

BCP Change for Good Fund **Impact report for grants made in 2022**

The BCP Change for Good Fund aims to award grants that support homeless individuals to move away from the streets of Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, and increase the likelihood of success in accommodation/tenancies in the short or long term to avoid a return to homelessness. Grants are awarded to community groups who are member organisations of the Homelessness Partnership, and directly supporting the individuals who will benefit from the grant. The BCP Council team may also apply for grants to purchase specific items that will directly support individuals who are moving away from the street.

The Homelessness Partnership (BCP) is made up of those with lived experience of homelessness, plus representatives of statutory bodies (Council, Police, Health, Probation), businesses, charities, faith groups, universities and other educational institutions; it calls on all citizens and organisations in the conurbation to join together to deliver their vision “to end homelessness in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole by ensuring everyone has a safe place to live that they can call home.”

The funds distributed via the BCP Change for Good Fund are raised by the Change for Good initiative run by the Homelessness Partnership, which attracts donations from local residents (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/changeforgoodBournemouth>), and from contributions made by DCF fundholders.

We would like to thank everyone who has donated and made it possible to award life changing grants for homeless individuals in our local community.

Summary

- £8,035 awarded via 10 grants
- 246 beneficiaries supported, with 51 volunteers involved
- 139 beneficiaries who are street homeless, received enhanced services that addressed immediate practical needs, improved relationships and communication with support workers and housing agencies, and support a pathway to temporary, supported or permanent accommodation
- 30 beneficiaries moving into supported accommodation received Welcome Packs with essential household items to help new accommodation feel like home, address hygiene poverty and reduce stigma, and help to build trust with support workers in order to increase their likelihood of success on their journey from street homelessness to eventual independent living
- 70 beneficiaries in supported accommodation were supported to develop the life skills and improved confidence they will need to move successfully to independent housing; including laundry and cooking skills, and household budgeting
- 7 beneficiaries moving into independent accommodation received items to support their transition such as white goods and furniture, in order to furnish the accommodation and create a home, and to increasing their likelihood of success (all remain living in their new homes)

Feedback from groups

"Thank you very much for your support with this grant, it has really made a difference to some lives and may seem like a small thing but is invaluable to others! The process was very smooth and easy and all my questions were answered promptly."

"Thank you for the flexibility shown in Supporting the YMCA in our mission to reduce social isolation and help those in supported housing return to permanent accommodation."

"Thank you so much for these grants for individuals. They have certainly been life changing and all 3 women have benefitted from the £500 grant they each received."

"This has been a positive experience and I am very grateful for the grant money and the support received through this grant"

"We always welcome every donation as this helps all the extra items from support down to welcome packs to be paid for, which makes the facility successful and allows residents to gain the skills they need to move onto independent living."

Feedback from beneficiaries

"thank you so much...for Ur help for being involved with safe and sound has meant that I could access Ur services... and have had a lovely end to the year as u helped to get me in touch with Shelter... And with Ur help to move to my new flat as u had seen the condition of my old flat, too...I am so grateful for the bed (it's lovely) that you gifted me... Now I have a one bedroom at long last and a bed that is so comfortable to sleep in I'm am so grateful For all u have done"

"Since I first moved out to my flat on my own this year, I didn't hold on to much hope of furnishing in a way that gave me much happiness. It's come at the end of a lockdown and never have I had to do a place all on my own, but thanks to the lovely safe & sound Dorset I've got a grant to help with furniture to start me off, which I have spent on some wonderful looking, useful room storage and a beautiful mirror. Just to have someone thinking of me for doing up my 1st independent flat makes me feel so joyous and loved. Huge thanks to the charity xx"

"The kitchen has inspired me to be more active, I have enrolled on a health and safety course and also a health and hygiene course. I would love to get back to work cooking"

"I love the option that I can now make my own healthy food, the food provided can be quite greasy and all fried. I have enjoyed doing the workshops where I can also learn to budget"

