



**Safer  
East Sussex  
Team**

# Safe in East Sussex

Safer East Sussex Team Newsletter

In focus – Street Communities April 2015

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update from Safer  
East Sussex Team

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A member of the street community is defined by Sussex Police as; ***'a person who spends a significant amount of time on the streets or other public area and who may or may not have accommodation and will have a substance misuse issue and / or a mental health issue and / or have a chaotic history'***

Street Communities is a priority area for the East Sussex Safer Communities Board this year and the Safer East Sussex Team are currently planning and developing a strategic action plan to help ensure a co-ordinated approach to dealing with issues identified by partners.

We are also mapping service provision across the county. The gaps that are being identified are informing meetings with partners to discuss how these could be addressed. We are also looking at evidence of good practice, with a view to improving access to primary health care and exploring options to ensure both physical and mental health needs of the client group are addressed. This evidence based approach is intended to influence commissioning of appropriate and joined up services for this client group.

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It is hoped that by taking a lead on ensuring an integrated response to tackling the issues associated with street communities and bringing together local services, this will help to identify and address the concerns associated with street communities, including crime, anti-social behaviour, homelessness and substance misuse whilst facilitating meaningful changes to their lives.

A County wide Street Communities Steering Group has been set up to monitor the delivery of Street Communities work across East Sussex.

The group has oversight of the activity that is being implemented across the county to address the concerns associated with street communities, and the group will be sighted on the links to modern slavery and human trafficking. This is made up of partner agencies including Brighton Housing Trust, Southdown Housing, Sussex Police, District and Borough Councils, Public Health and the Eastbourne Chamber of Commerce. The Safer East Sussex Team supports the work of this group.



## Hastings Homeless Service

Recently the Safer East Sussex Team were fortunate to meet with Roger Nuttall, the Nurse-Coordinator for the Hastings Homeless Service which operates out of the Seaview Project and Hope Kitchen.



This service provides invaluable support to improve access to health care and support for those who are homeless and vulnerably housed through providing:

- ❖ **Directly accessible and flexible health care for homeless and vulnerably housed people, for who access to mainstream health care is often problematic.**
- ❖ **Advocacy and support to enable clients to access mainstream health, housing and other services.**
- ❖ **A holistic, non-judgmental service that recognises that health issues cannot be separated from housing and other life issues.**
- ❖ **Health education and health promotion.**
- ❖ **Raising of public awareness and training in homelessness and related issues, for staff of partner agencies, health care students and the general public.**

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- ❖ **Close partnership working with a number of statutory and voluntary agencies.**
- ❖ **First aid training for clients, providing life-saving skills and enhancing employment potential.**

The service also has an ongoing partnership with the Conquest Hospital in Hastings to provide support, advocacy and discharge planning for homeless patients and works closely with partner agencies.

The Hastings Homeless Service, established in 2003, runs 5 sessions a week staffed by volunteers and healthcare professionals, including nurses.

Taken from the Service User Survey 2014 question asking: What have you found most useful or helpful about the Service?

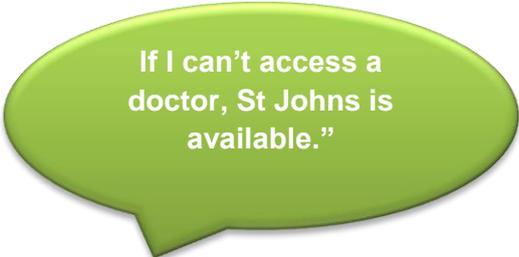
Client's responses included the following:



**"No matter what you ask them they will give you an honest opinion and put you back on track."**



**"Their availability. I come in here 2-3 times a week and I find it good. I sometimes need reassurance and they give it to me. It gives me comfort."**



**If I can't access a doctor, St Johns is available."**



**"Everything. Good quick service, I think more services should provide what you do."**

For further information, please contact Nurse Co-ordinator, Roger Nuttall at [Roger.nuttall@sja.org.uk](mailto:Roger.nuttall@sja.org.uk) or on 01424 435358

<http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/what-we-do/community-projects/homeless-service/hastings-homeless-service.aspx>

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It was 30 years ago Seaview opened its doors to provide services for those in need. According to the first promotional

leaflet, the Day Centre would be "*a place where people who may feel lonely or isolated can meet other people; have tea or coffee, and join in an activity*".

