

the Pavement

The *FREE* monthly for West Midlands' homeless

May 2011

DO YOU KNOW WHAT
TO DO IF YOU COME
ACROSS AN OVERDOSE?

YOU SHOULD!



“Spare the price of a supermarket brand can of lager, mate?”

www.thepavement.org.uk

Issue 8 / West Midlands / May
2011

Published by
The Pavement West Midlands
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Birmingham
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Printed by

Evon Print Ltd, United Kingdom

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The Pavement (print) ISSN 1757-0476

The Pavement (Online) ISSN 1757-0484

The Editor

Guest advice

In this issue, we're welcoming a guest columnist, Abe Oudshoorn, a nurse working with rough sleepers in London... Ontario, that is.

It's not just that Abe has a lot of health experience and a PhD, though both of these are true. But he has something to say on a subject that's been more in the news recently: overdoses and avoiding them. Asking someone from outside the areas of our three editions also helps emphasise the universal problems facing people on the streets. Even if you avoid drugs or try to steer clear of those who use them, you may come across someone suffering from an overdose, so read what he has to say on page 24. Along with our Top 10 Foot-care Tips (page 25), it means you're forewarned and so forearmed!

And please, don't be confused that we're running the Street Shield competition again. We hope a few more readers will be persuaded to enter. If you've any talent (or none) with a pen or pencil, or just enjoy comics, turn to page 22 for the rules of how to enter.

Ellie Jones

Editor

westmidlands@thepavement.org.uk

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West Midlands news

All the homeless news from across the region

Emergency Food Bank plans expansion

West Bromwich Food Bank opens on Monday and Friday afternoons each week to provide food parcels to those in need in the local community. The project is based at West Bromwich Community

Church in Victoria Street. Project Manager, Keith Turner, said: "We work in partnership with several charitable organisations, including Sure Start, Citizens Advice Bureau, YMCA and Sandwell Homes and we operate on a referral process basis. However, if a person turns up for food outside of our opening hours and in case of any emergency, we will always try to support them."

Those requesting food parcels are offered a personal assess-

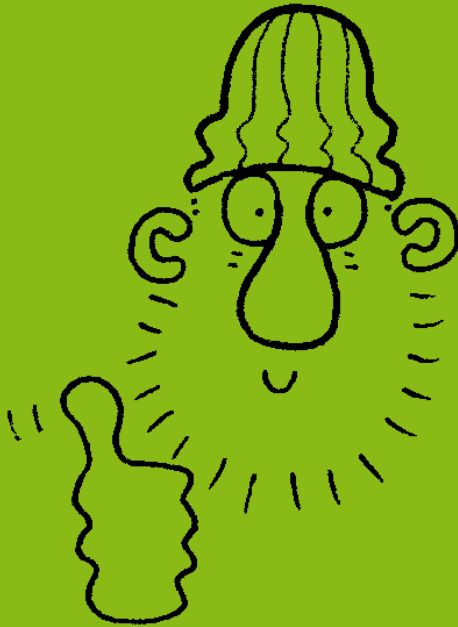
ment at the food bank and if necessary will be referred on for further support and advice. Each individual is given 8-9kg of food which should last 3 days. A couple will be given 10-11kg of food. A family of two adults and three children will be given 25-30kg, again 3 days worth of food. The Food Bank network provide healthy food designed to have a long shelf life: food parcels typically contain tinned meats, vegetables and soups together with milk and other nutritious groceries.

Lornie, 31, is an asylum seeker from the Congo in Central Africa, where the violation of human rights is widespread due to the current civil war. She was rescued by a missionary worker and brought to the UK for her own safety in November last year. Lornie arrived in London, was transferred to a refugee centre in Birmingham and now lives in a hostel in Walsall. Lornie said: "I needed help and financial support. I was referred to the Food Bank by my support worker. Keith and the team here make me feel very welcome and I am beginning to feel a sense of belonging." Lornie has embarked on a counselling foundation course and will seek employment once her training has finished.

Keith Turner also said: "We can see between fifty and sixty people a week. It can be really busy as we cover the whole of Sandwell Borough which includes 6 towns: Wednesbury, Tipton, Smethwick, Oldbury, Rowley Regis and West Bromwich. We have been open since December 2007 and have seen up to three thousand people



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



www.thepavement.org.uk



*“Yes, it’s an excellent time to set up a debt
and bankruptcy advisory service”*

to date. 25 per cent of these have been children under sixteen."

Colin Cook, 56, an ex-foundry worker, who is now unable to work due to a chronic lung disorder, is a regular visitor to the Food Bank. Mr Cook said: "Due to a recent relationship breakdown I have not been able to see my young son. I am fighting for joint custody which has been extremely upsetting and I have limited resources. I do not own a cooker and rely on the Food Bank for help. It is a brilliant place to attend."

The Food Bank is not open at weekends but they will help service users who turn up at the Church on Saturday and Sunday, offering advice and providing food snacks if they are hungry. Mr Turner also mentioned future plans at the Church and the need for expansion. He said: "We are in the early stages of setting up an organisation called 'Making A Difference' which will aim to provide a drop-in service supporting vulnerable people. Counselling services will be offered as well as support with managing money that encourages people to be self sufficient. However, our situation for future expansion is made difficult due to the new legislation from central Government and the enforced funding cuts".

West Bromwich Community Church are also looking at the possibility of setting up a winter night shelter at their premises to offer an evening meal, bed and breakfast emergency accommodation overnight between the winter months of November and February. Details and forthcoming plans can be followed on their website: www.makingadifference.terapad.com.

If emergency help is needed in the Borough of Sandwell please contact the church on **0121 580 0068**.

Jackie Lindoe

New documentary fights to combat youth homelessness

A new project has been set up in Birmingham to raise awareness of the risk of homelessness as a result of alcohol and substance misuse.

'UpLifting' is a Social Action Project run by three young people from Birmingham who are passionate about reversing the increasing trend of homelessness amongst young people in the city. The project is part of the Birmingham Uprising scheme (www.uprising.org.uk), a leadership programme which supports enthusiastic young people to make a real difference in their community, offering training and ongoing mentoring to the project leaders.

'UpLifting' is campaigning to raise awareness of homelessness and substance misuse among young people, with the aim of reducing the number of homeless youngsters in Birmingham. Research carried out by the project earlier this year suggested there is a link between youth homelessness in Birmingham and the rising number of young people misusing alcohol and other harmful substances, either directly or because it can cause relationship breakdown or social isolation.

While the project is sympathetic to the many causes of homelessness and the situations that could lead to a dependence on drugs or alcohol, 'UpLifting' wants to provide a hard-hitting documentary to show to young people of school age to get them thinking about the issues involved and the possible long term effects of their actions. As well as showing interviews and presenting figures from their research, 'UpLifting' want to profile real-life stories in their documentary. They therefore want to hear from young people in their late teens or early twenties who are experiencing or

have experienced these issues.

As part of their research, 'UpLifting' has been taking an active role in the homeless community in the past few months. The project leaders have met with various charitable organisations in Birmingham and those that use their services - including St. Basil's, REACH, and Midland Heart amongst others - to gain valuable experience, knowledge and advice. In a recent meeting, the project got a positive response from those attending SIFA Fireside's Service User Forum, and have made plans to return in order to screen a version of the documentary.

'UpLifting' organisers have expressed a wish to build a sustainable project that will continue beyond the Birmingham programme, and they have been seeking business advice to help them achieve this. The 'UpLifting' project is a great example of a Social Action Project, run by committed, conscientious young people who are enthusiastic about building a fairer society. Jess, one of the project leaders, said: "We want to gather people's opinions on our project to use alongside our partnership work... This will help us to ensure that we are able to incorporate the opinions, knowledge and expertise of those people who have experienced, or are experiencing the effects of alcohol, substance abuse and homelessness, in order to really make our project work."

'UpLifting' hope to film their documentary in May 2011. If you think your experiences could contribute to their documentary, or would like any other information, you can contact the project at: brumuplifting@gmail.com

Liam Bradley

Concern as BCC advice services restructured

Leading charity Homeless Link has approached Birmingham City Council to offer its support and to express its deep concern over the restructure of the authority's homeless and housing advice services in the city and the likely detrimental impact on access and quality.

