “The men we found at the site were in a poor state of physical health and the conditions they were living in were shockingly filthy and cramped. We believe that some of them had been living and working there in a state of virtual slavery, some for just a few weeks and other for up to 15 years.”

Although Bedfordshire Police were unable to confirm this to *The Pavement*, the *Guardian* has reported that those found were “all vulnerable men who had been recruited from homeless shelters and dole queues”. They ranged from 17 to 30 and include ten British men, three Polish men, two Romanian men, a Latvian man and a Lithuanian man. Of the 24, nine chose not to assist the police and left the medical reception centre where they were initially taken.

The police have been working with the UK Human Trafficking Centre on the operation, which is according to a report in the *Times* is suspected to be part of a wider slavery chain holding up to 100 captives. Although in a statement from Bedfordshire Police, Detective Chief Inspector O’Neil said: “I am confi-

dent that while the investigation is in its early stages this is a family run ‘business’ and is an organised crime group that has been broken up by the Netwing operation.”

Following the raid at Greenacre caravan site in Leighton Buzzard, four men and one woman were arrested using new legislation under the Slavery and Servitude Act 2010. The men – James Connor, 23, Tommy Connor, 26, Patrick Connor, 19 and James Connor, 33 – appeared at Luton Magistrates Court and have been remanded in custody to appear at Luton Crown Court on the provisional date of 5 December 2011. The fifth defendant, Josie Connors, 30, was charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit offences of holding people in servitude, plus two counts of requiring people to perform forced labour, appeared in court on 22 September.

For many homeless charities, although the accusations are appalling they are not a surprise. Thames Reach spokesman Mike Nicholas said, “We’ve been concerned for a number of months now that unscrupulous gangs are targeting homeless people. We’ve been made aware of cases where people from these gangs have approached people where homeless people gather, like soup runs or day centres.”

In total Thames Reach has been approached by 22 people who’ve run away from the gangs, and received reports from London, Birmingham, Manchester, Southampton, Dover and Luton. “Many were trafficked across from Central and Eastern Europe with offers of jobs and accommodation,” explains Mr Nicholas, “and then when they got here these jobs failed to

materialise and often people were subject to physical assault, maybe had to take credit cards or bank accounts out in their names, or were forced to work in factories. We were aware of people being shipped every day from a property in the Midlands to a bakery in Luton.”

In response, Thames Reach put out a warning to other homeless organisations and projects last March. In terms of helping the victims themselves, Mr Nicholas outlined a few possible avenues: “We could help put them in touch with the police if they had been victims of these gangs... Some of them are very fearful and don’t want to talk about their experiences and they’re worried about repercussions and so we’ve been helping some of those people go home. Other people are currently here in safe houses and there are police investigations taking place.”

For Jad Adams, Chair of Croydon Nightwatch, the practise goes back much further: “Around three years ago we were getting a number of people who were coming to our soup run in Central Croydon and trying to recruit people. We challenged them and asked what they were doing and they were evasive. One of our team also followed them and took the numbers of their vehicles.”

Croydon Council also stepped in to help, collating the information to pass to the police, while the soup run’s volunteers began issuing leaflets in English and Polish. “Even if the clients themselves aren’t particularly concerned,” said Mr Adams, “the gang leaders are savvy and they know that we’re on to them.” Since then the Croydon Nightwatch hasn’t seen any more such recruiters.

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.



"You need a better work death balance"

So what was the advice in their leaflet? "It was to be aware," explained Mr Adams, "but also to know exactly what the work is, what the rates of pay are and where you are going to be working. And never give away your passport or identity documents."

This need for awareness has been echoed by many, including Mike McCall, St Mungo's Executive Director of Operations, who said: "These reports are very concerning. Rough sleepers are some of society's most vulnerable people. We need to be ever watchful that they aren't being exploited."

Carinya Sharples

Men caught napping in coffins

Two homeless men were found sleeping in a funeral home in Bristol, in the US state of Tennessee, last week.

According to *WCYB.com*, surprised staff at the Weaver Funeral Home discovered the two men curled up inside caskets. The Bristol police department said the pair had broken the lock to the home's warehouse door and curled up for a snooze.

"I asked them a few questions about what they were doing, what had done the damage," an employee told *WCYB.com*. "They didn't have a whole lot of response, so I was going to go ahead and call the police."

Mike Carlson, a Bristol police officer said one of the men, Barrett Lance Hartsock, had been caught and would be charged for burglary and vandalism.

Meanwhile the local homeless shelter was confused by the men's choice of accommodation. "That's why we're here," said The Haven of Rest Shelter Director Wayne Sheridan. "Part of the reason is

to help them come to a place like this, rather than to sleep in places they shouldn't." He added that he didn't understand why the men wouldn't have chosen to come back to the free shelter, particularly as Hartsock was a frequent resident.

The funeral home reported that three coffins had been damaged beyond repair, which would cost the company nearly US\$9,000.

Lizzie Cernik

Suspected meth factory discovered in hostel

Police have uncovered a suspected crystal meth factory at Sunrise Lodge in Bournemouth.

Officers were called to the homeless hostel, believed to be divided up into flats, just before 10.30am on Monday 19 September, after staff raised concerns about suspicious items found at the address.

Due to fears about the potentially lethal chemicals used to prepare crystal meth, Dorset Fire and Rescue were called to the property on Spencer Road, Boscombe. As a precaution, a number of residents were evicted and the building was cordoned off. Nearby residents were given advice in relation to the substances involved and inquiries are being carried out by drug experts.

At the time of writing, no arrests have been made.

Detective Inspector Steve Thorpe of Bournemouth CID told the *Bournemouth Echo*: "We are working closely with our partners in this incident and we are taking precautionary steps to keep the public safe."

Police have urged members of the public with information about drug use in the area to report it in confidence. DI Thorpe added: "We are determined to show those involved in criminality that it will not be tolerated."

Anyone with information is asked to call police on the new non-emergency number, 101, or the free and anonymous Crimestoppers line on **0800 555 111**. Mobile phone tariffs may apply.

Staff

Guide in New York

The Pavement's homeless city guide (page 13) is being displayed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (MoMa) as part of the Talk to Me exhibition.

The guide, which was designed by Emily Read and Chen Hsu, consists of a simple series of symbols to help the homeless community interact. The code, which is reproduced in *The Pavement* monthly, has been described as "a new, informal avenue of communication."

