

HOMELESSNESS NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2024



CBH Outreach Team Receives High Commendation


Homeless Link's annual award scheme celebrates the best of the homelessness and supported housing sectors. The Innovative Housing category recognizes organizations that creatively increase access to suitable, affordable housing, which is critical for preventing and resolving homelessness, especially in the face of a chronic housing shortage.

This year, 149 entries were received across various categories, and 30 organizations were shortlisted, including the CBH Outreach Team. We are happy to share that the team has been Highly Commended in the Homeless Link Innovation in Housing Excellence Award!



Visit to Braintree Foyer

Recently, we had the chance to visit Braintree Foyer and learn more about the work they do. The facility offers supported housing for individuals aged 18-35 with low-level support needs, featuring 35 bed spaces. Each resident is assigned a key worker, and notably, most of the support workers have lived experience, with some having previously lived in the Foyer themselves. This unique perspective enhances the support they provide. The support goes beyond tenancy assistance, with programs shaped by client feedback, including training for aspiring support workers, an LGBTQ group, Braintree's first Pride event, and a neurodiversity group called NeuroSpice. The facility includes amenities like an on-site gym, music room, and a garden maintained by the tenants. Residents live in clusters of rooms with shared kitchen and bathroom facilities and can stay for up to two years, with flexibility as needed. For more information, please contact Mark Watson, the Braintree Foyer Manager, at Mark.Watson@saha.org.uk



For general enquiries, please contact the teams via the details below and we will respond to you within 5 working days.

Homelessness: housing.solutions@cbhomes.org.uk | Duty Line: 01206 580 290

Gateway To Homechoice: housing.evidence@cbhomes.org.uk | Duty Line: 01206 580 292

Temporary Accommodation: cbh.accommodationteam@cbhomes.org.uk | Duty Line: 01206 580 291

Duty to Refer: dutytorefer@colchester.gov.uk

Frontline Network Offers Training Fund

The Frontline Network is pleased to announce the availability of a Training Fund designed to support frontline workers and teams assisting people experiencing homelessness. For those who have identified a training course that will enhance their work but lack the necessary funding from their organization, this fund provides a valuable resource.

About the Training Fund

- **Individual Grants:** Workers can apply for up to £500 to cover the cost of training.
- **Group Grants:** Teams can apply for up to £1,500.

The Training Fund was established in 2019 in response to feedback from the annual survey, aiming to help frontline staff access essential training to better support their work with the homeless community.

Application Process

The Frontline Network aims to make the Training Fund as accessible as possible. Applicants can complete the process via a call with a team member if preferred. Interested individuals should contact the team to arrange this.

For further questions, contact the Frontline Network at frontline@stmartinscharity.org.uk.

This fund presents a great opportunity for frontline workers to enhance their skills and improve their support for those experiencing homelessness. Applications are encouraged.



Refugee, Asylum seeker & Migrant Action

Action is the antidote to despair

You can find us at our
new offices:

31 Eld Lane
Colchester
CO1 1LS

01206-638454

rama@rama.org.uk



Just round the corner from Boots, next to Timpsons ...



CONTACT
US



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If you would like to find out more about the work that the Rough Sleeper Team does, arrange a visit, or shadow the Outreach Team, please contact our Manager, Andrew Grimwade:
andrew.grimwade@cbhomes.org.uk

GATEWAY TO HOMECHOICE

From May 2024 to July 2024 the total number of applications on the Gateway to Homechoice register by band and bed need were as follows:

May 2024 to July 2024

By banding and bedroom need

Banding	Bedroom need						Grand Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A	14	52	13	2			81
B	130	49	349	104	5		637
C	470	130	69	9	1		679
D	114	63	39	7	1		224
E	344	386	102	9	1	1	843
F	1						1
Grand Total	1073	680	572	131	8	1	2465

The number of lets per property size for May 2024 to July 2024 were:

By number of bedrooms

Number of bedrooms	Number of lettings
1 Bed	64
2 Bed	55
3 Bed	24
4 Bed	1
Studio	4
Grand Total	148

Applicants can use the Average Waiting Time function in the Property Search section of the Gateway To Homechoice Website, [HERE](https://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk/PropertySearch). This can be edited to an applicant's specific property requirements. Anybody can access this, and you do not need a Gateway to Homechoice account.