Previously delivered from various neighbourhood offices across Birmingham, homeless services have now been restricted to four access points located in Erdington, Newtown, Northfield and Small Heath.

Having had an offer of support politely declined by the Council, Director of Regions for Homeless Link,

Mark McPherson, is concerned over the introduction of the new style of delivery. He said: "We represent many homeless charities in Birmingham. Concerns have been raised with us about the council's plan to offer homelessness prevention and advice from just four specialist centres.

"The council have consulted on its plans and we believe the new way of delivering help could bring benefits - such as offering a more consistent and co-ordinated service. However, we are concerned that homeless people may find the new centres more difficult to get to and that having fewer services could increase pressure and reduce the quality of help that people get.

"We have raised these issues with Birmingham City Council, who have assured us that they are taking steps to make sure

that access to help and the quality of the service is maintained."

Although they are unwilling to enter into a dialogue with Homeless Link at the present time, a spokesperson for Birmingham City Council stressed that the changes should be seen as a positive move: "Our new Homelessness Advice service was launched with four specialist homeless service centres in March 2011. This is in addition to a specialist service, the Hub, for young people under the age of 21.

"The change is a positive step forward and by adopting this model we are able to provide an enhanced range of prevention services to those in a time of crisis, and an improved, more efficient response for those whose homelessness cannot be prevented. Assistance is available to assist those applicants who need to travel to an office.

"Existing services through







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.

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 Freephone **0500 700 700**
Email: seensomeone@missingpeople.org.uk



neighbourhood offices remain unchanged for customers who need general housing advice. The new approach was piloted in Newtown prior to being rolled out across the city and customers advised us that they were in favour of the more comprehensive support they received under the new arrangements.

"We are currently undertaking an exercise to look at the responses to the consultation process and how these can be fed back to providers and customers as part of the ongoing development of the new service."

Likewise, Homeless Link will be watching with interest to determine how the changes will affect service users in both the short and the long term. Mark McPherson added: "Homeless charities will watch to see what impact these changes have. These are difficult times but we need to make sure that front-line help and care for homeless people is protected."

Fraser Tennant

£40k boost to help private rental tenants

The Department of Communities and Local Government has awarded SIFA Fireside a grant of £40,000 as part of their Crisis Private Rented Access Development Programme. The aim of the programme is to enable single, homeless people to find and, most importantly, sustain good quality accommodation in the private sector.

SIFA Fireside is the only organisation in Birmingham to have received this funding, with 48 others benefiting across England. The project, entitled 'Engage and Sustain,' will concentrate on long-term service users who have a substantial experience of homelessness or are in danger of returning

to it, with higher support needs, including substance misuse. SIFA Fireside has been given the opportunity to expand their resettlement services to include private landlords, which will give more choice to those accessing their other services, which include accommodation advice.

For the project to successfully respond to the needs of the cohort, it will have to provide both intensive and flexible support, as well as understand the need for partnership working to support tenancies once they have been created. As Lee Harris, Resettlement Co-ordinator at SIFA explained, the existing social and council housing is simply not keeping up with demand. Even hostels for rough sleepers that have survived in the face of Supporting People funding decisions have only been able to continue their service due to their reliance on floating support.

Harris said: "It seems that the private rented sector is going to be the way forward, despite possible pit falls. Housing Benefit cuts, on top of persuading reticent landlords to accept our client group will be nothing short of a challenge." SIFA Fireside hope to make these challenges more attractive to the private sector by offering support to minimise the risk of failed tenancies. Using the private sector is not without imperfections, but in this current climate it is one of the few alternative options, and one in which SIFA Fireside is prepared to invest to continue to support those who are in need of their services.

'Engage and Sustain' is supported by Crisis Skylight Birmingham, Anawim in Handsworth, St. Anne's Hostel and Birmingham City Council.

Amber Woodfull

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.

News in brief

The homeless news from across the World

Wedding invite

A former homeless woman will rub shoulders with world leaders and a host of big-name celebrities when she attends the royal wedding at the end of April. Prince William first met 20-year-old Shozna last summer at a charity gala. She told the audience about her difficulties living in homeless shelters after she had a stroke, went through a major heart operation and ended up spending two months in hospital. At the end of her speech, William reportedly came up to congratulate her on her performance and give her a hug.

The prince is a patron of the Centrepoint charity, where Shozna was initially housed after becoming homeless, and where she was offered CV advice and the services of a mentor. She recently found accommodation in a council flat and is looking for work in high street clothes shops. She will, unfortunately, be unable to pursue her original dream of becoming a hairdresser because the stroke left her without full use of her right hand. She will be joined at the wedding by Centrepoint's chief executive, Seyi Obakin, and his wife.

Shozna, whose full name is secret to protect her identity, expressed her gratitude to William: "I want to say to Prince William: 'Congratulations. Thank you for inviting me and thank you for making people feel like they are part of the world instead of being alone'."

John Ashmore

London hub success for new rough sleepers

Mayor of London's new homeless Hub saw more than 40 referrals in the weeks following its launch on 1 April, organisers have said.

The No Second Night Out (NSNO) scheme, which operates a 24-hour Hub aimed at helping the recently homeless off the streets as quickly as possible, says that round 40 new people are seen sleeping rough in London each week.

"Currently, around half of all new rough sleepers go on to have a second (or third or fourth) night on the streets," NSNO say on their website, which focuses on reconnection as a major part of its bid to make sure people are not forced to return to the streets.

Petra Salva, director of NSNO, stressed that it was people who had recently become homeless that would be referred to the Hub, rather than known rough sleepers.

Speaking to *The Pavement* on 18 April, Salva said: "We have seen over 40 people so far, including women and people from the European Economic Union.

"People are brought into the hub by outreach workers who have made contact with them on the street," she explained. Once referred, it has taken two to three days to find a solution or offer for most people, added Salva.

"This has included reconnection to home areas where we have helped people access supported housing placements, hostel accommodation and reconnection to family," she said. "Some people have also received hospital treatment for physical or mental health concerns."

Each case is followed up a week, a month and three months after they have left the Hub, which run from the same building as the Margery Street rolling shelter.

The NSNO scheme is part of Boris Johnson's wider plan to end rough sleeping in the capital by the end of 2012 – and £710,000 was committed to the six-month pilot scheme in December last year.

It opened on 1 April but a second, formal launch will happen in early May, said Salva.

The Pavement spoke to Salva just before the Hub first opened, when she stressed that the service wasn't about enforcement.

Instead, new rough sleepers can be referred through a number of different channels, including a helpline that NSNO will soon publicise across London. An outreach team will then assess any referrals to see if they qualify for support from the Hub.

NSNO said that it would also be "working closely" with the UK Border Agency (UKBA) but told *The Pavement* that no police or UKBA officials would be based at the Hub.

According to the NSNO website: "The preferred approach of local authorities is to assist EEA rough sleepers to return home voluntarily and a dedicated outreach team exists for this purpose, but where this offer is refused, the UK Border Agency may take removal action as a last resort."

Addressing fears that funds might be siphoned from other schemes to support the Hub, NSNO said: "Other projects to tackle long-term rough sleeping or to reduce the number of people who return to rough sleeping after previously leaving it behind are ongoing and not affected by this new pilot."



Use for a souvenir issue



"He's my financial adviser"

Visit www.nosecond-nightout.org.uk for more information on the Hub.

Garnet Roach

- Of course, with a new service it's hard to find the other side of the story, so any individuals or organisations who have experience of NSNO or the hub, please get in touch – anonymously if preferred – at news@thepavement.org.uk

Windfall for man outside casino

Mario Balotelli, a player for Manchester City football club, is thought to have given a rough sleeper £1,000 cash after a winning night in a casino.

The star striker, who earns £100,000 a week, is reported to often give cash to homeless people around Manchester, but in mid-April it's said he gave a large bundle of notes after winning thousands in a casino.

A 'source' told the *Sun*: "Mario is really generous. He always hands £20 notes to the *Big Issue* boys without even taking the magazine. There's a guy he always sees around town with ginger dreadlocks and a beard. He carries his possessions in two carrier bags. He was outside the club in the early hours, so Mario handed him a wad of notes after his big win."