The 'Talk to Me: Design and the Communication between People and Objects' exhibition will be open at the famous museum until 7 November. The project can be viewed online – [google "moma homeless guide."](#)

Lizzie Cernik

New design keeps street sleepers warm

An American design student is hoping that her new invention can help the homeless to get through even the coldest winters. Veronika Scott, 22, (pictured over the page, with her creation) who is a student at the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, Michigan, has created a coat for homeless people that turns into a sleeping bag – capable of withstanding sub-zero temperatures.

The inspiration for Scott's coat design came from the city







"Whoever... whoever... whoever..."

of Detroit itself, which has seen its homeless population shoot up to over 30,000 people since the economic downturn.

"What I found, working in shelters and getting to know homeless people, is that pride is one of their biggest needs," she told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. "Whether or not they can get into a shelter, they want to be able to take care of themselves."

The key in taking care of yourself – especially in Detroit, where temperatures can drop to -20° C in the winter – is keeping warm. Using an innovative design that combines synthetic quilting with industrial materials used in building insulation and envelopes, Scott claims that wearers can spend a night in the snow and not feel the cold.

"I didn't mean for this coat to make it seem like it's OK to sleep outside, but our shelters are just so full," Scott said. "And this is something that can help people in the meantime. It's a really basic survival thing."

A year after making the original prototype, Scott intends to start mass-producing the coat/bags for a nationwide market. She wants to sell the products to non-homeless people for profit, and use the money to be able to give them to rough sleepers for free.

The early models are already going down a storm amongst Detroit's homeless community, to whom Scott has been donating early models.

Rough sleeper Vincent Henry, 51, said: "Looks good. It gets really cold around here, so this would really help. It'd be OK as long as it doesn't get ripped off."

To read more about Veronika's design and her wider homeless campaign in Detroit, you can follow her blog at <http://detroitempowermentplan.blogspot.com/>

Jim O'Reilly

Rough sleepers mugged

Two rough sleepers have been mugged while collecting their benefits at a post office in South London.

The two men, one known to his friends as Chisel, were at the Post Office in Tulse Hill on midnight of Monday 25 July when the incident took place. Having withdrawn their fortnightly benefits they went to a nearby shop to get some drinks.

When they stepped outside they were confronted by two men claiming to be police officers. Although the attackers were not wearing police uniform they were wearing stab vests and carrying fake police badges.

The two men, described as aged 25-35, one black, one mixed-race, shoved the two rough sleepers into an alley and rifled through their pockets, taking £90. They then jumped into a car nearby and sped off. Unfortunately, neither of the victims was able to identify the car number plates.

Both men were reluctant to go to the police. According to Ian Ross, a former rough sleeper who knows Chisel, he and his friend have had too many bad experiences with the police to want to get involved with them. Ian told *The Pavement*: "They feel like it's a waste of time. They've had bad experiences with the police. They used to live in Waterloo and the police would come and harass them."

Stealing from rough sleepers is nothing new either, as Ian told *The Pavement*: "I had a similar thing ten years ago, in the West End with four people trying to get stuff off me, so it's not a new thing. I think they target homeless people and drug users because they know they won't go to the police."

John Ashmore

Brighton re-count reveals rising number of rough sleepers

A recent change in the way rough sleepers are counted in Brighton has found the total figure to be more than seven times higher than last year's figures.

Earlier this year, the Department for Communities and Local Government issued new guidelines on the way those sleeping rough should be counted.

Previously, only those physically lying on the pavement in public places were counted – meaning those asleep in car parks or on benches were ignored. Furthermore, any figure less than 10 was rounded down to zero.

As a result, the number of rough sleepers counted in Brighton and Hove – who trialled the new headcount system in June - is 106, compared to 14 from last year.

Under the new scheme, carried out between 13 and 16 June, the council also counted people sitting or standing near their bedding. Officers also consulted with local homeless charities on the numbers of people they helped.

Councils have now also been asked to replace Government count officials with representatives from Homeless Link, the national charity for homeless agencies.

Since the new headcount guidelines were introduced, the figure for the national total of rough sleepers now stands at 1,768 – considerably higher than the 440 under the previous system.

Housing Minister Grant Shapps said: "For too long a supposedly national figure of rough sleepers hasn't reflected the reality on our streets.

"By having these more accurate numbers and a better national picture of the problem - we can start to help the homeless much more effectively.

“So whilst on the surface the new figures show a large jump in those sleeping on the streets, they actually reflect a more accurate way of evaluating the extent of rough sleeping. We had a situation before where large numbers of those spending the night on the street were simply being ignored, with cities like Manchester not counting in 2010 and Coventry not counting on a number of occasions.”

The actual rough sleep figure could however be considerably higher as many councils have not yet conducted a head-count under the new system.

In May, Stockport council sparked outrage after saying that there was no-one sleeping rough on their streets, after carrying out a count under the old system.

This announcement came despite the fact that 137 people had reported themselves as sleeping rough to homeless charity The Wellspring.

At the time, Labour MP Ann Coffey said: “The council should be listening to and working with Wellspring to support homeless people in Stockport. This review suggests these people won’t get the help they need because according to the council they don’t exist.”

Rebecca Evans

Dawn sweeps tackle street sleepers

City authorities in both Durham and Chester are searching for rough sleepers and trying to move them off the streets, again using accusations that they are adding to crime in the centre of these cities.

In Durham, police officers and staff of Durham Action On Single Housing (DASH) have begun conducting once-weekly sweeps of the city centre at dawn looking for homeless people,

according to the *Northern Echo*.

The police have said that these dawn sweeps are an attempt to locate the city’s homeless in order to offer them help and, if necessary, move them off the street. But the sweeps may also be in response to claims that homeless people are linked to city centre crime.

According to the *Northern Echo*, police chiefs have claimed that rough sleeping leads to shoplifting and aggressive begging.

Paul Anderson, Neighbourhood Inspector for Durham, told the *Northern Echo* that people rough sleeping did have a “knock on effect” on shops. However, he said the police did not want to persecute homeless people.

“It’s not about the symptoms but dealing with the cause of the problem,” he said. “And if we can point people in the right direction, it will benefit everyone.”

Sean McDonnell, senior manager of DASH, also said that the street sweeps were intended to help, rather than persecute, the homeless.