The Seaview Project was set up in Hastings by Helene White and Barbara Silvester, with the help of Jane Amstad in February 1985. It was run by their voluntary effort and that of a team of volunteers with paid Community Programme workers funded by the Manpower Services Commission.

The Seaview Project in Hastings is an open access wellbeing centre in St. Leonards-on-Sea which has a dedicated team committed to helping those with housing issues, including short-term crisis accommodation to prevent rough sleeping.

It also provides clients with an opportunity to take part in personal and group activities, and works in partnership with St. John Ambulance who provide nurse led drop in clinics as well as access to a podiatrist.



There is also a 'one-stop shop' drop in session held weekly with partner agencies for clients to be able to access appropriate support.

For further information:

<http://www.seaviewproject.co.uk/>

## **Mass Sleep out Event - Stade Open Space, early autumn 2015**

As part of Seaview 30th Anniversary celebrations, Seaview has been granted permission by Hastings Borough Council to hold a mass sleep out event on the Stade Open Space, Old Town, Hastings. Entertainment will be provided and the event will close with members of the general public sleeping out for one night.

The event aims to raise awareness of the growing issue of homelessness. If you would like to take part please contact [admin@seaviewproject.org.uk](mailto:admin@seaviewproject.org.uk) for more information.

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## Eastbourne - Rebourne Day Centre

*Meeting the immediate needs of people who have to sleep rough or on the streets*



A day centre co-ordinated by the Salvation Army providing support for vulnerable people including those experiencing homelessness or housing related problems. The centre is open 10.00am-4.00pm Monday to Friday and is available to anyone who needs help. If they cannot personally help they will signpost a person on to another agency. Services offered include:

- Laundry service
- Shower facilities for rough sleepers
- Massage service
- Free courses and activities

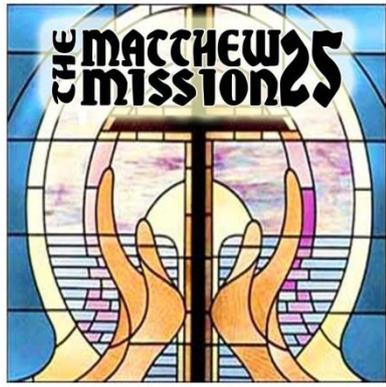
It also provides reasonably priced refreshments, and has computers with internet access which can be used to assist with job searches, accommodation, benefits, house bidding and CV's. The centre is also happy to host partner agencies to help facilitate support and current partners include Homeworks, Samaritans and BHT

.Further information: <http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eastbourne-citadel>

***This year marks the 150th anniversary of The Salvation Army. The movement was started by pioneers William and Catherine Booth in the East End of***



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*London in 1865*

## **Matthew 25 Mission - Eastbourne**

*Help for homeless people, vulnerable people and those in need*

The Mission in Eastbourne is a community based group assisting people in need and offers practical help and support to anyone, regardless of race, religion or gender.

They provide a listening ear and sympathetic pastoral care with information and advice as well as provision of food, clothing and basic necessities.

Volunteers at the Matthew 25 Mission aim to support people trying to rebuild broken lives, especially those with life-threatening addiction, loneliness, bereavement, unemployment, homelessness, offending and more.

They can direct people to specialist agencies while maintaining links of friendship and compassion and a safety net to help anyone who might be marginalised by society. They also encourage, through self-enabling, a clear direction for each person or family. Using a range of activities people willing to participate and show commitment are able to restore motivation and take positive steps forward.

