

BCP Change for Good Fund **Impact report for grants made in 2023**

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

- £5150 awarded via 8 grants
- 153 beneficiaries supported, with 33 volunteers involved
- 108 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
- 21 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
- 24 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

Feedback from groups

“Grateful for help and support from this grant and others.”

“We cannot be more grateful for this donation. When a grown man has tears in his eye when you hand him his welcome pack and you see their shoulders drop and the relief on their faces, it makes our job worthwhile.”

“Having this funding has made a big impact to the women we support and also helped improved the relationship we have with them. By offering them something simple, like a bedroom pack, makes a huge difference. Being able to sleep in a warm bed, have a hot shower and clean clothes can motivate the women to make changes however small and sometimes difficult to measure. We are extremely grateful for the funding and the process is relatively easy to apply.”

Feedback from beneficiaries

“When I moved into my property, I couldn’t cook or make food as I had no equipment to do so. BH1 bought and gave me kitchen utensils, a kettle, pots and pans, kettle, and crockery. Without this help I would have struggled, and I am very grateful for the help that I have received in this way. It has made all the difference.”



“When I first went to BH1 it helped me so much being able to go there to get good food and a sleeping bag. I was rough sleeping for seven months and BH1 provided warmth, food, shower and a safe place which was needed so much due to my mental health being so low at times. I managed to get off the streets into accommodation and this was due to contacts from BH1. When I moved in I had nothing and BH1 purchased items to help me settle into my accommodation. This enable me to cook and to look after myself. I still attend BH1 and it is good to come for social interaction and a safe place to attend to get out of the house. It helps my mental health to attend BH1 rather than being stuck indoors all the time. When I am at BH1 I play cards, do crafts, and help others. I have become a Peer supporter.”

“Thank you for those bits you got me really appreciate it. All I had was the clothes I stood in. Being able to have a wash and put clean clothes on made a huge difference to my mental health.”


Grants table

Date awarded	Grant recipient	Impact of grant	Amount Awarded	Number of beneficiaries	Number of volunteers involved
16/03/2023	Faithworks Wessex	<p>A very vulnerable single mum with addiction issues, who has been subject to sexual assault and violence while being homeless, came to Half-time and was then helped by a combination of Housing team, Homeless Health team at the hospital, police and Faithworks to find suitable accommodation in an out-of-town refuge. Whilst this work took place, Faithworks were able to find her local emergency accommodation for several nights, and also supported transportation to the refuge. This grant supported these emergency costs.</p> <p>This individual was in danger of her life on the street - she had already been stabbed and sexually assaulted. Through support at Bournemouth hospital and from Faithworks, working in liaison with police and housing officers, she is now in a place of safety away from Bournemouth where the dangers were.</p>	500	1	0
01/07/2023	BH1 - Boscombe Salvation Army	<p>Sleeping bags were purchased for 50 rough sleepers at £30 each, to help keep rough sleepers warm on the streets until they can access accommodation. Welcome packs were purchased for 10 people at £50 each, to help with basic essentials when moving into independent accommodation.</p> <p>Being able to provide sleeping bags and direct people to other supportive agencies has helped them get off the streets. This has helped their well being and has supported them to not get involved in drugs and alcohol and to access the support they need. For those moving into their own accommodation it is very daunting when they don't have basic essential items. Helping people with these items when moving into their own accommodation means they feel better and are less distressed.</p> <p>Case study One gentleman found himself on the streets and we were able to give him a sleeping bag and signpost him to other services while working with him to ensure his wellbeing such as food, showers and washing his clothes. He was able to access accommodation and we were able to purchase essential items for him. He is now happy and overwhelmed with the support he has received. He is now helping us as a volunteer. He is dependable and consistent.</p>	1000	60	0