Grants table

Date awarded	Grant recipient	Use and impact of grant	Amount Awarded	Number of beneficiaries	Number of volunteers involved
21/04/2022	BCP Council Housing Team	Purchase of 3 washing machines to support 3 clients moving into settled accommodation. This has directly supported individuals moving out of emergency accommodation by supporting them to set up a sustainable tenancy. One client in particular said that he had never had his own home and appliances before and that he finally felt like he was living the life that he wanted to. He said that this support wouldn't have been possible without the help of services and that he felt like he had finally turned his life around.	550	3	1
21/04/2022	Helping Homeless Veterans-UK	Purchase of an industrial washing machine and large fridge freezer for new supported accommodation block housing 6 veterans. These items are currently in storage ready to be moved into the project once the build is completed. This is going to provide immediate accommodation for any veteran that is sofa surfing or street homeless and will act as temporary accommodation whilst permanent accommodation is sourced.	1000	30	10
10/05/2022	Bournemouth Ymca	Purchase of furniture for client moving into independent accommodation (unfurnished flat). This client had been chronically homeless and in temporary accommodation. He has serious back problems caused by a life changing injury. Getting a good mattress was important to him being able to sleep well in his permanent accommodation. He is very grateful for the financial support he received during the time of transition from supported housing to permanent accommodation. This period can often lead clients to a place of isolation and return to the streets. But thanks to this financial support he was able to purchase key household goods for the empty flat. This client has moved from extreme poverty living in a tent, through the homeless pathway to permanent long term accommodation. With support he has been able to overcome alcohol addiction and remain sober, and is better able to manage his finances. He now lives a full and active life and is less socially isolated. He is starting up a self-employed business in order to reduce reliance on benefits. He says he is "back in the land of normal people".	500	1	0

07/06/2022	Routes to Roots	<p>Funds supported extra drop in sessions and a womens group meeting for rough sleepers and those vulnerable housed, to build trust, promote self-worth and introduce to homeless services. The grant has been spent providing breakfast sessions for those rough sleeping during which individuals are able to access showers, washing machines and IT equipment to support form filling.</p> <p>During the breakfast session representatives of St Mungo's are in attendance enabling face to face contact and support leading to accommodation. Other services attending include Shelter, Victim Support, Wiseability, Big Issue and BCP Council. The Women's group provides a peer network in a safe and welcoming space.</p> <p>42 Individuals identified that access to both professionals and support with IT and form filling enabled them to move forward. 35 Attendees have identified through discussion that the offer of breakfast whilst rough sleeping is an improvement on their diet. 15 individuals have been moved into temporary or supported accommodation. 50 Individuals reporting improved mental wellbeing from accessing and engaging in support.</p>	1000	79	10
07/06/2022	Safe and Sound Dorset	<p>Items to support the redecoration of bedroom/lounge, for two women who have moved into new accommodation in the past year, following the support provided by Safe and Sound. All 3 women have less anxiety and stress. All 3 women have better mental health. All 3 women have better confidence.</p> <p><u>K</u> (age 30) received double bed with mattress and drawers, and a wardrobe corner unit. K moved into her top floor flat last year and is slowly turning her life around after being homeless for the best part of 5 years. She comes to our sessions regularly and is a sessional volunteer once a week. She recently had a baby and social services have been very pleased with her progress and the suitability of the flat.</p> <p><u>A</u> (age 25) received bedroom furniture including wardrobe and ottoman. A moved from supported housing where she was living for mental health reasons following a breakdown 5 years previously. She is coping well in her new council flat and we see her regularly at sessions and call in during our weekly outreach. She has become a volunteer for us in the last year.</p>	1000	2	5