The paper doesn't look at the security risks to an individual of carrying such a large amount of cash, nor at the dangers it could have for someone who was a drinker or drug user. What they do want to know is "do you know the tramp who got the cash? Call the *Sun* on 020 7782 4035."

Staff

Homeless men paid for beatings

Rough sleepers are accepting cash to be videoed being beaten.

There is an increasing number of reports in the American press about homeless men accepting money from websites that show semi-clad women brutally striking men.

The rough sleepers are reportedly paid \$50 for their pains. People who watch the videos online pay up to \$900 for the perverse footage.

Californian newspaper the *St Petersburg Times* reports that one rough sleeper, George Grayson "followed the recruiters to a St Petersburg townhouse on seven different occasions over the last few months, he said, and let five different women use his body and face as a punching bag."

They interviewed a local advocate, who claim he has interviewed and photographed several men with similar stories and injuries.

The website, www.shefights.net, shows films of around 12 minutes long of sustained and continued beatings of men by women. Owner Jeff Williams defends the beatings as consensual and is quoted as saying: "These men are crack addicts and will say anything for money."

Since the beatings were reported, the *St Petersburg Times* said a law firm has offered to file a suit on behalf of the men against the website and the women taking part in the films.

Rebecca Wearn

Cardiff centre closed due to bomb threat

A homeless centre in Cardiff was evacuated and searched by police on 29 March after a threatening phone call was

received relating to the building. Police were called to the Huggard Centre, a day centre and emergency sleeping unit in the city centre, after a man made threats related to the centre.

Speaking at the time of the incident, the Centre's chief executive Richard Edwards said that the man had reported there was a bomb in the building and the police had been called in as a precaution.

The police escorted the clients and staff to safety, and cordoned off the building while they conducted a search. A 19-year-old man was arrested for malicious communications near the centre, the police reported.

Edwards said he understood that the man was a resident of the council-run Tresillian House Hostel, an organisation which is temporarily sharing a building with the Huggard Centre.

Edwards said that this was the first time that the centre had received this kind of security threat, but that they did have evacuation procedures. In conjunction with the Council, they also had emergency planning procedures to respond to events that meant they could not access the building for any length of time. In this case, the Cardiff Central Library and the Star Leisure Centre helped to accommodate the Huggard Centre's clients.

Edwards said that the safety of the clients was foremost in the centre's response to the incident.

"I am unaware whether there was any real risk to users of the centre," Edwards said. "However, we work with highly vulnerable individuals, and the safety of residents and users of the centre was paramount at all times. Every measure was taken to secure their immediate and ongoing safety throughout this incident."

Nicholas Olczak

Hope for the world

A Muslim cleric has urged his religious followers to support a Christian-based homeless centre in Nottingham.

Imam Dr Musharraf Hussain al-Azhari said the work done by Emmanuel House would “please every person who has a love for humanity”. He added: “It will absolutely please God, please Christ and please the Prophet Mohammed.”

The independent city centre charity, which costs £300,000 a year to run, faces an uncertain future after losing £183,000 of core annual funding through council cuts in April. Few Muslims currently use the charity’s facilities, but Dr Hussain said Christians and Muslims alike should embrace the aims of Emmanuel House. “Muslims have an obligation to help and serve such people,” he said.

Emmanuel House’s Ruth Shelton said they had already raised more than £47,000 in donations and that the centre’s financial difficulties had brought out the best in people.

She said: “It’s shown how much goodness there is in the community. Every day, there comes an elderly lady with a

jar of 2p pieces or a businessman brings in a cheque for £1,000.

“It’s not just about the money. It’s about the support and the affection.”

Rebecca Evans

iHobo returns

A new version of the controversial iPhone app that allows users to care for a “virtual homeless person” has been released by charity Depaul UK.

iHobo, which can be downloaded free by iPhone users, was originally launched to some criticism in May 2010 but has gone on to win a number of awards, as well as becoming the most

popular charity app in the UK. It has been downloaded more than 600,000 times since it was released last year, raising £13,000 through donations from 5,000 users.

However, critics have voiced concerns that iHobo stereotypes young homeless people.

But Rachel Slade from the charity said: “The idea is to give people an insight into what life could be like for a young homeless person and engage them with the issue of homelessness in a completely new way. Many people have said that the app has made them think about homelessness for the first time, and change their stereotypes and perceptions.

“We understand that the app was controversial. However, we took a risk with it. We needed it to stand out in an over saturated market, ignite conversations and engage people.”

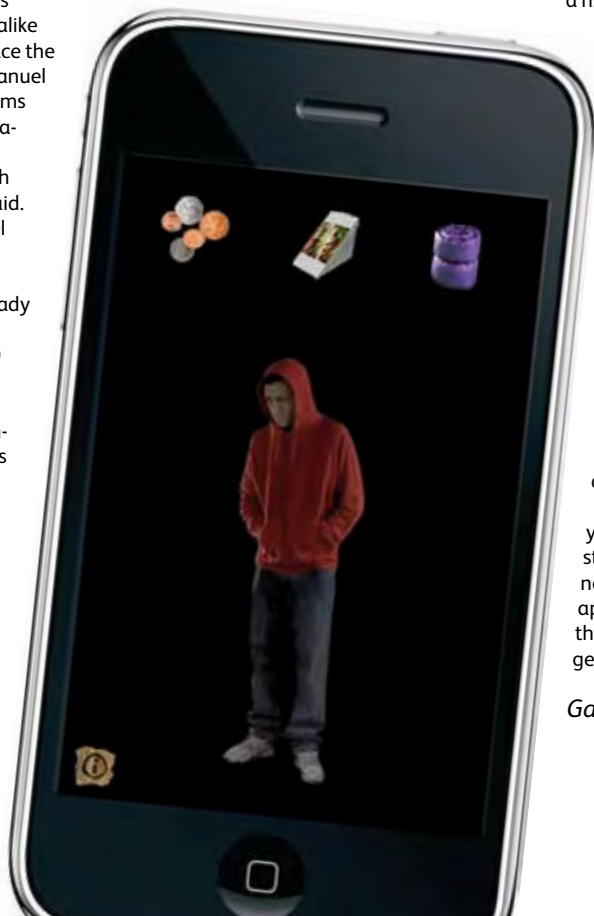
iPhone users that install the iHobo application on their phones must spend three days caring for a young homeless person, offering food, money or emotional support.

Paul Marriott, chief executive of Depaul UK, said the app aimed to increase awareness of youth homelessness and attract new donors.

“The future for young people is worrying at the moment, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged,” he said.

