

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- **Make a donation** - please make your cheque out to WDGB LTD and send to the address below. Gift-aided donations welcome from tax-payers.
- **Become a Friend of KeySteps** - join our mailing list and receive newsletters and information about events.
- **Run a fundraising event** - a coffee morning, table-sale or a concert.
- **Make us a church project** - we will support with talks and information leaflets.
- **Display our leaflets** in your church or community hall.
- **Help us to redesign** and update our website.
- **If you are a landlord**, please consider allowing us to place our clients with you.

You might even consider offering your services as a Trustee. We are looking for people with a real heart for, and commitment to, helping people take those Key Steps towards hope in a fresh start.



KeySteps

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KeySteps is the working name of WDGB Ltd

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CHARITY NUMBER: 1146111

Beyond the Bond

Newsletter



May 2015

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Woodspring Deposit Guarantee Board was born in 1996 when Prayer and Action in Portishead approached the district council with an idea for helping local homeless people by providing deposit bonds.

In 2012 we became a charitable company limited by guarantee and the name changed to WDGB LTD.

Over the past 17 years we have helped hundreds of people to secure

a home with the help of a bond, but there's more to it than that. Advice and continuing support is a key part of our work with our clients, helping them to sustain their tenancies long-term. We also offer a warm welcome to anyone attending our drop-in sessions for information on housing.

We adopted the name, KeySteps at our re-launch in October 2014 to reflect our part in the Key Steps people take in their walk towards hope in a fresh start in life.



Balloon release to celebrate the relaunch of the charity as KeySteps



“It is strange to know she won't be popping in, bustling about and brimming with ideas, but her drive and enthusiasm, and her compassion for the underdog will continue to inspire us to do our best. “

REMEMBERING ISABEL

June 9th 1952 - January 10th 2015

Isabel Cummings was a trustee with KeySteps for many years. She was a tireless campaigner for making improvements in local housing and had a real heart for people in need.

She spent many years as a local councillor, with a special interest in housing issues, but we remember her as a driving force in our charity, pushing us all towards realising a vision where homelessness in North Somerset would no longer exist.

She was powered by her strong faith, and even when illness struck, her enthusiasm for social action remained unchecked.



Isabel, at the re-launch, talking to a KeySteps bond-holder about her journey from being homeless and jobless to now being settled in a flat and finding work.

NEED A SPEAKER?

- Do you belong to a local group?
- Do you have regular speakers?

Why not ask one of our trustees to come and give an illustrated talk on the work of KeySteps, the issues facing people on low incomes and the impact of homelessness on people's ability to function in today's society.

Call Maggie on 01934 617617 during normal office hours.

A Few KeySteps FAQs...

What is a deposit guarantee?

A deposit guarantee is a paper scheme where no money changes hands before the tenancy begins, but a landlord may claim up to the value of the bond if any damage is caused.

- In 2014 we awarded 26 bonds.
- Claims are always carefully assessed before we pay out.

£420 will cover the deposit for a 1 bedroom flat.

What Happens at the Drop-in?

Anyone can come to a drop-in session for advice and information regarding housing, benefits and how to get help from the various agencies in the area, such as foodbanks, as well as to apply for a deposit guarantee, or to ask for support with their KeySteps-supported tenancies.

- In 2014 around 250 people attended the drop-in for help.

How many staff do you employ?

- KeySteps is staffed by one full-time and one part-time person.
- All the trustees are volunteers.

What about people who have brought homelessness on themselves - do you help them?

Our charity was started by a group of churches, and has a Christian ethos. We do not judge people for their past mistakes, however, we do assess each individual's needs and try to get them the help they require. A bond may not be appropriate in certain situations, or until other support has been put in place.

How else can you help people other than by giving a bond?

In certain circumstances we can source emergency B&B for people in dire need while their situation is being assessed.

We have access to a stock of second-hand furniture and equipment that can help people on low incomes when they are setting up home.

A donation of £20 will cover emergency B&B for one night.

We use our many connections with the local authority and various organisations in North Somerset to link people in with the support and help they need.