

NEWSletter

Winter 2013/14



A Helping Hand from WDGB

Agreeing deposit bonds is the central part of the work that we do at WDGB, but along side that we spend a great deal of time giving advice and pointing people to the other services they need.

This story is an example of how the WDGB will listen to someone's problem and try and advise and direct them to a solution. A lady rang to say her son (a young man in his early 30's) who had woken one morning to find he had had a stroke. He had been in hospital for 4 weeks and they wanted to discharge him and send him home.

This was a worry for the lady as her son had mobility problems and would need to sit down for a shower. Our Manager Maggie made some enquiries of the Home from Hospital team and was told the lady should ask the Nursing Staff to contact the Discharge Nurse. She was also told that if a property is inadequate for a person's needs after an illness, they should refuse to be discharged.

Maggie informed the lady that if she did not get a positive response from the Discharge Manager, she should contact Care Connect and ask to be put through to Social Services etc. The lady rang me back to say that she had an appointment with the Care and Repair Team but she didn't know why. We explained that they probably investigate what modifications are required at the property.

This lady had not been made aware of any procedures to follow or indeed of what services/agencies she could call on for assistance. We were pleased we could help her on the way. This is a long way from deposit bonds but we are here to help if we can.

Showing the way!

The new signboard was made for us and donated by the company which makes them. It is good to let people know we are open.

Our drop in days are Monday and Wednesday, 10am - 2pm at our offices at St John's Hall. The Somewhere to Go Day Centre is also open at those times so clients can access their services as well.



WDGB - Helping Homeless People in North Somerset

Homelessness Sunday

January 26th 2014

This year's Homeless Sunday service will be on January 26th at 3pm at the Salvation Army, Weston super Mare. This will be a joint service with Somewhere to Go, the day centre in St John's Hall.

The theme this year is **Standing with people in crisis - give, act, pray**. Proverbs is this year's inspiration: "Speak up for the rights of all who are destitute".

There are people who are destitute in today's Britain. The phenomenal growth of foodbanks has happened not because there is 'infinite demand for free food,' as Lord Freud put it last July – but because thousands of people have recognised something needs to be in place to fill gaps left by our creaking benefits system. Without them, families are starving.

Low wages, zero-hours contracts, outrageous interest charges by doorstep lenders, benefits cuts, benefits delays, 'sanctions' on job-seekers – all these and more contribute to a Britain where many are locked out of what the rest take for granted.

And there are plenty who are not destitute, but teetering on the edge. "Just two pay-packets away from homelessness" is how many feel.

How YOU can help

- You can join us as a Friend - we will keep you informed.
- Run fund raising events for us
- If you are a landlord, consider offering us your property to let. Contact the office for advice.
- Make a donation
- Consider becoming a charity trustee

WDGB Trustees

Martin Knight (Chairman)
Isabel Cummings
Simon David
Chris Hibbs
Wendy Griggs

Manager: Maggie Lyons
Admin assistant: Julia Williams

Web site

WDGB's web site is www.WDGB.org.uk. It has information for tenants and landlords, including an application form for a deposit bond. Previous newsletters are available as downloads.

WDGB - a Snapshot

There are currently **257** active bonds. Of these **161** are the historic bonds for statutory homeless people from our work with the council. 96 bonds are for our WDGB clients whom the council is unable to help.

These are mostly single people and all will be on very low incomes. It is for these homeless people that we rely on donations from individuals, churches and other organisations. An average deposit is **£294.66**.

It is becoming increasingly hard to find accommodation for under 35's due to the housing benefit restrictions which limit housing benefit to the cost of a bedsit or shared accommodation. This is in short supply and landlords will not accept a lower rent for a one bed flat.

Rooms 1/2, St John's Hall, The Boulevard, Weston super Mare,
North Somerset, BS23 1NA
Phone: 01934 617617

WDGB - Phone: 01934 617617 - Charity No 1146111