You can find out more about the Gateway To Homechoice and Average Waiting Times by visiting the link below:

<https://www.gatewaytohomechoice.org.uk/PropertySearch>

HOUSING SOLUTIONS

The Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA) became law on the 3 April 2018. It changes how we help people who are – or may become – homeless within the next 56 days. We will work with you where possible to prevent you from becoming homeless, and to reduce the need for temporary or emergency housing.

The type and level of help depends upon your personal situation, but we'll always provide you with advice and assistance wherever possible.

You can complete a 10-minute online assessment (Enhanced Housing Options Wizard) which will provide advice and guidance tailored to your current situation. It will give you the next steps that you should take to address your current situation and if you are homeless or threatened with homelessness in 56 days and are unable to help yourself you will be able to self-book an appointment with a Housing Solutions Officer at a date and time to suit your needs.

If you do not have access to a smart phone/computer and/or the internet you can contact the Housing Solutions Team on 01206 580290 Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm, who will provide you with advice and assistance on how to book an appointment. In the Colchester area we have asked all our partners to automatically refer their customers to us if they meet the criteria and assist them where needed to complete the EHO.

If you are unable to complete the online assessment and are already engaged with services, you may be able to complete this with the assistance of your support worker. Some public bodies will also have a

duty to notify the Council if they are aware that you are threatened with homelessness within 56 days or are currently homeless.

If you have not got a support worker, you can telephone our customer service centre on 01206 282569 to find out where you can find support to enable you to complete this form and any enquires about accessing the housing solutions service.

You can email the Housing Solutions Team at:
housing.solutions@cbhomes.org.uk

More information on additional help and eligibility for help can be found on the website:
<https://cbhomes.org.uk/find-a-home/homelessness/>

And further information, advice and assistance for hospital leavers, prison leavers, care leavers, veteran support, victims of domestic abuse, mental health support and substance misuse and more can be found on the website here:
<https://cbhomes.org.uk/find-a-home/homelessness/advice-and-assistance/>