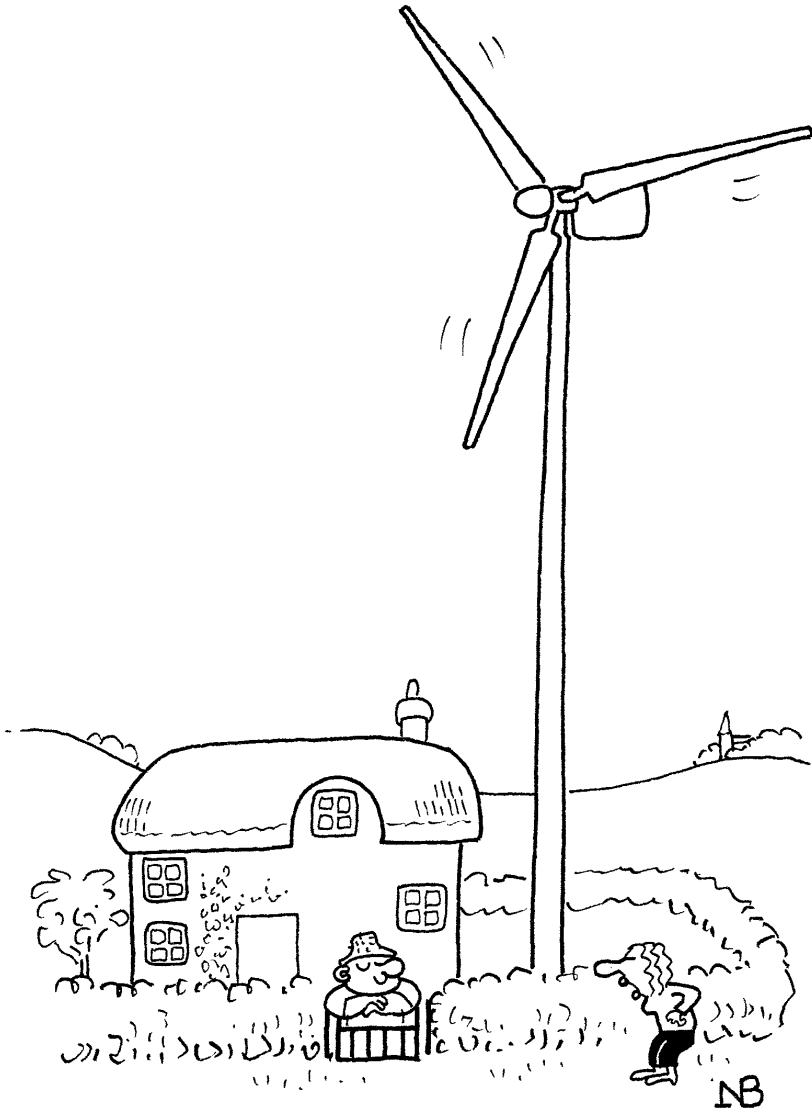
“There is a real fear that young people sleeping on the streets will increase over the next five years, and we hope this app will help us communicate the severity of this issue to the general public,” added Marriott.

Garnet Roach





“Aaarrhhh, it’s a Brontésaurus”



"Imby!"

Bradford death

Bradford police are hoping that DNA profiling can help identify human remains found in a tent close to the town centre at the beginning of last month, as reported in the April edition of *The Pavement*. After appealing for information from the public, police received 'dozens' of potential names from members of the public, but are yet to make a positive identification.

The body is believed to be that of a rough sleeper, though the remains were such that police have been unable to tell whether the victim was even male or female – and it is thought that they body had lain dead since last summer. The tent was in undergrowth set back from the main road, and was out of public view.

The bones have now been sent to a forensic laboratory, in the hope of making a DNA match. Detective Inspector Mark Long, of Bradford South CID, who is leading the investigation into the discovery of the body, said, "The bones have been sent to our forensic laboratory to try to establish who the person is. The process will take about a month, but we are hoping the scientists will be able to get a DNA profile, so we can put a name to the remains. The death is being treated as non-suspicious, so the main thrust of our inquiry is to identify who the person is. There is nothing to suggest there has been any criminal offence."

James O'Reilly

- Anyone with information should call Bradford South CID on **0845 6060606** or Crimestoppers, in confidence, on **0800 555111**.

A new guide book

An ex-rough sleeper has published a book – 'The Girl's Guide

to Homelessness' – about her experiences that she hopes will demonstrate that homelessness can happen to anyone.

In February 2009, Brianna Karp found herself out on the streets. She considered herself a typical young woman from Orange County, South Carolina. She had worked hard and achieved well at school, and found decent work and independence. She had a complicated life at home, with one parent suffering with mental health problems, and low income meant she'd had to work to support siblings from a young age, but Karp did not feel this has negatively affected her own mindset.

But when her company laid off more than half of its staff and her benefit payments meant she had to give up her own home and return to her parents, she lost everything. And finally, when her parent attacked her, she was evicted from her refuge. Feeling that her friends had too many of their own problems to support her as well, Karp resolve to strike out on her own, to take the streets on and survive, with just \$300 to her name.

In the global recession, one per cent of US citizens (around 670,000 people in 2009) have experienced homelessness, and the majority of them are families. Karp is by no means the first rough sleeper to put pen to paper, but she hopes to smash the stereotypes of rough sleeping with her book. Her blog states: "I am an educated woman with stable employment and residence history. I have never done drugs. I am not mentally ill. I am a career executive assistant – coherent, opinionated, poised, and capable. If you saw me walking down the street, you wouldn't have assumed that I lived in a parking lot. In short, I was just like you – except without the convenience of a permanent address."

Although critics have praised her work as a tale of triumph over adversity, Karp sees it as more of

an exercise in urging the public to rethink their views on homelessness. Her work began life as an online blog that detailed the day-to-day challenges she faced when seeking work and a new life with neither a home nor a permanent base.

The book will be released on 26 April 2011 in the United States.

Rebecca Wearn

Love thy neighbour?

A vicar who stabbed and poured boiling water over a homeless man sheltering outside his church has been jailed for seven years.

Reverend Friday Archy, 51, attacked Ben Donetus, 25, to punish him for been a sinful homeless person, a court heard. Before stabbing his victim in the neck, armpit and chest, Archy screamed: "I told you to go, if you stay here you will die."

Mr Donetus was left with severe burns, four stab wounds and a collapsed lung.

Archy, a vicar at Christ-Choosing Church of God, in Peckham, south-east London, was jailed after being found guilty of inflicting grievous bodily harm with intent following a trial at Inner London Crown Court, Southwark. Donetus, who had been sleeping rough for two years, had been sheltering for the church for around two months with two others.

Describing the attack in May last year, he said: "I remember waking up, feeling wet. I felt my back and it was wet. I could feel it was also hot.

"I turned over and saw the reverend standing over me with an electric kettle in his left hand.

"He was shouting: 'Get out, get out'. I tried to get up, but the reverend pushed me to the ground. As I fell I saw he had a silver knife in his right hand. I turned away to protect myself, then felt myself being stabbed. I could see the reverend was stand-

ing over me, stabbing at me.

"He was shouting: 'I told you to go, if you stay here you will die'."

"I was really frightened he was going to kill me. I yelled for help."

Rebecca Evans

LA encampment cleared

The clearing of a homeless 'encampment' in Los Angeles two weeks ago once again illustrates the scale of the homelessness problem in the United States. Since October of last year, the Los Angeles city authorities have been clearing areas where large numbers of rough sleepers had begun to congregate. Twenty people were removed from a camp underneath a motorway bridge in last December after the local authorities said their living conditions had become a health and safety concern.

In 2009, the last time the US Government's Annual Homeless Assessment Report was published, the number of rough sleepers was estimated to be around 700,000 on any given night. Among that figure were 124,000 people described as "chronic homeless".

Another striking statistic was that one fifth of all rough sleepers in the United States in 2008 could be found in Los Angeles, New York and Detroit. The scale of the encampments in Los Angeles gives some idea of the number of rough sleepers in that city, the largest by population in the US. A December report in the *Los Angeles Times* said there were around 48,000 homeless people in the city. By comparison, the UK's Department for Communities and Local Government estimated that there were 1,247 rough sleepers in the whole of Britain in 2010.

Although there is considerable disagreement on who is and is not considered 'homeless', and estimates vary from organisation to organisation, it is clear that a significantly higher proportion of

Americans are sleeping rough than here in the UK. The problem in the US has been made worse since the financial crisis, with a rise in unemployment and a lot of people unable to afford their mortgage repayments. In the first six months of last year, for example, 1.9 million homes in the US were put up for sale because their occupants could no longer afford their repayments. California is among the states with the highest rate of 'foreclosure' of houses – and one of the highest rates of homelessness.

John Ashmore

Squatting law

On 7 March, a group of MPs submitted a motion that proposes criminalising squatting.

The proposal was spearheaded by the Conservative MP for Hove, Mike Weatherley, and backed by 22 MPs (20 of whom are also Conservative).

It's the latest step in a growing campaign against squatting. According to the *Telegraph*, Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke has made changing the law a priority. In December, Housing Minister Grant Schapps issued guidelines to property owners advising them what action they can take against squatters (as covered in *The Pavement*, December 2010)

The law in England permits squatters to enter an empty or abandoned property without the owner's consent, as long as they don't cause damage, use utilities (such as electricity or gas) or commit any criminal offences when entering or staying. Owners must contact go through the civil courts to have the squatters evicted.

Under the new law, squatting will be a criminal rather than civil offence, giving police the power to gain entry to the property by force and arrest squatters.