Over the last 17 years the project (formerly known as Oasis) has helped many to find their way back into society again. Matthew 25 is located at Christchurch Seaside. Further information can be found here: <http://m25m.btck.co.uk/>

**The Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter** is provided by several Eastbourne churches cooperating together and offers supervised overnight accommodation to homeless and vulnerable people who would otherwise be rough sleeping during the extreme winter months (December – February inclusive), on the streets of Eastbourne. Through its work with the Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter over the past few years Kingdom Way Trust has already established a good working relationship with Sussex Police, a number of local businesses and voluntary organisations, and has strong links with a wide range of local churches in the area.



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## Fulfilling Lives:

### Supporting people with multiple needs



This is an eight-year investment of up to £112 million aimed at people with multiple needs - individuals who are experiencing at least two of the following; homelessness, reoffending, problematic substance misuse and mental ill health.

People with such issues often rotate through various welfare and justice systems which can deepen the problems in their lives at a cost to them and society.

Big Lottery Fund's investment will support these individuals in 12 areas of England by bringing different organisations and services together to offer them one co-ordinated support service that meets all their needs. In each of the 12 areas, people with multiple needs are central to the plans - their development and delivery.

The South East Project, working in East Sussex, is one of 12 projects across England where Big Lottery Fund investment is supporting people with complex needs. As well as supporting people, the funding will evidence more effective and efficient ways for designing, commissioning and delivering support services for this group in the future. The purpose of this initiative is to bring about lasting change in how services work with people with multiple and complex needs.

The project is made up of three local delivery teams from different partner agencies; Equinox in Brighton & Hove, CRI in Eastbourne and the Seaview Project in Hastings, as well as a team of Project Consultants employed by BHT who work across the three locations. As the project focus is on those with multiple complex needs, this complements the work being done across the county in relation to street communities, as often this cohort experience a high level of need.

Following two pop-up hubs in Eastbourne and Hastings:



- 76 people described having mental health problems
- 36 people said they had physical health problems
- 65 were drug users
- 56 people said they drank alcohol to excess
- 81 people had served a prison sentence

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The first two years of the funding is focussing on dual diagnosis and women with multiple complex needs and as part of this work, the team of project consultants are planning on establishing a service user panel in each area.

### **Service User Panel**

The project regards service users as experts and their opinions are vital to the process of improving services.

This is an exciting development opportunity for those who take part in the panels to be able to influence positive changes moving forward and the service offers:

- Recognised volunteer status on the BHT project for Fulfilling Lives.
- They can remain volunteers/peer mentor for their current service where applicable.
- All out of pocket expenses will be paid.
- Training packages available.
- Quarterly team building events.
- Individual and team supervision.

So if you feel that you have people who would be interested then please see the contact details below:

#### **Local contacts across East Sussex**

Jo Rogers- Senior Manager- [jo.rogers@sefulfillinglives.org.uk](mailto:jo.rogers@sefulfillinglives.org.uk)

Debbie Wilkins- Area Lead for Hastings- [Debbie.wilkins@sefulfillinglives.org.uk](mailto:Debbie.wilkins@sefulfillinglives.org.uk)

Genine Dungate- Area lead for Eastbourne- [genine.dungate@sefulfillinglives.org.uk](mailto:genine.dungate@sefulfillinglives.org.uk)

Nelida Senoran-Martin- Service User Engagement Co-ordinator- [nelida.senoran-martin@sefulfillinglives.org.uk](mailto:nelida.senoran-martin@sefulfillinglives.org.uk)

More details can be found at: <http://www.bht.org.uk/services/fulfilling-lives/>



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**New** fortnightly team update



If you would like to find out more about what the team have been doing, then why not sign up to the new fortnightly e-bulletin which will be launched shortly. This complements the current newsletter which will continue to provide an in depth focus on our priority areas. To sign up please do so at: <http://eepurl.com/bfQM6H>



Safer East Sussex Team is on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SaferEastSussexTeam>



We are on twitter @SaferEastSx



<http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk>

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