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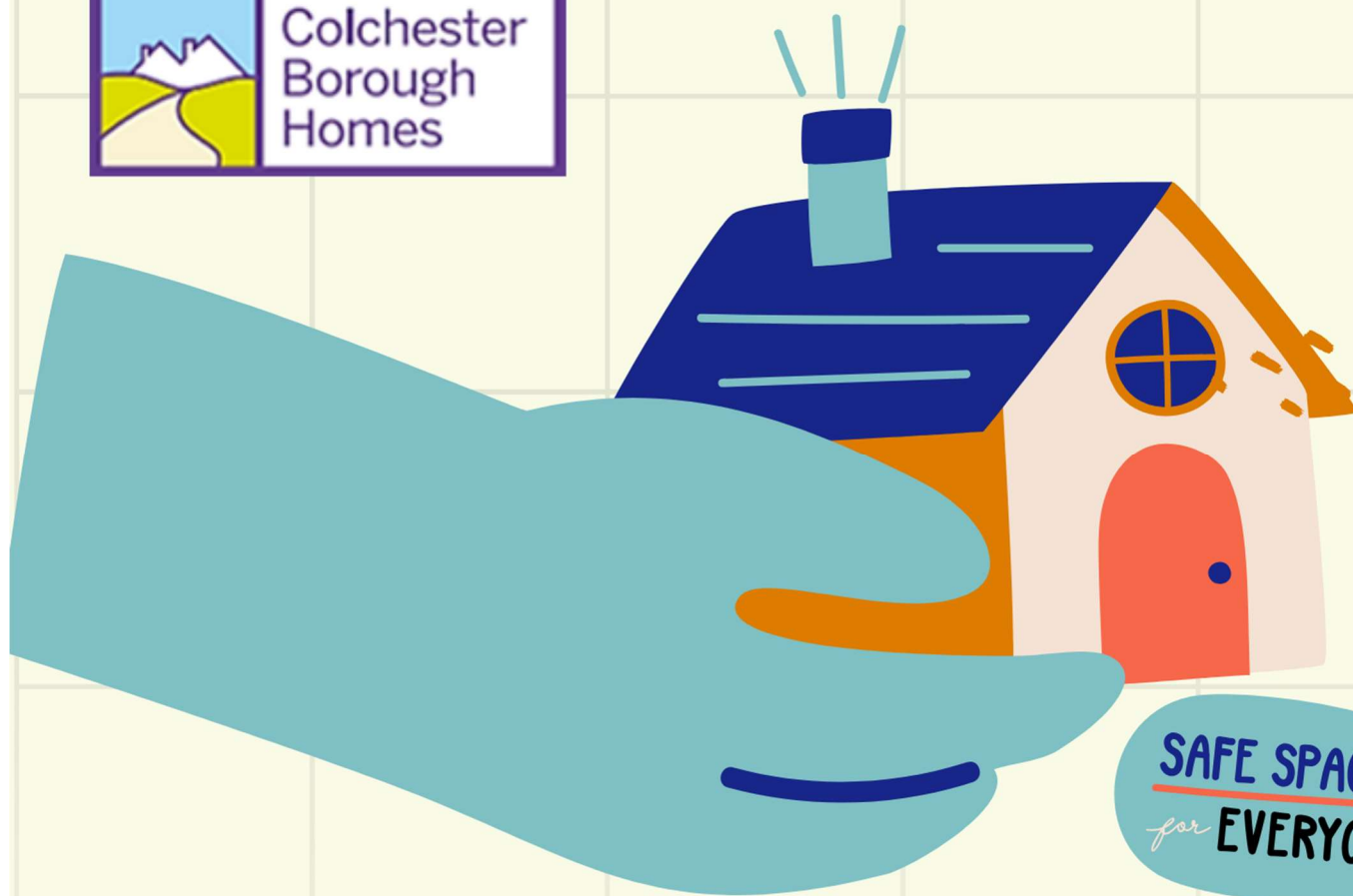
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SAFE SPACES
for **EVERYONE**

ROUGH SLEEPER SERVICE REVIEW 2024

If you have experienced unstable housing, please take a moment to complete the survey.



CBH Cake Sale Supports Women's Aid 50th Anniversary

In July, Women's Aid celebrated their 50th anniversary, and CBH marked this milestone by hosting a cake sale to raise funds for the charity. A dedicated group of DA Champions and staff members baked enthusiastically, raising £267. According to Refuge, domestic abuse is alarmingly common in the UK, profoundly affecting survivors' mental health, physical wellbeing, and family safety. Statistics reveal that the police receive a domestic abuse-related call every 30 seconds, yet only about 24% of such crimes are reported. Additionally, 1 in 4 women in England and Wales will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime, highlighting the pervasive and isolating nature of this issue.



COUNSELLING AVAILABILITY REMINDER

The LIFE-FORCE Counselling Centre are currently offering a low-cost Counselling Service for people who could benefit from therapeutic counselling with one of their mature student counsellors on placement.

If you think this service may be of use to your clients or would like more information, please contact the LIFE-FORCE Counselling Centre on T: 01206 791 661 or email: info@lifecycle-centre.co.uk

Alternatively, more information can be found online at: www.lifecycle-centre.co.uk



**LIFE-FORCE
Therapeutic
Counselling Service**
Established Since 1994

Low-Cost Counselling
£9.50 per session

For adults aged 18 years & above
with trainee counsellors

Are you struggling with daily life?
Do you feel talking in confidence could help you?
Could you benefit from professional, emotional support?