“We want to ensure help and support is available for these people,” he said. “This initiative [...] is intended to help and not to victimise them.”

Meanwhile, in Chester, it has been announced that anyone trying to sleep on the street in Castle Street, Shipgate Street or St Mary’s Centre will be moved on.

This measure is an attempt to tackle vandalism and anti-social behaviour occurring in these areas, activity which people are claiming is connected to rough sleeping.

“These areas were heavily frequented by homeless people and a substantial amount of damage had been caused,” the Community safety warden Neil Denby told a City Community Forum meeting.

Nicholas Olczak

Poor service at Centrepoint hostel

Homeless charity Centrepoint’s Greek Street hostel, in the centre of London’s Soho, had interruptions to its hot water supply early this year, and hasn’t had a lift in the four-floor hostel since November last year.

The failings at this hostel came to light when readers contacted *The Pavement* to criticise the high profile charity, which has HRH Prince William as its patron.

Although making a complaint about the facilities at the hostel, the first reader to contact us did add that “the staff are amazing at their job and deserve much more praise than they get.” Readers’ grievances are with Centrepoint’s facilities, rather than its personnel.

Responding to lack of hot water, a Centrepoint spokesman told us: “Earlier in the year, it experienced difficulty with its boilers. The hot water was off for one week, then intermittently for three more weeks. Young people [the hostel is short stay for 16-25 year olds] were offered compensation for this period and encouraged to use showers in our Berwick Street service, which is a five minute walk away.”

Regarding the lack of a lift in this property, the spokesman added “the lift at Greek Street has been out of service since November last year. There have been issues in getting it fixed, but we are confident it will be done soon as the parts have now been sourced and delivered.

“...Centrepoint Greek Street does not accept referrals for anyone with a disability or mobility problems as there is no disabled access to the building. If we have concerns about a referred young person’s ability to move about the building, we would signpost them to another hostel.”

Staff



"Guys, abort mission... it's a planet without sport!"

STREET SHIELD

EPISODE 24

STREET SHIELD
AND POPSTAR
ARE AT A SOUP
RUN.



A FIGHT BREAKS OUT. WELSH JOHN AND SCOUSE TRY TO HOLD BACK THE WORST OFFENDERS...





Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team aim to help keep you healthier

Toenails and old wives tales

Old wives' tales are part of an oral tradition originating long before the invention of the writing and contain shared information often considered to be for the common good.

They have survived because, in the main, they offer comforting advice about experiences we all share, have little control over, and usually worry about. In the absence of a tried and true medical cure, these myths prevailed, and our culture is rich with old wives' tales. Almost all have been proven false or irrelevant by advances in medicine and technology, yet they still prevail. Those with a basis in fact are usually harmless, but a few can be quite dangerous. Here

are some of the more common ones that relate to toenails.

*Cut your nails in Monday, cut them for news; (of success)
Cut them on Tuesday for a new pair of shoes;
Cut them on Wednesday, cut them for health;
Cut them for Thursday, cut them for wealth;
Cut them on Friday, a sweetheart to know;
Cut them on Saturday, a journey to go;
Cut them on Sunday, you cut them for evil, and for all the next week you'll be ruled by the Devil.*

Superstitions associated with skin and toenails include avoiding cutting them on Holy Inno-

cents' Day (28 December). The Moon was always considered an important influence in nail and skin growth. Many believed you cut nails when the moon was on the increase to strengthen them: corn-paring was best done when the moon was on the wane. A fairly common belief was never to throw away toenail clippings – they were thought to be powerful ingredients in magical spells, and a common good luck custom was to collect and burn them.

A common old wives' tale is to cut a V in the top of nail. This has no effect, as the final shape of the nail is determined by the growing area at the base of the toenail, not the end, but increases the risk of nail infection.

Nails are made of modified skin cells and grow like hair throughout your life. Finger and toe nails should be trimmed each week and filed to remove rough edges. Provided nails are in reasonable health, self-care is recommended; but if the toenails are thick and painful, a visit to the podiatrist will bring relief. People with failing eyesight or poor circulation and the lack of feeling in their legs caused by diabetes mellitus should avoid self-care. The skin and nails of people living with diabetes can also cause them to become dry, brittle and very



thin due to complications arising in the autonomic system.

A low-protein diet causes white bands across the nails. An absence of proteins slows down the rate of nail growth and the plates rarefies (thins). Vitamin deficiencies can also affect nails: a shortage of vitamin A in the diet may cause dryness and brittleness; and a lack of the B vitamins causes nails to become fragile, sometimes with horizontal or vertical ridges. The B complex is also a factor in fungal infestation found underneath the nails. Frequent hangnails usually indicate an inadequate intake of vitamins C, folic acid and protein. An iron deficiency can also disturb the growth of the nails, causing dryness, brittleness, thinning, flattening and – eventually – the appearance of moon-shaped nails. White spots may be caused by a zinc deficiency or trauma to the nail. If you are aware of any of these symptoms, tell your doctor.

By far the most important part of toenail care is to use clippers specifically designed for toenails, which are oblong and need to be cut straight across the growing edge. (Fingernails are a different shape.) Sometimes it is frustrating when there is discomfort in the side of the nail, but the rule of thumb is never cut into the corner. If you have any problems with your nails, see a podiatrist for painless care. Improperly cut nails are the primary cause of ingrown toenails, with poorly-fitting shoes a close second.

Take care of your pair and when in doubt see a health profession. Stay warm, stay safe and be foot wise.

Toe Slayer

Registered podiatrist and shoe historian

Cervical cancer

Cancer of the cervix claimed the life of Jade Goody and has been in the news a lot recently as the NHS has begun vaccinating young women and girls against the HPV (human papilloma virus) which causes it. If you're an adult and too old to get the vaccine, there are other ways you can protect yourself from cervical cancer.

The cervix is another name for the neck of your womb and can be found inside your vagina. Some people describe finding it as being like touching the tip of your nose.