Squatting is already illegal in Scotland, where arrested squatters can face a maximum fine of £200, or 21 days' imprisonment if the fine is not paid.

An unusual amendment was added to the motion by Conservative MP Robert Halfon on 14 March, reading: "at end add 'with the exception of the squat in the house of Saif al-Gaddafi in North London'".

The motion was debated in Westminster Hall on 30 March. Crispin Blunt, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Prisons and Probation) said a public consultation would be carried out and suggested possible amendments to the law, such as giving owners of commercial property the same rights as residential property owners, i.e. making it legal for squatters to break into their property.

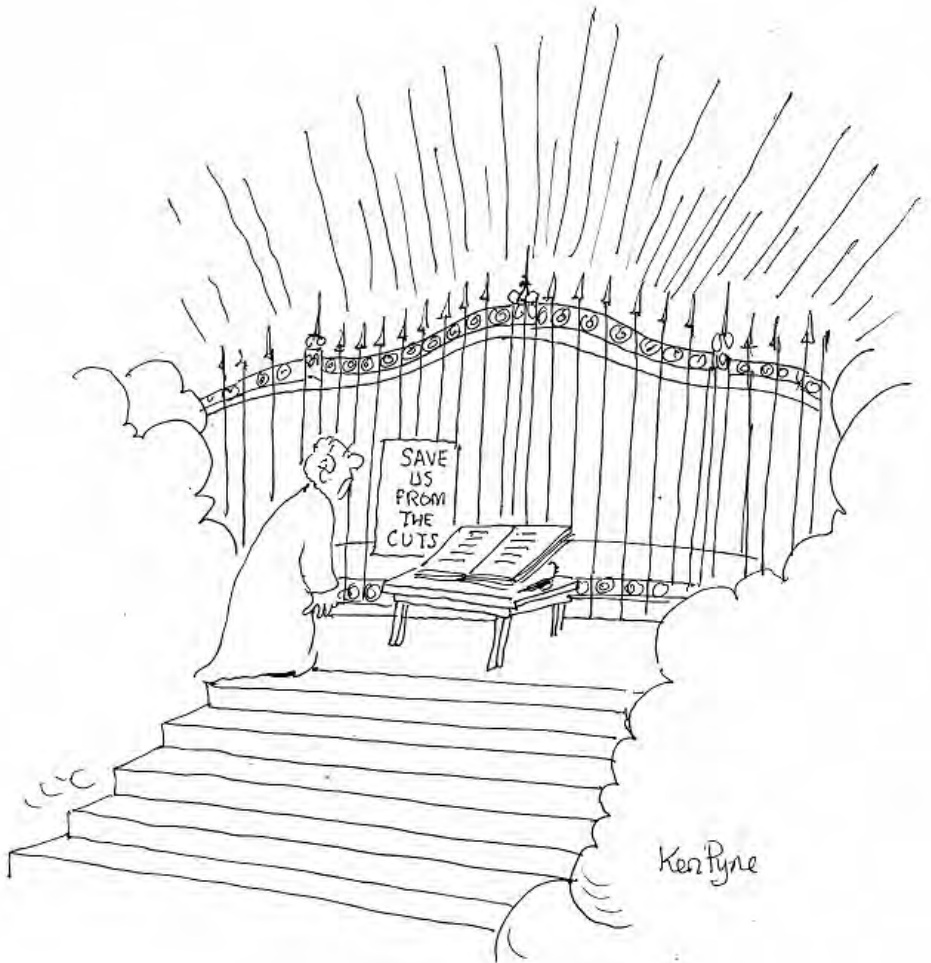
The Pavement will follow developments regarding the proposed changes, including the announcement of when the public consultation will begin. According to the *Evening Standard*, this is expected to be after the local elections in May.

Carinya Sharples

Guilty in St Helens

A 25-year-old man has pleaded not guilty to murdering a rough sleeper in St Helens, near Liverpool, in late January this year, reports the *Liverpool Echo*. Darren Bolger was found collapsed in an alley off one of the main streets in the town, and had suffered severe head injuries. Doctors tried to save Darren, 40, but he was pronounced dead later that evening. Stephen Thompson appeared by video link at Liverpool Crown Court to plead not guilty and will remain in police custody until his trial begins at the start of June.

John Ashmore



DESIGN A FEMALE SUPERHERO!

STREET SHIELD COMPETITION TIME!

READ ON
TO FIND
OUT HOW TO
ENTER!

WELCOME!

I NEED
YOUR HELP!



I'VE HEARD RUMOURS
THAT SOME OF MY
ENEMIES ARE OPERATING
IN OTHER CITIES!



AND EVEN WITH THE
HELP OF THE CARDBOARD
SHIELD, GOLDEN BLANKET
AND ROUGH DIAMOND
IT'LL BE A TOUGH FIGHT!

AND YOU MIGHT'VE
NOTICED THAT ALL MY
FELLOW HEROES
ON THE STREET
ARE MEN!

SO I'M
LOOKING FOR
A FEMALE HERO
TO FIGHT
ALONGSIDE!

AND YOU CAN
HELP ME BY
DESIGNING
A FANTASTIC
SUPER-HEROINE!





DRAW YOUR DESIGN ON BOARD, PAPER OR THE BACK OF AN ENVELOPE. USE PEN, PENCIL, CRAYONS, PAINTS OR EVEN A PC. ANYTHING YOU LIKE, REALLY!

AS LONG AS YOU CAN POST OR EMAIL IT TOO US!

AND GIVE US A BIT OF BACKGROUND - WHERE IS SHE FROM? WHAT'S HER BACK STORY? AND WHAT POWERS DOES SHE HAVE?

THE TOP TEN ENTRIES PICKED BY THE EDITORS AND TRUSTEES WILL BE DRAWN BY MY CREATOR, MIKE, AND PUT TO THE PUBLIC VOTE...

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE THEIR CREATION ON A T-SHIRT AND SEE HER IN PRINT ACROSS THE UK!

GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!



The rules:

1. Entries from readers only, so you must be homeless, ex-homeless, in temporary accommodation or vulnerably housed.
2. Closing date for the competition is on Friday 24 June 2011.
3. The judges' decision is final.
4. Email entries or post them to: PO BOX 60385, London, WC1A 9BH

NEXT MONTH

GOING HOME!

Health and wellbeing

The Pavement's health team – a podiatrist and a nurse – aim to help keep you in the pink

Do you know what to do in case of an overdose?

It's easier than you might think Preventing and responding to drug overdose

In London, Canada, many people injecting narcotics have died of overdoses in the past year. Although heroin, cocaine and other amphetamines are around, the most frequently injected drugs are prescription pills such as Oxycontin or Percocet. We have also had some deaths related to Fentanyl, which is a slow-release narcotic patch. As the use of prescription narcotics increases, it is important that people keep themselves safe.

Two things that we are doing right now to focus on safety in London – on this side of the pond! – are education around peer support in the case of overdose, and connecting with our local police services to ensure everyone's safety if 911 (our version of 999) is being called for an overdose.

The first thing to know is how to prevent an overdose? Here are some things you can do to keep yourself or your friends safe:

1. Know what you're using and how much. Everyone has a different tolerance for drugs, and you need to know what is safe for you
2. Don't mix injecting and booze. Narcotics and alcohol have a side-effect of decreasing your breathing, which makes

- overdose death more likely
3. Always use with a friend or friends, preferably with one of you not using. Someone needs to be able to call 999
4. Think about having a phone available before you use.