- ★ Anxiety
- ★ Depression
- ★ Stress
- ★ Anger
- ★ Divorce
- ★ Relationships
- ★ Abuse
- ★ Loss
- ★ Trauma

- You can refer yourself to LIFE-FORCE by completing our [online Counselling Enquiry Form](#)
- Or you can leave a message on the number below
- You can usually get an appointment within a week, at a convenient time.

www.lifecycle-centre.co.uk
Telephone: LIFE-FORCE 01206 791661
Confidential Out-of-Hours Answerphone Service

LIFE-FORCE 3 East Hill, Colchester, CO1 2QL
e-mail info@lifecycle-centre.co.uk

OUTREACH TEAM UPDATE

Train the Trainer Workshop with Your Own Place

We are thrilled to share that the Colchester Outreach team recently attended “Train the Trainer” workshop led by Your Own Place, a social enterprise dedicated to preventing homelessness. Their mission is to ensure everyone has a safe and secure home, and they have built a stellar reputation for empowering individuals in housing associations, supported housing, and the third sector to become confident and empathetic trainers.

Workshop Highlights

Your Own Place’s workshops provide comprehensive knowledge on money management, housing, and tenancy, along with practical training skills and engagement techniques. These sessions inspire participants to support tenants and residents more effectively.

Feedback from Participants

Emily Goodbody from CBH Outreach Team reflected on the interactive nature of the training:

“This training is all about participation and getting involved. There were lots of group discussions and opportunities to share our thoughts. It’s very visual, which is great for promoting solution-focused practices and sparking conversations on how to enhance our work ethic. The ‘Train the Trainer’ workshop invites you to reevaluate your values, focusing on what is important for you, your team, and your organization. We identified that our core values are Asset-based, Restorative, Choice, Kindness, and Self-care. Upholding these values helps us feel that we are doing our best for our clients, team, friends, and families. I would 100% recommend these sessions. They offer valuable insights and practical skills that enhance our ability to provide kindness, support, choice, and asset-based solutions to our clients.”

M-C from The Feed highlighted the practical tools and techniques learned:

“Workshop one introduced the impact of a values-led approach on engaging people who might struggle to trust us. We explored asset-based and restorative approaches, along with tools to start conversations and present information effectively. Workshop two focused on different engagement techniques tailored to various learning styles and overcoming barriers to learning. We learned how to adapt our delivery for neurodivergent individuals using methods like PinPoint facilitation, which involves colour coding, visual organization, and dual coding.”

The “Train the Trainer” workshop by Your Own Place has equipped our team with valuable skills and insights to better support our community. We highly recommend these sessions to anyone looking to enhance their training capabilities and make a meaningful impact.

If you have the chance to participate in these workshops, seize the opportunity—it’s an invaluable experience that fosters personal growth and improves professional practice.



If you are concerned about a rough sleeper, please don't walk by. Contact StreetLink:



Send an alert via
www.streetlink.org.uk

New Initiative with Open Roads Community SOS Bus: PHAB

An exciting new initiative, the Public Health Accelerator Bid (PHAB), is being promoted in collaboration with the Open Roads Community SOS Bus. This project has received additional funding to operate the bus in North Essex during the day, supporting local providers in meeting various needs that people struggle to access.

The bus can be utilized by providers at no additional cost, allowing them to deliver essential services directly to the community. The primary goal is to address health inequalities and support individuals who face barriers in accessing healthcare in their local areas.

A program of activities will be available on the bus, and these will be advertised on social media. However, the initiative aims to ensure that the diverse needs of the community are met.

Organizations interested in getting involved or having projects that could benefit from the bus's presence in the community are encouraged to get in touch for further discussion.

For more information, please contact Stacey Banner at stacey.banner@openroad.org.uk.



Meet and Greet: TP Properties event

The Outreach Team recently hosted a successful Meet and Greet event, providing professionals an opportunity to learn more about TP Properties and their work. Since its inception in 2018, TP Property Investment Ltd has rapidly become a leading provider of accommodation for professionals and vulnerable individuals in our area. Currently managing over 170 rooms, with more on the way, TP Properties offers furnished rooms with all bills included. They collaborate closely with councils and support services to provide housing for professionals, vulnerable individuals, and asylum seekers.