12/07/2022	Dorset Working Women's Project	<p>Supporting 20 street homeless women into sheltered accommodation secured by St Mungo's, by providing Welcome Packs including; towels, socks, dressing gown, pyjamas, slippers, underwear, toiletries and washing powder. It is essential they have clothing and washing powder when they go into new accommodation to reduce the stigma and shame and ensure that they are not affected by hygiene poverty. All of the women reported feeling a lot better having a bed and clean clothes to sleep in. This provides an opportunity to discuss referrals into other professional agencies such as We Are With You, GP practices, Community Mental Health Team and other Health providers.</p> <p>It has been a privilege to give these women Welcome Packs and we have been humbled with their response. Something so simple makes the women feel valued, that someone cares for them. In return this continues to build our relationship with them and enables us to support them in keeping their accommodation and improving their health and wellbeing.</p>	1000	20	8
15/07/2022	BH1 - Boscombe Salvation Army	<p>Grant for new tables and chairs at drop in centre supporting homeless people and connecting them with relevant agencies. The new table and chairs for the main room enabled the charity to serve more people with meals; from 18-20 daily to now serving 32-36 meals daily. The environment is also much nicer.</p> <p>Approximately 60 people attend BH1 each day and benefit from good food and company. They are signposted to St Mungos, Shelter, BCP pre tenancy, Employment plus (work support) and Citizens Advice. Foodbank vouchers, energy vouchers and bags of emergency food are issued. St. Mungos attend most days to speak to those who are street homeless and have been able to support people into accommodation. We have been able to provide furniture packs as needed. People are also encouraged to work with Money talks who attend BH1 alternate weeks and they have been helped with their debts etc.</p> <p>A gentleman of 72 was sleeping in his car with no benefits. We supported him, made sure he had his benefits in place, helped him to apply successfully for Pension credit and AA. He is now in sheltered housing.</p> <p>A gentleman of 80 was supported with his section 21 and getting in to sheltered accommodation. We were able to work with him to get his pension re-instated and 5 years of back payments, plus pension credit.</p>	1000	60	8

01/09/2022	Hope Housing	Providing Move In Packs for 10 new residents in sheltered accommodation - essentials including bedding, toiletries, crockery and cooking equipment. These items increase success in sheltered accommodation by making residents feel more comfortable, and taking the burden and embarrassment out of asking for these items which we know everyone needs on arrival. To have a towel and fresh toiletries to have a shower can mean everything. It brings grown men to tears when we present them with their move in pack! To be able to cook a meal makes their accommodation feel more like a home. warm bedding and a good nights sleep stops them wanting to be homeless again and willing to work with support staff to stay in their accommodation.	500	10	2
01/09/2022	Safe and Sound Dorset	Purchase of Superior Support Orthopaedic Adjustable Bed for disabled lady moving into new accommodation. She was living in a Bedsit in an HMO and the room had become derelict, due to the landlord not repairing the premises. She suffers from rheumatoid arthritis and was sleeping on a broken sofa bed she could hardly get up and down from. The landlord gave her notice and she has been rehoused in a one bedroom flat. The bed is wonderful and has transformed her sleeping and helped with her medical condition. She has less anxiety and stress, better mental health and more confidence as a result of the support provided by Safe and Sound.	500	1	0
01/09/2022	Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	Kitchen refurb at Bournemouth hostel, including installation of a large double oven, worktops, kitchen utensils and cooking equipment as well as painting and decorating the room. Co-production was a major part of the project with all residents being consulted about their needs and wants within the kitchen. The project is supporting independent living skills that will support moving to permanent safe housing and an independent life. Basic training is provided for those using the facilities for first time, covering user guide, health and safety and basic food hygiene. There are professional cookery classes held in service every Monday and they can also use the facilities to practice learnings from those sessions and cook meals in their own time. This has not replaced their access to cooked meals, but has provided a choice and an opportunity to learn to cook healthily and within their financial means. The project has also helped to develop social skills, increase confidence and personal motivation.	985	40	7
	TOTAL		£10,250	246 beneficiaries	51 volunteers