Screening is very important. Like most cancers, if it is caught early, or if changes in your cervical cells are detected early, treatment is easy and usually successful. The NHS runs a cervical screening programme which invites women for a smear test every three years. If you haven't been invited for a smear test, go to your local surgery or clinic and ask about it. The NHS has a web page with some very useful information about cervical screening. It can be found at: <http://www.cancerscreening.nhs.uk/index.html>

Smear tests (a slightly old-fashioned term for cervical screening, but people still call it a "smear", so that's what I'll call it!) are a very simple and painless procedure, though most women don't find them pleasant. It's best to go for cervical screening when you are mid-cycle, about 14 days after your last period. Having a smear takes only a couple of minutes, and the health benefits make it worthwhile. The nurse will ask you to lie down and open your legs. A plastic tube called a speculum will be inserted into your vagina and opened up so the nurse can see your cervix. The nurse will then gently use a brush to take a sample of cells from its surface. That's all there is to it. The sample will be sent to the laboratory and the cells examined for abnormalities. You will get the results

by post within a few weeks. If you don't have a postal address, tell the nurse and you may be able to pick them up from the surgery or clinic.

Occasionally you may be recalled for another smear. This does not mean you have cancer; some samples are unclear or you may have minor cell changes that require further investigation. If this happens, the nurse or doctor should explain to you what the changes mean.

Although the HPV virus is a major risk factor for cervical cancer, most women who get it in their system will shake it off easily and never know it was there. The virus is passed on during sex but is so common that virtually all women who have had sex are exposed to it at some time in their lives. Some evidence suggests women who have sex at an early age or have had a lot of sexual partners are at higher risk. However, women who have had only one sexual partner also get cancer of the cervix, so don't think it is something caused by sexual behaviour.

Smoking is a risk factor for cervical cancer, so if you smoke, try to cut down or stop. People with a poor diet or with HIV are more at risk of cervical cancer, as these things compromise the immune system.

If you are worried you may have cancer of the cervix, the symptoms are irregular vaginal bleeding, pain during sex and vaginal discharge. Women who have gone through the menopause or change of life may have new bleeding. All these symptoms can be caused by other things, but you should go to the doctor and get them investigated. Cervical cancer often does not show symptoms until it is quite well advanced, which is why screening is so important.

Susie Rathie

The Pavement's nurse



"Given up smoking again, Ned?"

www.thepavement.org.uk

**You can read the news,
keep informed & search our
directory of services online @**

The Samaritans
08457 90 9090

SANeline

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

Shelter

0808 800 4444
Housing info and advice
8am–8pm daily

Stonewall Housing advice line
Housing advice for LGBT people

020 7359 5767
(Mon, Thu, Fri 10am–1pm;
Tue & Wed 2–5pm)

UK Human Trafficking Centre

0114 252 3891

WEBSITES

Birmingham City Council
Click through 'housing'/'finding a
home'/'help for homeless people'
www.birmingham.gov.uk

National Homelessness Advice

Service

Readers can click on the
section 'need advice'

www.nhfs.org.uk

The Pavement online

Regularly updated online

Version of The List.

[www.thepavement.org.uk/
services.htm](http://www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm)

Sock Book

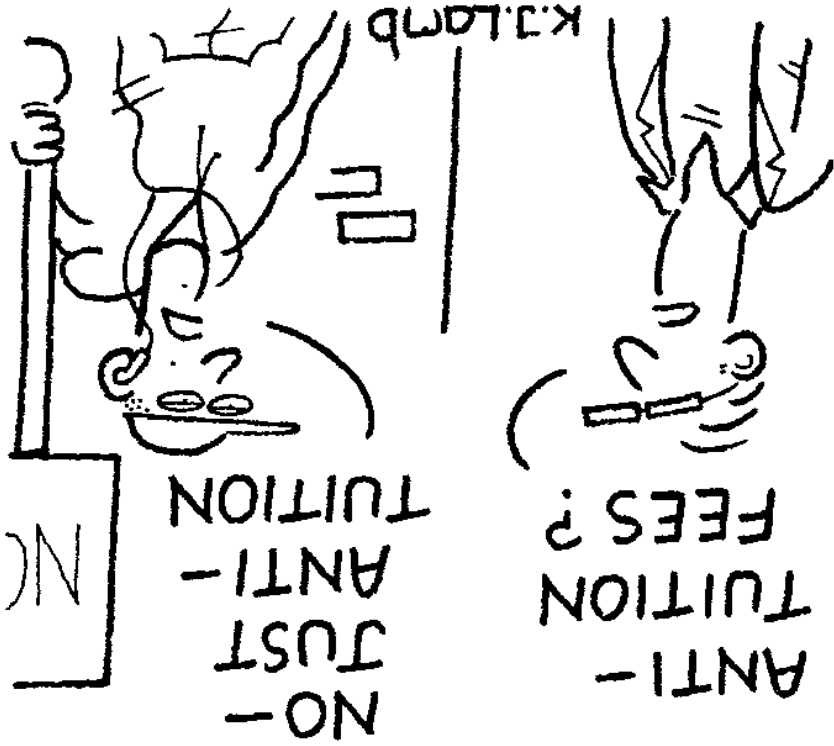
sockbook.referrata.com

Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT

people of all ages

www.stonewallhousing.org



Covenry Refugee Centre

15 Bishop St, Coventry CV1 1HU

024 7622 7254

Mon–Thu: 9am–5pm; Wed &

Fri: 1pm–5pm; Fri: 9am–4pm

Helps asylum seekers and EU

citizens. Helps refugees given

leave to remain to set up home.

Women's and youth groups.

AS, AS, C, ET, H, LA, TS

Dudley Refugee Support Team

17 St James's Rd, Dudley.

Birmingham DY1 1JG

01384 812626 or 815108

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

Culturally sensitive support

service. Advice on benefits,

harassment, domestic violence,

housing. Flooding support.

BA, H, OW

Glial

PO Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ

0121 773 1431

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

Emergency accommodation-

tion for women and children

escaping domestic violence.

Birmingham Domestic Abuse

RefugeeLine: 0800 111 4223

AS, AD, H, LA, SH

The Haven Wolverhampton

PO Box 105, Wolver-

hampton WV1 4LP

01902 572140

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

For women affected by domes-

tic violence and their children.

Emergency accommodation,

advocacy, emotional support,

benefits and immigration

support, resettlement, and help

for children and young people.

24-hour helpline: 01902 713001

AS, AD, BA, C, H, MH

IWIC (Older Irish Adults Project)

St Anne's, 45 Alcester Street,

Dertend, Birmingham, B12 0PH

0121 604 6111

Mon, Tue & Thu: 11.30am–

4.30pm; Wed: 2.30–5pm;

Fri: 11.30am–3.30pm

Activities centre for older (50+) Irish

people, inc: people who are home-

less, isolated, living in poor accom-

modation, ex-offenders, those

needing support around life skills.