The event attracted professionals from across the sector and featured valuable networking opportunities. This event is the first in a series aimed at fostering connections and sharing insights among local professionals.

For more information or to discuss your organization or project at future events, please email Gintare.petrauskaite@cbhomes.org.uk



If you would like to find out more about the work that the Rough Sleeper Team does, arrange a visit, or shadow the Outreach Team, please contact our Manager, Andrew Grimwade: andrew.grimwade@cbhomes.org.uk

A CALL TO ACTION ON WORLD HOMELESS DAY

As the world marks World Homeless Day on October 10th, it's imperative to shed light on the growing homelessness crisis in the UK. Despite efforts by various charities and organizations, the situation is worsening, with a significant rise in core homelessness projected for the immediate future.

According to Crisis charity's baseline forecasts, core homelessness is set to increase significantly in the coming years. By 2024, overall core homelessness is expected to be one fifth higher than 2020 levels. The drivers behind this increase are manifold. Inflation is squeezing real incomes, leading to increasing poverty and destitution. Additionally, rising private rents and evictions, along with declining social rented lettings, contribute to this alarming trend.

The latest figures from Crisis highlight the severity of the situation. An estimated 3,898 people were counted as sleeping rough across England on a single night in autumn 2023. This represents a staggering increase of more than a quarter compared to the 3,069 people counted in 2022 and is more than double the 1,768 people recorded in 2010.

The majority of those sleeping rough in England are male, aged over 26, and from the UK. According to the Office for National Statistics, men living on the streets outnumber women at a ratio of six to one. Furthermore, the number of households living in temporary accommodation in England has reached an all-time high. As of the end of 2023, 112,660 households were living in temporary accommodation, including 146,800 children.

Public awareness of homelessness as a serious problem in the UK is growing, according to a poll carried out in January 2023 by Ipsos Mori and the Centre for Homelessness Impact. Of the 2,152 UK adults surveyed, three-quarters said they expected the issue to worsen in the country over the next 12 months.

However, there are misconceptions surrounding homelessness. While many believe that those experiencing homelessness are predominantly affected by alcohol or drug dependency, the reality is different. Even among rough sleepers, this is not the case.

Moreover, there remains a stigma around homelessness. A recent poll by the homelessness charity House of St Barnabas found that 70% of Brits don't consider unsuitable accommodation a form of homelessness, despite lacking a secure place to live fitting the definition of statutory homelessness. Less than half of those surveyed considered sofa-surfing or staying with relatives or friends as homelessness. Shockingly, 82% admitted they wouldn't know what to do if they found out someone, they knew was homeless.

As we mark World Homeless Day, it's crucial to acknowledge the growing crisis of homelessness in the UK. It's not just a matter of statistics; behind every number is a human story. The time has come for concerted action to tackle this issue and ensure that everyone has a place to call home. If you know someone who is sleeping rough, please raise an alert via StreetLink. For more information, visit: <https://thestreetlink.org.uk/start>





USEFUL CONTACTS & INFORMATION



Homelessness

Duty Line: 01206 580 290

Gateway To Homechoice

Duty Line: 01206 580 292

Temp Accommodation

Duty Line: 01206 580 291



Write To Us

1st Floor Rowan House

33 Sheepen Road

Colchester

Essex

CO3 3WG



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Temp Accommodation: cbh.accommodationteam@cbhomes.org.uk

Duty to Refer: dutytorefer@colchester.gov.uk



Alternatively, you can speak to us in person at our Housing Office in Greenstead.

It is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00am – 4:00pm.

If you wish to meet us outside of these times, you will need to call us to make an appointment.

The Greenstead Housing Office is located next to the Community Centre at:
Hawthorn Avenue. Greenstead, Colchester, CO4 3QE

If you are concerned about a rough sleeper, please don't walk by. Contact StreetLink:



Send an alert via
www.streetlink.org.uk



Or download the free
app for Apple and
Android devices

Thanks for reading, see you next time!