



CHESS Homeless

Opening doors to independence

Jenny Kemp
Latchingdon C of E Primary School.
The Street
Latchingdon
Chelmsford CM3 6JS

9 November 2021

Dear Jenny,

I am writing to thank you for the recent donation of Harvest gifts to CHESS Homeless. I thought you may like an update of how we have been working during the Covid crisis which will also give you some insight as to how your donation will be used.

We have been working with local partners to provide longer term solutions for those who were temporarily housed by the council and have secured extra permanent accommodation so that they did not have to return to a life on the streets. We are also in the process of carrying out much needed refurbishments to our existing properties as well as reconfiguring the night shelter to operate as a 24hr facility for a smaller number of service users.

Our services overall have grown and continue to do so, meaning more funding is required but ultimately, we can support more individuals and get them into independent living situations. We were able to facilitate 32 residents over 5 properties, but over the past 20 months this has increased to 13 properties operational with 66 service users. Our staffing numbers have also had to increase to manage this growth and we currently have 31 members of staff, both part and full time. We have taken on our first property outside Chelmsford which is in Epping - one of the 8 areas that we cover through our Outreach services in addition to Rochford, Braintree, Maldon, Chelmsford, Castle Point, Brentwood and Uttlesford.

Our mission remains *to ensure that people who find themselves homeless are supported in ways that enable them to move forward purposefully and in good health*. We continue to offer one to one support in addition to providing accommodation, plus we are able to offer assistance with mental health issues, certificated training courses which helps with future employment, housing benefit support and help with domestic violence situations.

Thank you once again for your continued support which is gratefully appreciated.

Kind regards,

Lynne

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