The second thing to know is are they having an overdose? Basically, an overdose is occurring if they fall asleep and you can't wake them up. Signs of an overdose include:

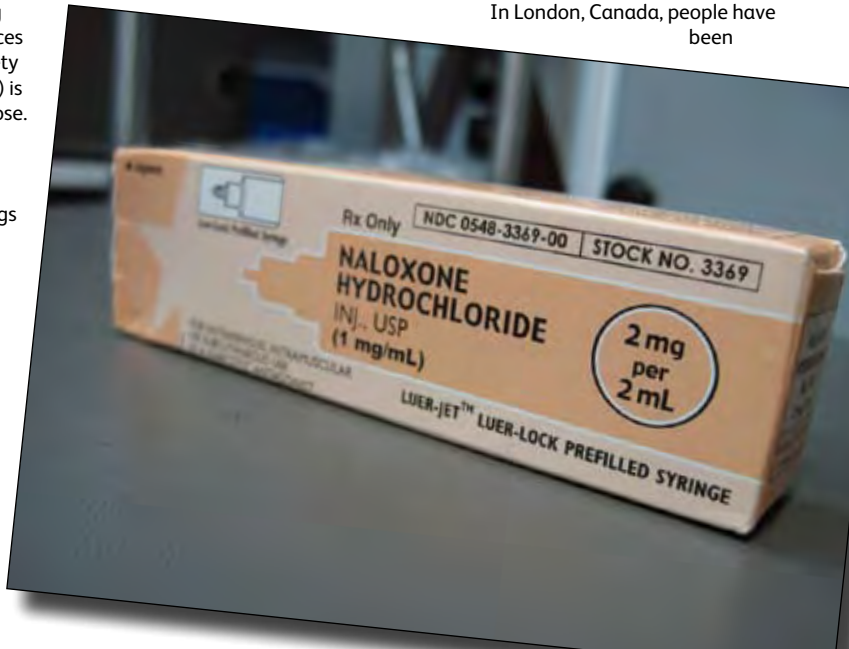
1. They may act confused or stupid
2. They go to sleep and won't wake up
3. Slow breathing, or they actually stop breathing
4. Their lips and fingernails might start to turn blue
5. Cold skin
6. They may throw up.

The third thing to know is what to do in case of an overdose?

1. If your friend is getting confused and starting to go out, keep them awake. They won't like this, but it will help them keep breathing.
2. If they do go out and you can't wake them, call 999 immediately! Paramedics have a medication called Naloxone that reverses overdose.
3. If they are not breathing, you need to breathe for them. Make sure there is nothing in their mouth, tilt their head back, lift their chin, plug their nose and breathe into them every 5 seconds. You know it's working if you see their chest rise. You need to keep doing this until they breathe on their own or paramedics arrive.

Calling 999 can be a challenge, because you may be concerned about police responding to the phone call as well as paramedics.

In London, Canada, people have been



arrested on the basis of outstanding warrants and what is in the room when they called because of an overdose. Having more people with you means that you can clean up while one person is breathing for your unconscious friend. In Vancouver, Canada, there is an agreement that police do not respond to 999 calls for an overdose. We hope to be able to do the same.

The last thing to think about in terms of preventing deaths from overdose, is Naloxone, which paramedics carry. It only works for a bit, so the person still has to go to the hospital, but it will allow them to wake up and breathe. In some cities in the United States, they are working hard to make sure Naloxone is available to more people than just paramedics. You can only get it through a prescription, and you need to know how to inject it, but it is being given out as part of some needle exchange programs. This is an idea that has been shown to work, and could be useful in both the UK and Canada as well.

So, if you are going to use, make sure you use safely and know what to do in the case of an overdose.

Abe Oudshoorn

Abe Oudshoorn teaches Nursing at The University of Western Ontario, and is a former street nurse at the London InterCommunity Health Centre in London, Canada.

Top 10 footcare tips

Ten things to do this spring for healthier summer feet

Now that the sun is starting to shine a little, it's time to think about keeping our feet sweet for summer. Here are the Top 10 tips for keeping them well and healthy.

One Take a few minutes to look at the skin. Your feet are often neglected and stuck in thick socks and heavy boots in winter,

so it is time now to examine the soles of your feet and take a good look between your toes. Check for cracks or splits, or scaly rashes that could be a fungal infection or dermatitis. Look for blisters, lumps, bumps, warty-like structures (which could be verrucae) or strange-looking moles, and if anything concerns you, get advice from a podiatrist, doctor or nurse.

Two If your nails seem thickened, yellow or crumbly, you may have a fungal infection. Cut your nails straight across as short as you can, and don't poke down the sides of your nails or pick at them, as this could introduce infection.

Three Think about your footwear. UK summers are rarely heat waves, so don't get rid of the boots just yet – it still gets cold at night. If you spend a lot of time walking on pavements, you'll need a warm, sturdy pair to get you through most of the summer. Try to find second-hand, lightweight walking boots made of a breathable material. Trainers are fine, but sometimes the synthetic material in the lining can make your feet sweat excessively. Sandals rarely offer enough support or protection.

Four Swap your thick winter socks for several pairs of lighter cotton ones, if you can, and rotate them. If possible, don't go without socks: the friction between the inside of the shoe and the skin on your foot can lead to blisters or wounds on your feet, and these can lead to infection.

Five Air your feet. When it is safe to do so, and if you have no open wounds on your feet, go barefoot for a while. Give your feet a chance to stretch and breathe after the winter months. If you can get down to your feet, rub the soles with your thumbs to get the circulation going.

Six Avoid infections. Communal floor surfaces like dormitories or shower rooms are a great place for them to lurk. If you can, wear something on your feet when you shower – even socks will give some protection. Remove them afterwards, and wash and dry them thoroughly. If you get an offer of a good pair of second-hand shoes, air them for a day or so before wearing them.

Seven If you smoke, think about stopping. Not easy, but as well as all the other benefits, stopping smoking could have a huge impact on your foot health. Smoking affects the small vessel circulation in the feet and legs, and as such is damaging to your lower limb health.

Eight Some prescription and street drugs threaten the health and wellbeing of your feet. Alcohol in large quantities over long periods of time may affect the sensation in your legs and feet, and some drugs can influence the circulation to the lower limbs. Be careful, and try to drink moderately.

Nine Think about your general health. Conditions such as diabetes, arthritis and neurological conditions such as stroke can play a part in putting your feet at risk. If you have diabetes, or think you might have (you may be drinking and peeing a lot, small wounds may be slow to heal...), get checked out.

Ten Use them. Walking is great for body and soul, so get those feet moving. Walking helps pump blood around the body and keeps the important lower limb muscles moving. It's free, it's good for you, and it's the season to do it!

Evelyn Weir

Lecturer in podiatry
Queen Margaret University
Edinburgh



"Can I borrow a spoonful of sugar"

WEBSITES

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

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

National Homelessness Advice Service
Readers can click on the section 'need advice'
www.nhas.org.uk

The Pavement Online
An online version of *The List*, amongst other things.
www.thepavement.org.uk/services.htm

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

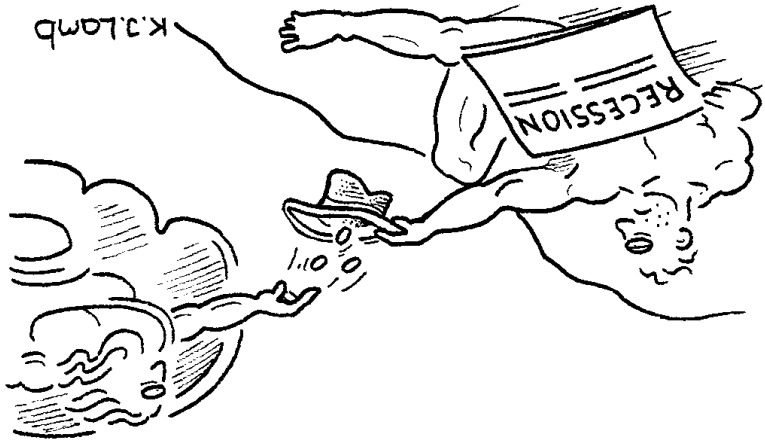
Stonewall Housing
Addresses the housing needs of lesbians and gay men. Provides temporary, supported housing for 16 – 25 years old lesbians and gay men.
www.stonewallhousing.org

Sock Book
Previously Everyone's Home
An 'e-shelter', with a large directory of services.
sockbook.referrata.com

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

www.thepavement.org.uk

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



Nationwide
www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk
Mon–Fri: 9am–8pm;
Sat: 9am–12:30pm
AD, BA, DA, H
Free, confidential service, offering 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

The What? Centre
23 Coventry St, Stour-
bridge DY8 1EP
01384 379992
Advice, information and
therapeutic counselling for
people 13-25 in Dudley.
H, LA, MS, MH, SH
AS, AD, BA, C, DA, ET,
Free line for under-18s
who have left home
0808 700 740, 24 hrs daily
Message Home Helpline

