

HOMELESS ACTION WEEK

TAKE ACTION. RAISE FUNDS. RAISE AWARENESS.

10 – 17 OCTOBER 2023



Everyone deserves a safe space. We need your help to help us provide a safe space to people experiencing homelessness.

 **PROVIDENCE ROW**

HELPING HOMELESS AND VULNERABLE PEOPLE SINCE 1860

World Homeless day is recognised every year on 10th October to unite people around the world to tackle the homeless crisis.

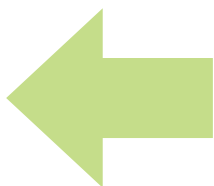
The purpose of World Homeless Day is to draw attention to the increasing needs of people who experience homelessness locally and provide an opportunity for surrounding communities to get involved and respond to homelessness. You can take action against homelessness in various ways including fundraising, spreading information or even sending a letter to your local MP.

About Providence Row

Providence Row has been supporting people experiencing homelessness in Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs for over 160 years. We work with over 1,500 people per year to overcome severe disadvantages and find pathways to recovery, offering services through our Advice & Support, RESET Drug & Alcohol Misuse, & Employability teams.

We are working towards a vision where everyone has a safe home and a community. We pride ourselves in aiming to always provide a safe space for people experiencing homelessness. Think about your own safe space, think about how often you find yourself there.

For more information about what we do, please **scan the QR code to watch our most updated video footage.**



Homeless Action Week runs from 10th-17th October

Starting on World Homeless Day; Providence Row are running a dedicated week of action. The week focuses on raising awareness of the current homeless crisis and raising funds to support Providence Row's work. Our theme this year is 'Safe Space', as we pride ourselves in providing a safe space for people experiencing homelessness at Providence Row, free of judgement with access to services run by staff who care.



Homelessness in Tower Hamlets

The **latest report** by the CHAIN Homeless Database shows that a total of 10,053 people were recorded sleeping rough in London in 2022/23, a 21% increase on the previous year. At Providence Row, we are also experiencing high numbers of people accessing our crisis support services.

460 people are currently rough sleeping in Tower Hamlets

(CHAIN Annual Tower Hamlets Report 22/23)

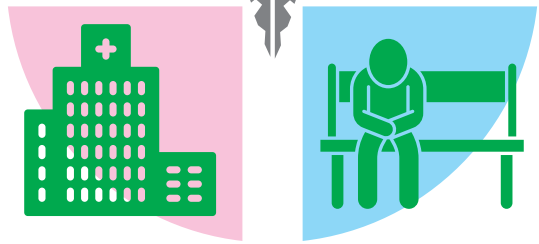


55% increase of rough sleepers in Tower Hamlets in the past year, more than double the increase of the wider London area

(CHAIN Annual Tower Hamlets Report 22/23)

33% increase in A&E attendance for people with 'No Fixed Abode', the same timeframe only showed a 2.3% increase for those with a fixed abode

(The Salvation Army 'homelessness and the NHS' Report - sourced through freedom of information requests with NHS trusts between 2017 and 2022)



1,578 people returned to rough sleeping after time off the streets last year, this is the highest number in 5 years

(CHAIN annual report 22/23)

To allow us to continue to support our clients and provide them with a safe space, we need your help!

Jo's story

After spending 8 years in an abusive relationship, Jo's only escape left her feeling vulnerable, alone and homeless. Her abuser introduced her to drugs when she was just 18, addicted to heroin, Jo depended on him fully to fund her habit. When she finally found the courage to leave, she had no choice but to sleep in bin sheds and under walkways, rummaging through charity bins to find clothes and begging on the streets to get money.

Jo was referred to our Day Centre, a 'Safe Space' for anyone sleeping rough in Tower Hamlets. A place where she could have hot meals, a shower, use a phone or computer, access advice and support, understand her benefits entitlement and how to seek temporary accommodation. Along with this, she received help for her drug addiction and support with her mental health.

Jo says: *'I have finally got help with overcoming my addiction and have been clean for two months, but more importantly I have my own room in a hostel. I never thought this day would come. Many thanks to Providence Row.'*



Homeless Action Week Call to Action

Every year our supporters come together for Homeless Action Week to raise awareness and take action to improve the lives of people affected by homelessness. In England, we are still in the midst of a housing emergency. Due to the cost of living crisis, we expect to see a continuing rise in homelessness and an increasing number of people needing access to our support services.

We are here to support everyone who is homeless, regardless of their status, background and circumstances. We want to build a community of support, where everyone is welcome.



How can you take action this week?



Host a talk or request a speaker at your church/school/university/community group to discuss the root causes of homelessness in Tower Hamlets & the services Providence Row provides



Plan a fundraiser in your community; organise a challenge, cake sale, quiz or team activity to get everyone involved



Collect donations, guided by our 2023/2024 official donation list



Consider supporting Providence Row as your charity of the year



Share this pack with your community to give them a greater understanding of homelessness and how to take action

To share the action you've taken & inspire others, post a photo on social media and tag [@providencerow](#) and [#HomelessActionWeekPR](#). Your efforts will have a tremendous impact on our clients and their journey to a better and more stable life.

If you decide to support us in any of the above ways, please contact ptomlinson@providencerow.org.uk for any marketing materials or additional support.

If I see someone sleeping on the streets, how can I help?

- The best way you can support someone rough sleeping is to complete a **StreetLink** referral
- You can do this on their website: <https://www.streetlink.org.uk> or download the StreetLink app on your phone.
- The details you provide are sent to the local authority or outreach service for the area in which you have seen the person, to help them find the individual and connect them to support.



Contact Information

If you have any questions or would like more information on **Homeless Action week**, please get in touch with our friendly fundraising team:

Email: GetInvolved@providencerow.org.uk

Website: www.providencerow.org.uk/HAW2023

Thank you for taking action against homelessness with Providence Row and making a real difference to vulnerable people in London.



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Providence Row is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales with company no. 07452798 and reg. charity no. 1140192. Its registered office is The Dellow Centre, 82 Wentworth Street, London E1 7SA.

