



Help us make a difference!

Our Sleep Easy events are opportunities for individuals and members of local organisations to help us raise both awareness of homelessness and vital funds to support our work. To do this, participants get sponsored to spend a night in cardboard shelters alongside other fundraisers.

Since YMCA Sleep Easy events began in 2010, over £1 million has been raised across the UK.

If you would like to take part or arrange your own event, please email fundraising@ymcabournemouth.org.uk.

Do you need immediate help?

In Bournemouth, if you are homeless or in danger of becoming so, please contact the **Council Housing Options Team** at the Town Hall BH2 6EB, 9-4.30 Mon to Fri (-4 Fridays). Outside of these times please call 01202 451467.

If you are concerned about a rough sleeper you can notify your local authority via Streetlink.org.uk (0300 500 0914). Please call 999 in emergencies.

Or you can contact the **Council Rough Sleeper Team** on 01202 315962 (A/Phone: please leave as much detail as possible) or via b&pstreetoutreach@mungos.org

For additional local information and details of charity support, please visit www.streetsupport.net/bournemouth



YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

Mhairi's Story

Mhairi left her family home as a teenager to move in with her boyfriend. When the relationship broke down she ended up street homeless in Bournemouth. We've provided her with a safe place to stay and supported her as she works towards improving her situation.



“

YMCA... staff and residents make you feel so welcome... I just feel safe. I am going to be starting college this year and am doing a course in social care. I want to improve my life for myself and my son [and to] help people like me. If I hadn't moved into YMCA I honestly have no idea where I would be.

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For more information about our Housing and Support services, or to volunteer, donate or support us by taking part in a fundraising event, please get in touch.

YMCA Bournemouth

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Reg. Charity No 1078728

YMCA BOURNEMOUTH

Bournemouth/Poole/Christchurch

We believe that everyone should have a safe place to stay

Last year we kept 200 people safe from homelessness

HOUSING AND SUPPORT



In 2017, we helped 106 residents move on from supported housing to independent living

About YMCA

Founded in 1848, YMCA is the oldest and largest youth charity in the world. Each local YMCA works across five key areas – Accommodation, Family Work, Health & Wellbeing, Training and Education, and Support and Advice – with the aim of enabling people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit.

In the area of accommodation, YMCA is the largest provider of safe, supported housing for young people across England and Wales.

Homelessness: a national crisis; a local issue

In Autumn 2017, official figures counted 4751 rough sleepers across England, up 15% on 2016 and over 269% higher than in 2010.

In Bournemouth, the number of people bedding down on our streets was counted at 48, up 23% on 2016 and over 300% higher than in 2010.

These figures only give an indication of the enormous challenge we face. There are tens of thousands of people across the UK who do not have a secure place to live. According to official statistics (Gov.uk/dclg), the number of households in temporary accommodation on 30 June 2017 was 78,180, up 7% on a year earlier and up 63% on the number recorded in 2010.

As the crisis develops and the affordability and availability of housing continues to decline, the need for our services grows and becomes more urgent.

Our approach

Homelessness is a complex issue. People find themselves homeless for a variety of reasons and the help they need to improve their situation is specific to each individual. There is no quick fix.



YMCA Bournemouth's strategy to help the individuals concerned and combat local homelessness is to provide people with individually based support solutions that aim to keep them safe from homelessness over the long-term.

Last year, our highly motivated staff helped 106 residents 'move-on' from supported housing to independent living.

Accommodation

We offer short-term supported housing for men and women between the ages of 18 and 65. Across four projects, we provide 108 beds including 67 hostel rooms, 22 flats, seven shared flats (14 beds) and a five-bedroomed house. Each project has a different level of support to match the needs of its residents.

All applications are considered individually. Our 48 local authority-funded hostel beds (which require the applicant to have a local connection), are accessible via a referral from the Supporting People (SP) Hub at Bournemouth Town Hall. The other 19 hostel beds and 41 move-on flats are applied for directly and have no requirements for a local connection.

In partnership with Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust, some of our beds are made available

to patients stepping down from acute psychiatric services. This provides a stable platform for recovery and also protects these particularly vulnerable individuals from potential homelessness.

Personal support and guidance

Our aim is to equip our residents with the skills and confidence they need to 'move on' to independent living and a positive long-term future. To this end we provide a range of free or subsidised support:

- Free gym membership and a sports hall for team games
- Monitored facilities to ensure safety and security
- 24/7 support on-site, including drug and alcohol support
- One-to-one sessions with a key worker
- Help to regain confidence and motivation
- Lifeskills e.g. money management and healthy eating
- Benefits and budgeting advice
- CV assistance and computer access for job searches
- Mediating between the resident and local authorities
- Counselling
- Full engagement with statutory services to empower and enable the client.
- Residents' lounge area
- Laundry facilities
- Restaurant (hostel only)
- Assistance in securing a long-term housing solution

To find out more please contact admissions@ymcabournemouth.org.uk or call 01202 290 451.

George's story

George went from being a qualified accountant to living on the street after being subjected to an abusive marriage. He felt he had no way out until his GP referred him to YMCA Bournemouth, where he was welcomed, given hot food and toiletries plus support with finance and welfare. His support worker knew he was suicidal so arranged meetings with the Community Mental Health Team and a domestic violence project.

A year later, George felt the depression lift, his confidence grew and we helped him into council accommodation. With renewed hope, he now helps others using his accountancy skills.