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
0174 252 3891
0845 345 4345

AS, C, OL
Phone for details
0121 440 6655
Mon: 12:45am–1:45pm (clinic)
1:15pm–3:30pm (walk-in clinic);
–0121 440 0034); Mon:
1:15pm–3:30pm (drop-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

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 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–
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

Valley House
Navigation Centre, 55-57
Bell Green Rd, Courthouse
Green, Coventry CV6 7GQ
024 7626 6270 or 6290
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single people and parents, inc.
women escaping domestic violence,
young homeless people, and
or single parents. Referrals to
other agencies for specialist help.
CET, LA, OL

TELEPHONE SERVICES
Community Legal Advice
0845 345 4345

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
gillig
PO Box 3918, Birmingham B9 5AQ
0121 773 1431
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
James's Rd, Dudley DY1 1HP
DACHS, Dudley MBC, 5 St
time2talk Mediation Service
01384 812 422
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (message
service outside these hours.
Interpreters can be arranged)
Free for Dudley residents.
AD, C
AS, AD, H, LA, SH
Refugeeline: 0800 111 4223

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.
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AS, AD, BA, C, H, MH

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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.
Safe house, advice, info, advocacy,
counselling, and children's services.

EASTERN EUROPEAN

Polish Club Birmingham
 Polish Millennium House, Bordesley St, Birmingham B5 5PH
 0121 643 3577

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

ENTA
 Mill Wharf
 10 Mill Street
 Birmingham
 B6 4BS
 0121 380 4801
 Mon-Thu: 8.30-4.30; Fri: 8.30-1.30
 www.entapeople.com/default.aspx
 CA, ET

AS, BA, DA, H, LE
 and accommodation.

social benefits, housing
 Advice on employment law,
 Fri: 1pm-3pm

Royal British Legion

08457 725 725
 Ring the Legionline to see
 how they can help ex-service-

Stonham (Eilsemere)

Fullwood House, Eilsemere,
 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 veterans and access to dedicated
 one-to-one welfare service
 www.veterans-uk.info

MEDICAL SERVICES

**Community Mental Health
 Homeless Team**

3rd Fl, Morcom House, Ledasam St,
 Ladywood, Birmingham B16 6DN
 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.

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-1am
 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-

PERFORMING ARTS

Crisis Skilght Birmingham

0121 348 7950

PO Box 15850, Birmingham, B9 9HL

AS, H
 email (HOV)ulnerrableper-
 sons@birmingham.gov.uk).
 can apply directly. Phone or
 left, the armed forces, you
 If you are leaving, or have

0121 675 1683

PO Box 13254B1, Bir-

Pathways)

Birmingham City Council (Housing

tion): Mon - Fri: 9am - 10am
 Airmen and Families Associa-

from SSAFA (Soldiers, Sailors,
 Call the 'Reclaim Your Life' scheme

01380 738137

AWOL?

EX-FORCES

Employment and training.
 CA, ET

0121 236 1936

Face House, 23-25 Summer
 Lane, Birmingham B19 3TN

The Big Issue (West Midlands)

CA, ET

birmingham@jericho.org.uk

www.jcp.org.uk/

0121 440 7919

B1 2 9LX

Birmingham

Balsall Heath

196 197 Edward Rd

Jericho Foundation

SEASONAL SHELTERS

Running at various locations
 - call for details
 AC, ET, IT, MC, PA

Birmingham Christmas Shelter

St George's Hub, Great Hampton
 Row (off Great Hampton Street),
 Newtown, Birmingham, B19 3JG
 07846 299336

23 - 29 Dec: 24 hours (opening
 10am on 23 Dec, and closing
 10am on 29 Dec)

Age 18+ mixed; Dogs on a lead
 welcome; Beds for up to 150

Bus service 46/46a from Bull
 Street stops outside St George's,
 Buses 16, 74 and 79 stop in
 Great Hampton Street

www.birminghamchristmashelter.org

SPECIALIST SERVICES

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

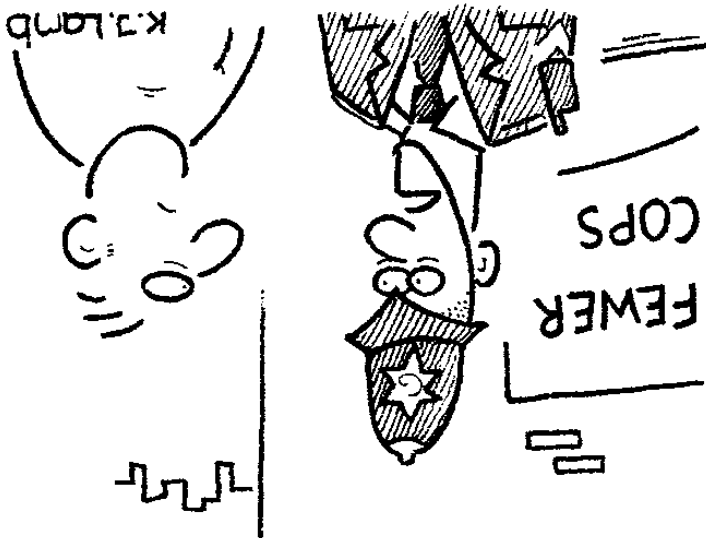
Outreach to asylum seekers,
 refugees, and the homeless.
 Education and training for
 children and young people.

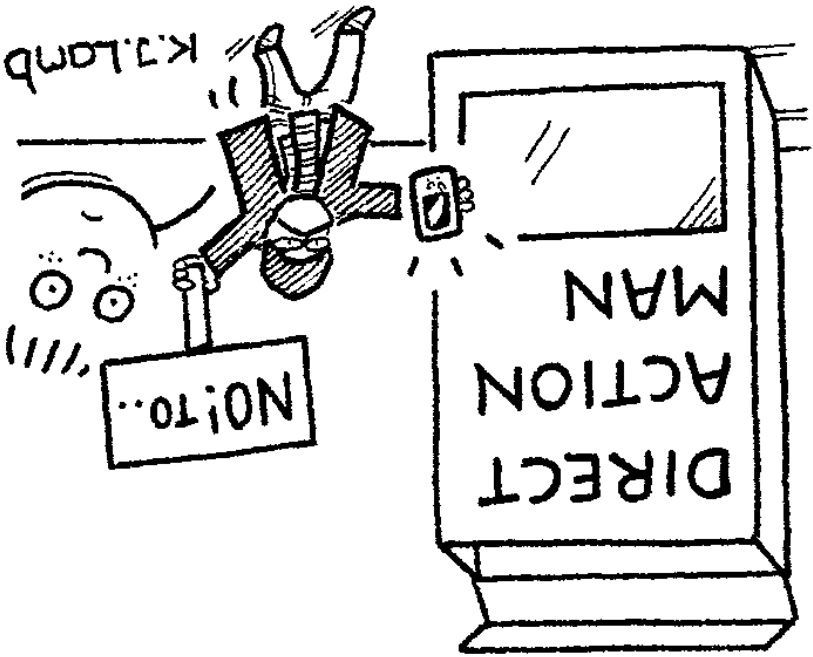
Coventry Refugee Centre

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

*"Would you accompany me to the station, Sir?
It's lonely there on my own"*





CA, ET, IT

Wolverhampton YMCA (Badger Court Foyer)
Cannock Rd, Wolverhampton WV10 0AD
01902 870382

Wolverhampton YMCA (Rugeley Foyer)
Aelfgar House, Church St, Rugeley, Staffordshire WS15 2WH
01889 585232

Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, AW, D, ET, H, MH, TS

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)
AS, C, H, MH

Midland Heart - Rofee House
69 Rofee St, Smethwick B66 2AR
0121 558 5739

Young single homeless people 16-25.
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET

Drug / Alcohol Services
Addiction Birmingham
279 Gooch St, Highgate, Birmingham B5 7JE
0121 465 4030

Information, support and advice for those with alcohol or drug problems.
AS, AD, A, BA, C, D, DA, H, MS, NE, OL, OB, SH
www.addaction.org.uk

