

OUR CHARITY NEWSLETTER



**Every Day We Are Working To Help People Get Off
The Street,
Navigate The Complexity Of The Housing System,
And Find A Secure, Long-Term Home.**

www.yorkroadproject.org.uk

Welcome to our latest newsletter, which has been very much client led, we have reflected on the past year's achievements and also some of the challenges we have faced at York Road Project.

Who we are

Since we became a registered charity in 2001, York Road Project has helped thousands of people find a place to call home. We recognised that as well as safe, warm beds, people experiencing homelessness need somewhere they can go during the day.

We transformed an old nightclub into a day centre: a place of refuge and companionship, where those experiencing homelessness can access for a warm shower, clean clothes, meeting their basic needs.

We have a 10-bed shelter that we make available for those in urgent need. Plus, we manage three 'move-on' properties, with a total of 14 beds, for those transitioning to longer-term accommodation.

Our lodgings are not just a roof over our clients' heads – we offer them a Bed, Base and Backing to rebuild their lives.

What does Bed, Base and Backing mean?

Bed

Our team is on the streets of Woking earning the trust of rough sleepers and offering them a place in our 10-bed shelter. Rough sleepers are often wary and building a relationship can take many months.

Base

Our shelter is a sanctuary where our clients can stay safe during the day as well as at night. Having this stability and regular contact with York Road Project means we can help them address their medical, addiction, mental health and housing needs.

Backing

We offer our clients personalised support and guidance to get their lives back on track. Through our move-on properties and Tenancy Sustainment Team, we transform temporary refuge into a journey towards lasting independence.

However, our work doesn't stop; the issue of homelessness continues to grow both nationally and locally. National statistics show a 27% increase in rough sleeping, and here in Woking, despite our ongoing efforts, we've seen an increase over the past year.

We extend our gratitude to all our supporters for their contributions, whether through donations, volunteer work, or advocacy efforts. Your support is crucial in our mission to defeat homelessness together.

Thank you for your continued support.

York Road Projects Impact April 2023- March 2024



224 people reached out to us for help last year



27% where found rough sleeping



17% identified as Female



80% identified as Male



3% identified as Transgender



72% had a local Woking connection



51% moved into longer term accommodation



We accommodated 97 individuals across our 24 bed services from April 23- March 24



In January 2024, we realised our Day Centre's bathroom facilities for rough sleepers urgently needed a complete renovation. As work began, we found the floor had rotted away, requiring a total rebuild. We successfully applied for funding from Screwfix, and we're thankful for their support in awarding us funding to make this project happen. Additionally, New Heat Solutions, a local business, generously provided the shower, screen and sink kit. Thanks to Screwfix and New Heat Solutions, rough sleepers now have access to a refreshed space with essential amenities. We're deeply grateful for their help in improving our ability to support those in need in our local community.



We urgently need funding to sustain our day centre, as all non-statutory services in Woking have lost their funding from April 2024. Our centre provides essential support for individuals experiencing homelessness, offering a safe haven and vital services like showers and wash facilities to those experiencing homelessness in our community. By securing funding, we can ensure that our center remains a resource of hope for those in need.

Hear Feedback From Our Clients

“Before moving into the direct access accommodation, I was sleeping in my car. I was able to go to York Road Project’s Day Centre where I could have a hot drink, a shower and to wash my clothes whilst I waited for a bed space to become available. During my first few days of moving in I was a little nervous and did not know what to expect but I was welcomed by staff and residents. The staff have always been very helpful to me and are very friendly. 3 weeks ago I was cold sleeping in my car, I now have somewhere warm, safe and secure to stay and I am living with people who I was at first nervous to meet, I now call my friends.”
Dave

“Before moving in here I was quite nervous and didn’t think I would fit in, but the staff were amazing and I made friends quickly. I have been able to cook again and cook for other residents which I love to do. I am now moving onto a different longer-term accommodation, but I’ll definitely keep in contact.”
Bill

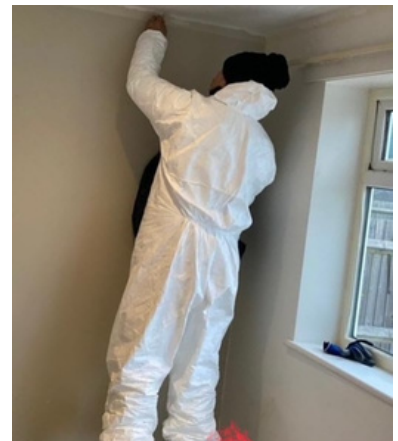
“When I moved in I was welcomed by all of the staff. I am always treated well and I enjoy the atmosphere within. Everything I have needed has been available with the help of the staff without any worries for myself.”
Tom

“YRP have been supporting me for over 7 years. I first came to them when I was sleeping in a tent and with their help I have moved through the accommodation stages and in December 2023 I moved into my own place after bidding through the Council Housing register. Whilst I settle into my new home Jayme my support worker continues to visit me to ensure I am okay.”
Clare

We Wanted To Say ‘Thank You!’



We want to say ‘Thank You to Dabbagh Welfare Trust,’ We couldn’t do it without donors like you – thank you for helping us make a positive impact.



Our direct access accommodation also had some much needed TLC with volunteers from BAM Nutall redecorating out three communal bathrooms in the early part of 2024. Balfour Beatty also chose us as a Charity to support and helped redecorate one of our move on properties in Woking. We had a visit from some of the lovely team at Philips UK and Ireland who raised money for us at Christmas. Thank you to all the volunteers and donators who help us continue our vital work here in Woking.