

The Crossings' news

SPRING 2025

What? The Crossings has been The Waterside Churches' response to homelessness in the area since 2019.

How? With willing volunteers and a part-time Project Leader operating drop-ins across the Waterside.

Why? To show compassion to those struggling with their housing situations in our communities.

Welcome to this, our first newsletter of the year. Looking back we were pleased to help over 80 people with 220 visits made to us in 2024. Each form filled, each accommodation we've helped secure are all 'wins' for those we help. This issue spotlights some of our own 'wins' that go on alongside our drop-in centre work. Be they in funding, in education, and in business we celebrate these positive results.

Stronger partnership with the NFDC

FUNDING: We are very pleased to announce we have successfully bid for a 2025/6 Community Grant from the NFDC and will receive £10,000. As we support one of the Council's main aims of reducing homelessness, we have been identified as one of their 'key partners' and as such will benefit from this level of funding for the next three years. This is great news and gives us a financial assurance we've never had before allowing us to

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focus even more on service delivery. Their grant award letter states how the NFDC *"appreciates the continuing contribution your organisation makes to the residents and communities of the New Forest and we are keen to collaborate with you to support and promote the work you do."*

DROP IN PRESENCE: Having a representative from the NFDC Homeless Team has been a positive feature on our Blackfield drop-in from early 2022. Since last Dec we've seen two exciting developments for our team and our visitors. Not only has the council doubled the frequency of their visits (now twice a month) but the whole team now attends on a rota basis. A stronger relationship which benefits all who visit us. Many thanks to their team.

School visit... In February, Helen from our management team was invited to attend New Forest School in



Dibden to address their year 8's assembly about homelessness. We love these connections as we get to dispel myths and give a clear understanding of the issues.

Following the visit Clare, their Head of Humanities, wrote to say: *"(Helen) visited us*

today and it was lovely to meet her. She was very informative and worked well with the young people."

If you know of a school or organisation who may like to learn about what we do, just let us know.

Till number 1 please...For over 4 years we have been supported by the members of Nationwide Building Society in Totton. Maybe you know the branch yourself? We say goodbye to the wonderful Julie who was our contact point there as she retires and hello to

Chris who takes up her role. Not only helping raise donations, Nationwide staff have helped open bank accounts for our visitors too. We're so grateful for this community link. Do get in touch if you know of a business who aligns with our vision and values.

We love building relationships to benefit all concerned.



Thank you to those who support us, financially, or practically.

We couldn't do it without you. If you'd like to volunteer or see how else you can help, just get in touch.



Help against homelessness