Macro - Allesley Old Road Hostel
43-45 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry CV5 8BU
024 7669 1229

CHAD - On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DD
01384 455464

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL

Midland Heart - Gilbert Road
100-108 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick, Sandwell B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500

Midland Heart - Grange Road
c/o 100 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500 or 0121 558 5739

Stonham (Morris House)
430-432 Chester Rd, Castle Bromwich, Birmingham B36 0LF
0121 770 9360

Aquarius
2nd Fl, 16 Kent St, Birmingham B5 6RD
0121 622 8181

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

Norman Imlah Day Centre
2nd Fl, The Matthews Centre, Duddston Manor Rd, Duddeston, Birmingham B7 4LZ
0121 685 6346

For people wanting help and support in addressing their alcohol problem/dependence.
AS, AD, AW, AS, C, ET, LA, MH, SH

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
tbta

Young people (16-25)
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

CHAD - On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DD
01384 455464

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL

Midland Heart - Gilbert Road
100-108 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick, Sandwell B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500

Midland Heart - Grange Road
c/o 100 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500 or 0121 558 5739

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0121 770 9360

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0121 622 8181

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43-45 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry CV5 8BU
024 7669 1229

CHAD - On Route Project
6 Dixons Green Rd, Dudley DY2 7DD
01384 455464

Accommodation for men aged 16-27, inc. ex-offenders or those at risk.
AS, AD, ET, H, OL

Midland Heart - Gilbert Road
100-108 Gilbert Rd, Smethwick, Sandwell B66 4PZ
0121 555 6500

For young people aged 16-25 with low support needs.
AS, H, TS

- For single people aged 17+ (83 men, 9 women).
AS, H, TS
- Move-on accommodation for local single homeless men 18+. Priority to Irish people. Dogs allowed.
AS, H, TS
- Midland Heart – Hanwood House**
Leopold St, Highgate, Bir-
mingham B12 0QB
0121 753 1386
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone for appointment)
For single homeless men 25+.
AS, F, 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
- P3 – Bilston Hostel**
53 Wellington Rd, Wolver-
hampton WV14 6AQ
01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D
- P3 – Thornley Street**
27 Thornley St, Wolver-
hampton WV1 1JS
01902 773721
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be sub-stance-free at time of admission.
AS, AD, AW, BA, C, DA, D,
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL
- Princip Street Hostel**
Waterside House, 33–35 Princip
St, Birmingham B4 6LE
0121 359 5953
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+
with support needs, inc. mental health and/or alcohol problems.
AD, AW, MH
- St Anne’s Hostel**
112 Moseley St, Bir-
mingham 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, Wolver-
hampton WV1 3AT
01902 420536
for application form)
- for appointment)
Mon–Fri: 8am–7pm (phone
01384 423 771
01384 423 771
Lyve, Stourbridge DY9 8SG
Gibbs Rd, (off Balds Lane),
House
- Midland Heart – Gibbs Road**
AS, AD, CA, ET, H, IT, TS
leavers with low support needs.
Single homeless people and care
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
024 7659 7009
West Midlands CV6 3LB
Daimler Green, Coventry
Enderave Court, 20 Chelmarsh,
Coventry and Warwickshire YMCA
– Daimler Green
Endave Court, 20 Chelmarsh,
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
- Central and Cecil – Tullamore**
House
61 Stratford St, Coventry CV2 4N)
024 7663 5105
Mon–Fri: 9am–5pm (phone for application form)
- Men**
- AS, H
Heart’s Homeless Services Centre.
inc. refugees. Call in at Midland
with low- to medium-support needs,
For single homeless men aged 18+
6pm; Thu: 10am–2pm
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri: 10am–
0345 60 20 540 (24/7)
ford St, Birmingham B5 6HX
less Services Centre, 44 Brad-
Access, Midland Heart – Home-
c/o Homeless Single Point of
Centre)
Salvation Army (William Booth
AD, AW, CA, ET, IT, LA, LF, MS
skill sessions are also available.
computer literacy courses and basic
required. Job seeking sessions,
Staff provide help and advice as
Mon–Sun: 7am–9pm
024 7625 1437
1 Lincoln St, Coventry CV1 4JN
Salvation Army (Lincoln St Centre)
AS, BA, H
active drug use is not acceptable.
overcoming dependency, but
18+. Considers people who are
For single people or couples aged
9am–8pm (referrals)
Mon–Sun: 8:45am–1pm
(phone calls); Mon–Sun:
0121 558 2104
wick B66 4LG
57 Edgbaston Rd, 5meth-
SHARP Hostel
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, Wolver-
hampton WV1 1WZ
01902 714746
Fri: 2:15pm–3pm; Mon–Thu:
2:15pm–4:30pm; Mon–Fri:
9:30am–1:30pm
For homeless people, ex-offend-
ers, substance misusers and others
who are often barred from other
services and facilities. Practical
advice, support and guidance,
and one-to-one help, accommodation
and support for people dealing
with alcohol issues; counselling;
resettlement and tenancy support;
training opportunities; help for
people on probation. Help access-
ing 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, Wolver-
hampton 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
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St George’s Hub, St Marks
Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolver-
hampton WV3 0TZ
01902 421904
Mon–Fri: 9:15am–4:30pm
Helps people 18+ to avoid
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Leisure and sporting activities.
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- St George’s House**
St George’s Hub, St Marks
Rd, Chapel Ash, Wolver-
hampton 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
- 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
- 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
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01902 490050
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men, inc. ex-offenders and rough sleepers. D
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Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
Single homeless men. Must be sub-stance-free at time of admission.
AS, AD, AW, BA, C, DA, D,
ET, H, LA, LF, MH, OL
- Princip Street Hostel**
Waterside House, 33–35 Princip
St, Birmingham B4 6LE
0121 359 5953
Mon–Sun: Open 24 hours
For single homeless men aged 25+
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AD, AW, MH
- St Anne’s Hostel**
112 Moseley St, Bir-
mingham 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, Wolver-
hampton WV1 3AT
01902 420536
for application form)

DAY CENTRES AND DROP-INS

St Martin in the Bullring Helpdesk
The Martin, 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

Housing Options (Sandwell)
Court House, 335-337 High St, West
Bromwich, Birmingham B70 8LU
0121 569 6000
Mon-Fri: 8am-5:30pm
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

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

are encountering homelessness,
addition, mental health prob-
lems, bereavement and loss.
BA, C, H, OB

**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

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

Solihull Community Housing
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

**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,
coffee, and drop-in.
AS, AS, AB, BS, BE, BA, CL, DA, ET, F, FC
FF, H, IT, L, LA, LF, LS, MS, MC, OB, TS

The Glebe 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 open
to public: 10am-3pm
AS, AS, A, BA, BS, CL, DT, ET,
F, H, LA, MS, MH
www.theglebecentre.org.uk

**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

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

**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

**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

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 homeles-
sness. Emergency 24/7 freephone:
0800 068 7499. Youthline (24/7
-0300 3030099) will give you
emotional support and help
you find accommodation, a
job, voluntary work or training.
Emergency accommodation
hotline (24/7): 0800 056 4034
(male); 0800 068 7499 (female).
AS, AD, BA, CA, C, ET, OL

SIFA Fireside
18-28 Lower Essex St, Bir-
mingham B5 6SN
0121 666 7023
Mon-Fri: 9-10.30am (breakfast)
: 12-1pm (lunch); Sat & Sun:
10:30am-1:30am; (nurses

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

Homeless Options (Sandwell)
Court House, 335-337 High St, West
Bromwich, Birmingham B70 8LU
0121 569 6000
Mon-Fri: 8am-5:30pm
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

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AS, AD, H

the List

Directory of the West Midlands' homeless services

Updated 25 April 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: 4

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

Derbyshire Housing Aid

Milestone 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, L, LF

CHADD Outreach Support Service

98-99 Dikons 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 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

AS, H

call 0300 555 8283 for help.

If you find yourself homeless over the weekend or outside office hours,

Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

01384 815035

mingham DY1 1HP

5 St James Rd, Dudley, Bir-

Dudley Area Housing Office