01/07/2023	Hope Housing ,Training and Support ltd	We provided 10 move-in packs to new residents at Hope Housing. These packs help them feel welcome and at ease as they have the main essentials they need to start their recovery to independent living. Most residents have lost everything and the pack of essentials is usually the first thing they have as their own in a long-time. It helps boost self-esteem and makes residents feel that they are not alone, that they have everything they need for a fresh start, and that we are here to help them make their journey a success. It is also a sign of trust from us that they will be able to sustain their tenancy.	500	10	2
03/07/2023	Faithworks Wessex	<p>Purchase of mobile phones to enable 8 rough sleepers to keep in contact with support agencies. 2 have now moved into sheltered accommodation or independent accommodation. Others have been accommodated in our Staysafe project and are in contact with landlords in order to find a permanent place to live, in addition to being able to contact other support services.</p> <p>Case study The biggest success is a young gentleman who we met a Winton Salvation Army. He has moved to Emmaus in Winchester - a living / working community for people who have been homeless. He was keen to be working and to be a useful member of society, so this project seemed ideal for him. It also gives him a sense of community and family, which he hasn't had in the past.</p>	500	8	3
01/08/2023	Bournemouth Churches Housing Association	<p>Supporting capital costs needed for the creation of a dedicated learning space at the Dorset Lodge, to support residents with life skills they will need when they move into independent accommodation. We now have the equipment to start delivering courses and musical instruments are available to residents for music workshops / jamming sessions. External agency 'Catch -22' are also utilising the room once per week for probation meetings.</p> <p>The upskilling of residents is ongoing and we feel this project has certainly helped to improve the enthusiasm and wellbeing of residents. Two residents have expressed their interest of gaining maths and English for example. 4 co-produced with staff, an under the sea mural around half of the room. They very much enjoyed helping decorate the room and residents like the idea of a having a bright space to enjoy partaking in activities.</p>	1000	16	4

		 			
01/08/2023	Dorset Working Women's Project	<p>We provided intensive 1:1 case management to 10 women involved in street sex work. This was done through street outreach, drop in, one to one support and multi agency work with other organisations. We supporting women when accommodation was secured for them, helping them to move in, providing essential supplies and developing a relationship with them that enables us to provide ongoing support. The grant enabled to us provide 10 bedroom packs. Each of these packs contained a Dressing Gown, Pyjamas, Slippers, Socks, Underwear, Towels, Washing Powder and some toiletries.</p>	500	10	8

		<p>Case studies</p> <p>'F' approached DWWP whilst we were providing street outreach. She was homeless and sofa surfing. With support from DWWP and St Mungo's F was placed in BCP supported living the next day. We visited her on her 2nd day at her new place bringing the "home bundle gift". She was delighted saying :</p> <p><i>"Wow I love it, these pj's remind me of the ones I had as a child, thank you so much it's just what I needed and love the colour of the towels".</i></p> <p>F put her slippers on straight away and her new dressing gown, her face lit up with having these much-needed items that were brand new and just hers. She was able to have a shower as towels and toiletries were provided and she said she felt 'normal' after this.</p> <p>'K' was admitted to hospital unexpectedly and was potentially going to be evicted from her supported accommodation. She had no other support or anyone to turn to and needed some essential items whilst in hospital. We visited K in hospital after liaising with her housing provider. A visit and a bedroom pack was taken into her that week. She said:</p> <p><i>"Thank you so much I can now dress decently and wonder around the hospital with my new pjs/dressing gown and slippers on, without looking just awful and out of place in the hospital gown".</i> K was brought to tears with this gift and with the continued support was able to maintain her accommodation.</p>			
01/08/2023	Routes to Roots	Provision of suncream and water at various Cool Spaces provided by BCP Homelessness Partnership member organisations, to which the homeless community were signposting in hot weather during the heat wave in September. The water and suntan lotion was used not only to protect but also used to engage individuals to carry out the required steps to move them away from rough sleeping. They were able to leave with bottles of water to allow them to maintain hydration and bottles of suntan lotion to screen them from the sun. A large stock of both remain and will be utilised over the upcoming summer. These cool spaces were run by staff and volunteers from numerous partners including St Mungo's, Routes To Roots and Faithworks.	350	40	15

23/10/2023	Action for Children	<p>Christmas gift box for 8 young people supported by Dorset Nightstop projects, which provides temporary accommodation for young people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Boxes included food items, toiletries, decorations, practical items for keeping warm (hot water bottles, slippers/socks), and donated items of hat/glove and scarf sets. They were delivered by hand to 8 young people who had used the Nightstop service over the past year and who we felt might lack support and contact with family over the Christmas period. Feedback from young people was positive, reflecting the importance of feeling thought of, at this time of year. In some cases it is only "present" they received.</p> 	800	8	1
	TOTAL		£5150	153 beneficiaries	33 volunteers