AS, AW, BS, CL, F, H, MS, MH, OB, TS

Panahgar

Coventry – phone for details

0800 055 6519

Support for Asian women and their

children facing domestic violence.

or single parents. Referrals to

other agencies for specialist help.

AS, C, OL

SAFE Project

Phone for details

0121 440 6655

Mon: 12.45am–1.45pm (clinic

– 0121 440 0034); Mon:

1.15pm–3.30pm (walk-in clinic);

Wed: 12am–4pm (drop-in clinic);

Thu: 11am–1.30pm (Metha-

done clinic – 0121 446 5381)

Promotes the health and wellbe-

ing of female sex workers (18+) in

Birmingham, Sandwell and Walsall.

AD, BA, CA, C, D, MS, OB, OL, SH

Stonewall Housing

Housing advice for LGBT

people of all ages

020 7359 5767 (advice line)

www.stonewallhousing.org

time2talk Mediation Service

DACHS, Dudley MBC, 5 St

James's Rd, Dudley DY1 1HP

01384 812 422

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (message

service outside these hours.

Interpreters can be arranged)

Free for Dudley residents.

AD, C

Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council (Refugee Support Team)

2nd Fl, Civic Center, Darwall

St, Walsall WS1 1TP

01922 653827, 653840, 653476

Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm

AS, BA, H, OL

The What? Centre

23 Coventry St, Stour-

bridge DY8 1EP

01384 379992

Advice, information and

therapeutic counselling for

people 13–25 in Dudley.

AS, AD, BA, C, DA, ET,

H, LA, MS, MH, SH

Valley House

Navigation Centre, 55–57

Bell Green Rd, Courthouse

Green, Coventry CV6 7GQ

024 7626 6270 or 6290

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team

Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours

Single people and parents, inc.

young homeless people, and

young women who are pregnant

or single parents. Referrals to

other agencies for specialist help.

C, ET, LA, OL

TELEPHONE SERVICES

0800 073 0817 (Helpline)

Daily 9am - 5pm

A, D, ET

Community Legal Advice

0845 345 4345

Nationwide

www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk

Mon–Fri: 9am–8pm;

Sat: 9am–1.30pm

AD, BA, DA, H

Free, confidential service, offer-

ing specialist advice on housing,

benefits, tax credits, debt etc.

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

(1pm – 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

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

For people with alcohol, drugs and gambling addictions. 01 21 685 6340 (North B'ham); 01 21 414 0888 (South B'ham). AW, C, D

Birmingham Drug & Alcohol Team

1st Floor, Technology Block, Gee Business Centre, Bir-

mingham, B7 5PA

0121 465 4930
0800 073 0817 (helpline)

A, D, ET
Daily 9am - 5pm

Norman Imlah Day Centre

2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre,

Duddeston Manor Rd, Dud-

deston, Birmingham B7 4LZ

0121 685 6346

Mon-Thurs: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-4pm

For people wanting help and

support in addressing their

alcohol problem/dependence.

AS, AD, AW, AS, CET, LA, MH, SH

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Polish Club Birmingham

Polish Millennium House, Bord-

esley St, Birmingham B5 5PH

0121 643 3577

Fri: 1pm-3pm

Advice on employment law,

social benefits, housing

and accommodation.

AS, BA, DA, H, LE

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

ENTA

Milli Wharf

10 Mill Street

Birmingham

B6 4BS

0121 380 4801

Mon-Thurs: 8.30-4.30; Fri: 8.30-1.30

CA, ET

www.entapeople.com

Jericho Foundation

196 197 Edward Rd

Balsall Heath

Birmingham

B12 9LX

0121 440 7919

www.jp.org.uk/

birmingham@jericho.org.uk

CA, ET

The Big Issue (West Midlands)

Peace House, 23-25 Summer

Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

0121 236 1936

Employment and training.

CA, ET

EX-FORCES

AWOL?

01380 738137

Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Associa-

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

Birmingham City Council (Housing

Pathways)

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

mingham B15 1DL

0121 675 1683

If you are leaving, or have

left, the armed forces, you

can apply directly. Phone or

email (HOUVulnerablerper-

sions@birmingham.gov.uk).

AS, H

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725

Ring the Legionline to see

how they can help ex-service-

men and ex-servicewomen

Stonham (Ellesmere)

Fullwood House, Ellesmere,

Shropshire SY12 0AA

01691 623756

Supported accommodation

for ex-services personnel.

AS, BA, H, TS

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

MEDICAL SERVICES

Community Mental Health

Homeless Team

3rd Fl, Morcome House, Ledsam St,

Ladywood, Birmingham B16 8DN

0121 685 6970

Mon-Fri: 9am-7pm; Sat

& Sun: 9am-5pm

Help with accommodation,

benefits, employment and

resettlement. Help with access

to mental health services.

AS, AD, BA, CA, C, H, MH, OB, OL

The Health Exchange

William Booth Lane, Bir-

mingham B4 6HA

0121 465 3965

Mon & Fri: 2:30pm-4:30pm;

Tues, Wed, Thu: 1pm-4pm;

Wed & Thu: 9am-11am

Medical practice for home-

less people in Birmingham.

MS

Vision Care for Homeless People

William Booth Centre, Shad-

well St, Birmingham B4 6HA

Mon: 10am-5pm (except

bank holidays)

Comprehensive eyecare serv-

ices, totally free of charge. MS

PERFORMING ARTS

Crisis Skivlight Birmingham

0121 348 7950

PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL

Running at various locations

- call for details

AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Anawim

PO Box 8902, Birmingham B12 9JZ

0121 440 5296

Mon-Fri: 10am-4pm (out of

hours: 07976 188 220)

Reaches out in friendship to

women trapped in prostitution.

Courses and activities, creche.

Methadone programme, 24-

hour helpline: 0800 970 8232.

AS, AD, AS, BA, CL, C, D,

ET, FF, H, LA, SH

The Castle & Crystal Credit Union

25 New St, Dudley DY1 1LT

01384 815771

All credit union members (18+

can apply for a Handloan (£100

to £500) and anyone living or

working in Dudley can join.

Centrepoint Streets Project

PO Box 2156, West Bromwich,

Birmingham B70 6HA

0871 717 7284

Outreach to asylum seekers,

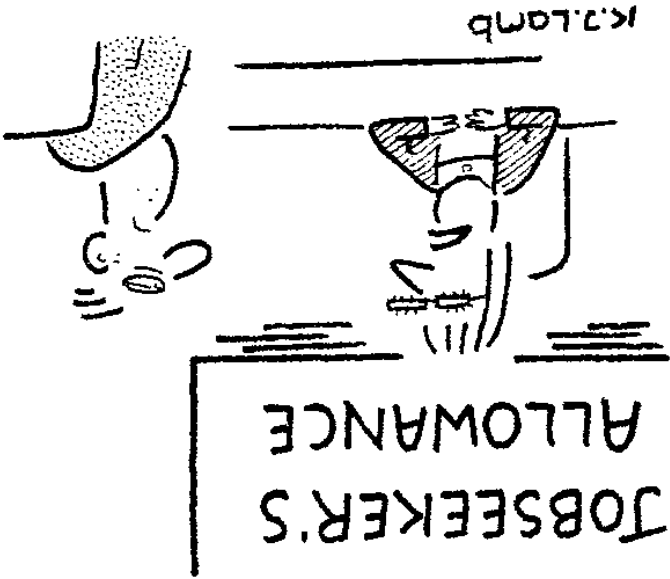
refugees, and the homeless.

Education and training for

children and young people.

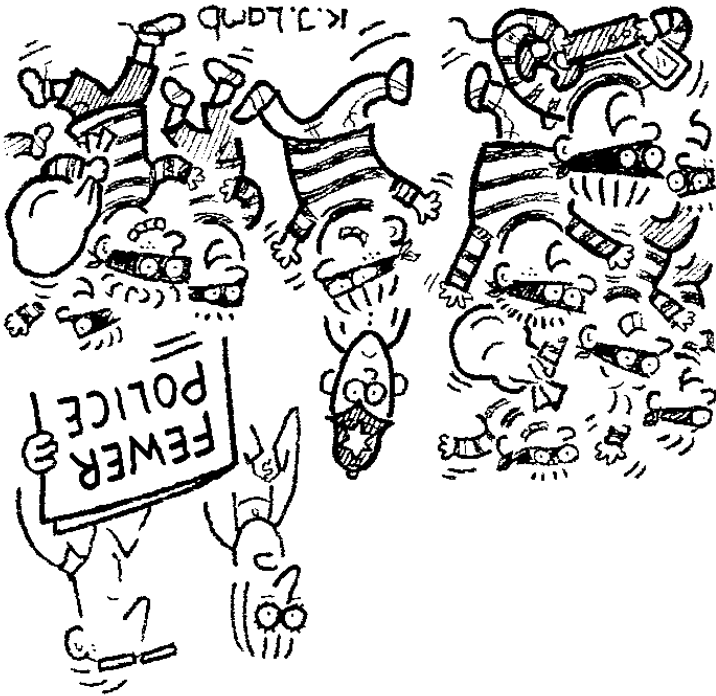
AD, CA, ET, H

“You’re allowed to seek a job”



K. J. Lamb

“They’re playing cop and robbers.”



St Anne's Hostel
112 Moseley St, Birmingham B12 0RY
0121 772 4406
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+, may accept dogs.
AW, BA, D, ET, F, MS, OL

Stonham (St George's House)
Old Hall St, Wolverhampton WV1 3AT
01902 420536
Mon-Sun: 8am-10pm
Single homeless men and ex-offenders.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL, TS

P3 - Bilston Hostel
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV14 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

P3 - Dickens Lodge
89-95 Dickens Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 8SD
01902 572162
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. rough sleepers, ex-offenders, people with mental health needs and those with alcohol or drug problems.
AS, AD, AW, D, ET, H, MH, TS

Women

Helen Dixon House
76 Alcester Road, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8BB
0121 449 3748
For women aged 16-45
Young people (16-25)

Coverity Foyer
Holyhead Court, Lower Holyhead, Rd, Coventry CV1 3AX
024 76251001
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
For young people 16-24 who require support around independent living.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, OL

CHADD - On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DB
01384 455464
Mon-Fri: 9am-10pm; Sat & Sun: 7pm-10pm

Stonham (Gilson Way Hostel)
c/o Morris House, 430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
Mon-Fri: 9am-4:30pm

Stonham (Morris House)
430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
0121 555 6500
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (ring)
For young people aged 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, H, TS

Midland Heart - Girange Road
c/o 100 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick, Sandwell B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (ring)
For single homeless people aged 16-40 with support needs.
CA, ET, IT

West Bromwich & District YMCA
38 Carters Green, West Bromwich B70 9LG
For single homeless people aged 16-40 with support needs.
CA, ET, IT

Wolverhampton YMCA (Badger Court Foyer)
Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 0AD
01902 870382
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people aged 16-25 who have support needs around life skills and are willing to engage in training and support.
AW, C, D, ET, IT, LF, OB, OL

Wolverhampton YMCA (Rugeley Foyer)
Aelfgar House, Church St, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS1 5 WH
01889 585232
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
(call in or phone for appointment)
Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET

Midland Heart - Rolfe House
69 Rolfe St, Smethwick B66 2AR
0121 558 5739
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone)
For single homeless 16-25-year-olds to engage with employment, education and training opportunities.
AS, CA, ET, H, IT

Midland Heart - Allesley Old Road Hostel
43-45 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry CV5 8BU
024 7669 1229
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call for appointment)
Single people 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, AD, H, TS

Stonham (Morris House)
430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
0121 770 9360
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
For single local homeless aged 16-25 with support needs.
AS, AD, C, D, H, IT, SH

West Bromwich & District YMCA
38 Carters Green, West Bromwich B70 9LG
For single homeless people aged 16-40 with support needs.
CA, ET, IT

Wolverhampton YMCA (Badger Court Foyer)
Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 0AD
01902 870382
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people aged 16-25 who have support needs around life skills and are willing to engage in training and support.
AW, C, D, ET, IT, LF, OB, OL

Wolverhampton YMCA (Rugeley Foyer)
Aelfgar House, Church St, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS1 5 WH
01889 585232
Mon-Fri: 9am-6pm
(call in or phone for appointment)
Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET

Midland Heart - Rolfe House
69 Rolfe St, Smethwick B66 2AR
0121 558 5739
Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm (phone)
For single homeless 16-25-year-olds to engage with employment, education and training opportunities.
AS, CA, ET, H, IT

Midland Heart - Allesley Old Road Hostel
43-45 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry CV5 8BU
024 7669 1229
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call for appointment)
Single people 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, AD, H, TS

Stonham (Gilson Way Hostel)
c/o Morris House, 430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
Mon-Fri: 9am-4:30pm

CHADD - On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DB
01384 455464
Mon-Fri: 9am-10pm; Sat & Sun: 7pm-10pm

Coverity Foyer
Holyhead Court, Lower Holyhead, Rd, Coventry CV1 3AX
024 76251001
Mon-Sun: Open 24 hours
For young people 16-24 who require support around independent living.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, OL

Young people (16-25)

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
For single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, ET, H, OB, TS

Men

Midland Heart – Gibbs Road

SIFA Fireside
18–28 Lower Essex St, Birmingham B5 6SN
0121 666 7023
Mon–Fri: 9–10.30am (breakfast); 12–1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun: 10.30am–11.30am; (nurses Tue & Fri: chiropodist Thu)
One-to-one help, accommodation and support for people dealing with alcohol issues; counselling; and support for people dealing with training opportunities; help for people on probation. Help accessing emergency accommodation.
AS, AW, AS, BS, BA, C, DA, ET, FF, H, LA, MS, OB, SK, TS

St George's House
St George's Hub, St Marks Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton WV3 0TZ
01902 421904
Mon–Fri: 9:15am–4:30pm
Helps people 18+ to avoid becoming homeless and to live independently after resettlement. Leisure and sporting activities.
AS, AD, BE, CL, F, H, LA, TS

St George's House Drop-in
1 Clarence St, Wolverhampton WV1 1WZ
01902 714746
Fri: 2:15pm–3pm; Mon–Thu: 2:15pm–4:30pm; Mon–Fri: 9:30am–1:30pm
For homeless people, ex-offenders, substance misusers and others who are often barred from other services and facilities. Practical advice, support and guidance, and signposting to other services. Big Issue distributor.
AS, AD, AW, BA, D, ET, F, H, LA, LF, OL

DIRECT ACCESS HOSTELS/ NIGHTSHELTERS
All with low-support needs
Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA – Daimler Green
Endeavour Court, 20 Chelmarsh, Daimler Green, Coventry West Midlands CV6 3LB
024 7659 7009
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people and care leavers with low support needs.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, TS

House
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4NJ
024 7663 5105
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (phone for application form)
Move-on accommodation for local single homeless men 18+, priority to Irish people. Dogs allowed.
AS, H, TS

Central and Cecil – Tullamore House
Leopold St, Highgate, Birmingham B12 0QB
0121 753 1386
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless men 25+.
AS, F, H

Midland Heart – Handwood House
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
0121 766 7645
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm
For single homeless men aged 45+.
AS, AW, D, H

Midland Heart – Zambesi Project
185 Stratford Rd, Sparkhill, Birmingham B11 1AG
0121 766 7645
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm
For single homeless men aged 45+.
AS, AW, D, H

FP3 – Bilston Hostel
53 Wellington Rd, Wolverhampton WV4 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D

FP3 – Thornley Street
27 Thornley St, Wolverhampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be substance-free at time of admission.
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL

FP3 – Thorney Street
27 Thornley St, Wolverhampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be substance-free at time of admission.
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL

Salvation Army (Eden Villa)
13 Charlotte St, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 3EB
01926 450708
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (call for appointment)
Single homeless people with support needs, and 1 room for married couples. Residents who have moved on can use the drop-in advice centre.
AS, AD, BA, H, TS

SHARP Hostel
57 Edgbaston Rd, Smethwick B66 4LG
0121 558 2104
Mon–Sun: 8:45am–11pm (phone calls); Mon–Sun: 9am–8pm (referrals)
For single people or couples aged 18+. Considers people who are overcoming dependency, but active drug use is not acceptable.
AS, BA, H

Salvation Army (Lincoln St Centre)
1 Lincoln St, Coventry CV1 4JN
024 7625 1437
Mon–Sun: 7am–9pm
Staff provide help and advice as required. Job seeking sessions, computer literacy courses and basic skills sessions are also available.
AD, AW, CA, ET, IT, LA, LF, MS

Salvation Army (William Booth Centre)
c/o Homeless Single Point of Access, Midland Heart – Homeless Services Centre, 44 Broadford St, Birmingham B5 6HX
0345 60 20 540 (24/7)
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10am–6pm; Thu: 10am–2pm
For single homeless men aged 18+ with low- to medium-support needs, inc. refugees. Call in at Midland Heart's Homeless Services Centre.
AS, H

Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA – Daimler Green
Endeavour Court, 20 Chelmarsh, Daimler Green, Coventry West Midlands CV6 3LB
024 7659 7009
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless people and care leavers with low support needs.
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, TS

Housing Options (Sandwell)

The Building, Birmingham B5 5BB
 0121 600 6536
 Mon & Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm;
 Tue & Thu: 10:30am-12:30pm &
 1.30-3.30pm; Sat: 10:30am-1pm
 If you are at risk of becoming
 homeless, contact the Housing
 Options Team for advice. Outside
 office hours: 0121 525 4688 or
 housing@sandwell.gov.uk.
 AS, AD, H

Midland Heart – Homeless

Services Centre
 44 Bradford St, Digbeth,
 Birmingham B5 6HX
 0345 6020 540; 0121 233 6370
 Mon, Wed, Fri: 10am-6pm; Tues:

10am-8pm; Thu: 10am-2pm
 Drop-in and telephone housing
 advice. Welfare benefits advice.
 Outreach and tenancy support for
 rough sleepers. Tenancy support for
 refugees and asylum seekers; young
 people with multiple needs; people
 with current or past drug problems.
 Alcohol and mental health referrals.
 AS, BA, H, OB, TS

Macro Services – Coventry Young

Homeless Accommodation Project
 1st Fl, Koco Building, The Arches,
 Spon End, Coventry CV1 3JQ
 024 7671 5113
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm (call
 for appointment)
 Advice on homelessness and
 finding accommodation. Tem-
 porary accommodation with
 support for young people.
 pregnant women and women
 with a baby aged up to 2 years.
 AS, AD, H

St Basil's Link

The Tollhouse, 180-182 Fazeley
 Street, Birmingham, B5 5SE
 0300 3030099
 Mon-Thu: 9am-5pm; Fri: 9am-1pm
 For people aged 16-25 who are
 homeless or are facing homeless-
 ness. Emergency 24/7 freephone:
 0800 068 7499. Youthline (24/7
 Emergency 24/7 freephone:
 0800 068 7499. Youthline (24/7
 Emergency 24/7): 0800 056 4034
 Emergency accommodation
 hotline (24/7): 0800 056 4034
 (male); 0800 068 7499 (female).
 AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET, OL

St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk

0121 600 6536
 Mon & Fri: 10:30am-12:30pm;
 Tue & Thu: 10:30am-12:30pm &
 1.30-3.30pm; Sat: 10:30am-1pm
 Listening, advice and refer-
 rals. Practical intervention and
 support in a friendly environ-
 ment. Many people seeking help
 are encountering homelessness,
 addiction, mental health prob-
 lems, bereavement and loss.
 BA, C, H, OB

Solihull Community Housing

(Chelsley Wood)
 6/8 Coppice Way, Chelsley Wood,
 Solihull, Birmingham B37 5TX
 0121 704 1515
 Mon, Tues, Thu: 9am-5pm;
 Wed: 10am-5pm; Fri: 9am-
 4:30pm; Sat: 9am-1pm
 AS, H

Solihull Community Housing

(Kingshurst)
 Church Close, Kingshurst, Soli-
 hull, Birmingham B37 6HA
 0121 717 1515
 Mon, Tues, Fri: 9am-4pm;
 Thu: 10am-3pm
 AS, H

Walsall Metropolitan Borough

**Council (Homelessness and
 Housing Advice Service)**
 2nd Fl, Civic Centre, Darwall
 St, Walsall WS1 1TP
 01922 653405
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
 Call for an appointment or if it's
 urgent, call in 2pm-3pm. Out-of-
 hours emergencies, call 01922
 650000 and speak to the duty
 social worker. General advice
 will be available on the out-of-
 hours service (0845 1112836).
 AS, H, TS

Walsall Rent Guarantee Scheme

PO Box 1427, Walsall WS4 2YT
 01922 746798
 Mon & Wed: 10am-12am
 Helpo people registered as homeless
 in Walsall to access private rents.
 AS

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

Chace Centre
 Chace Ave, Coventry CV3 3AB
 024 7630 2694
 Mon-Fri: 9am-12am; Mon-Thu:
 2pm-5pm; Fri: 1pm-4:30pm
 For single men 18+.
 CA, ET, LA, LF, OL

Coventry Cyrenians

1 Bird Street, Coventry, CV1 1FX
 02476 228099
 Mon-Fri: 9:30am-4pm
 AS, BS, BA, CL, DA, F, H, L, OB, TS

Coventry Jesus Centre – The

Bridge Drop-In
 7 Lamb St, Coventry CV1 4AE
 02476 550033
 Mon: 10am-1pm; Tues-Fri:
 9am-4pm; Sun: 9am-10:30am;
 Sat: 9am-12am
 Support groups, skills classes,
 cafe, and drop-in.
 AS, AW, BS, BE, BA, CL, DA, ET, F, FC
 FF, H, IT, L, LA, LF, LS, MS, MC, OB, TS

The Globe Centre

Wednesbury Rd, Walsall, WS1 3RU
 01922 625687
 Mon - Fri: 9am - 4pm
 For people (18+) who are vulner-
 able, including homeless, unem-
 ployed, drug dependent, mental
 health issues or socially excluded
Alcohol Drinking Lounge
 to public: 10am-3pm
 AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET,
 F, H, LA, MS, MH
 www.theaglebeccentre.org.uk

Maggis Day Centre

St Albans, Deansway,
 Worcester, WR1 2JD
 01905 25027
 www.maggisdaycentre.co.uk
 AS, AD, BS, C, CL, D, FF, L, MS, OL, TS

Salvation Army – Homeless Action

Project (Leamington)
 1A Chapel St, Leamington Spa,
 Warwickshire CV31 1EJ
 01926 883613
 Mon & Tues, Wed, Fri: 9:30am-
 12am; Thu: 9:30am-12:30am;
 Sat: 9:30am-11:30am
 Advice, support, signposting
 and referrals to emergency
 and longer term housing.
 AS, BS, BA, ET, F, H, IT, L, LA, OL

the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 26 September 2011

Key to this list:	Accom. assistance – AS	Advocacy – AD	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
	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

If you've any changes or suggestions visit our website - www.thepavement.org.uk - or email: thelist@thepavement.org.uk

Updated entries: 1

Services added: 0

ADVICE SERVICES

Base 25
 Castle House, Wheelers Fold, Wolverhampton WV1 1ST
 01902 572040
 Mon-Thurs: 12am-6pm; Fri: 12am-5pm; Sat: 1pm-3pm
 Advice for people aged 11-25 on housing, sex, drugs and alcohol, emotional wellbeing and job search. Groups for young women, fathers, asylum seekers and refugees.
 Free phone: 0800 073023
 AS, AD, AW, BA, C, D, ET, H, LA, OL, SH

CHADD Outreach Support Service
 98-99 Dixon's Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DJ
 01384 237555
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
 Advice and assistance on benefits, debt, registering with a GP, schools, work and college etc. Tenancy-related problems. Info about local services.
 BA, DA, ET, OL, TS

Dudley Area Housing Office
 5 St James Rd, Dudley, Birmingham DY1 1HP
 01384 815035
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
 If you find yourself homeless over the weekend or outside office hours, call 0300 555 8283 for help.
 AS, H

Dudley Tenancy Guarantee
 Dudley Housing Office, 15-17 St James's Rd, Dudley, Birmingham DY1 1JG
 0300 555 2345
 Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm
 Helps people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness to access private rented property. Phone 01384 815035 for details.
 TS

Derbyshire Housing Aid
 Millstone House, 93 Green Lane, Derby DE1 1RX
 01332 642150
 Mon-Sun: open 24 hours
 (emergency); Mon-Fri: 1pm-4pm (assessment)
 Assessment service for all single homeless people in Derby.
 Emergency accommodation.
 AS, AS, BS, BE BA, DA, H, LF