

Simon Community Scotland & Nightstop



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Combatting the causes and effects of homelessness

The Simon Community

- Homelessness
- Not for profit
- Direct services and impact
- 1966 Simon House
- 12 Supported Accommodation Services
- Information and Advice Centre
- Two community support teams
- Street Outreach
- 200 staff and volunteers, 10 Head Office
- Volunteering



Vision, Mission and Values

Our mission and vision

- We're working to combat the causes and effects of homelessness. Our vision is that everyone should have a safe place to live and access to the support they need.
- People at the heart
- Everything we do is about and for people: the people we support, our staff, our partners and everyone affected by homelessness.
- Our values are built into every area of activity and tell the story of how people remain at the heart of the Simon Community:



Why everyone should have a safe place to live

- Life expectancy if you're rough sleeping is 43 years, 47 if you're homeless.
- Half of all homeless people first become homeless before their 21st
- 13 times more likely to experience violence.
- 47 times more likely to be a victim of theft.
- 1 in 10 chance you'll have been sexually assaulted in the previous year.
- A&E 6 times as often, be admitted 4 times as often and stay 3 times as long
- 50/50 chance of having a long term mental illness and 15 times more likely to be diagnosed with schizophrenia.
- If you're rough sleeping you're 21 times more likely to commit suicide



What do we do?

- Leading provider of specialist women's residential services in Scotland.
- Emergency accommodation for people who are homeless
- Our street outreach team actively seeks out and engages rough sleepers
- Support people into accommodation and support them to keep their new home.
- We provide an advice and information centre within the city.
- We work with Housing Associations to help people keep the home they have.
- Long term supported accommodation for vulnerable people
- Engage directly with in the region of 2500 per year



Who are the homeless?

- <36000 applications last year
- 45% are single male, 37% single female
- 16% women single parents, 5% men single parents
- 5% couples with children.
- Over half are under 30
- Tank commander, merchant banker, painter and decorator, student, mother, girlfriend, son and daughter. People.



How do you become homeless?

- Relationship breakdown
- Drug and alcohol addictions
- Significant mental health issues
- Domestic abuse
- Trauma
- Debt
- Sexual exploitation
- Having no one to turn to



What next?

- **Simon House**
- **Alternatives for young people – Nightstop**
- **Shared tenancies**
- **Volunteers**
- **The too easy to ignore**
- **Support to keep your home**
- **Filling up the spaces**



RSVP Nightstop

Nightstop provides emergency accommodation to young people from the age of 16 to 25 through a network of volunteer hosts that provide safe, welcoming overnight accommodation for up to 3 nights in their own homes.



Nightstop

- Accredited by DePaul UK
- First established in Leeds in 1987
- Over 40 Nightstop Services across the UK
- Over 11,000 nights last year
- Rough Sleepers and Vulnerable People
- Partnership



Why Nightstop?

- Half of all homeless people first become homeless before their 21st
- Once you've crossed the Rubicon there's no going back.
- Homeless services create exposure and their own risks
- Genuine care and compassion
- Sometimes there is simply no accommodation available
- It's cost effective. It's safe. It's familiar.
- A real opportunity for volunteers to make a difference



What Nightstop does

- Provide safe secure accommodation for young people aged 16 to 25 in the homes of volunteer hosts
- Take referrals only from organisations who understand and accept the Nightstop referral criteria
- Interview, obtain references PVG check and train all volunteers
- Have a 24 hour on-call system in place to support volunteers
- Refer the young person on to an organisation that will help with longer term accommodation options



What Nightstop doesn't do

- Provide long term accommodation
- Accept referrals for young people who at the time of referral are under the influence of alcohol, drugs or solvents; displaying violent behaviour; known to have committed serious violent or sexual crimes; have a physical or mental health problem which is uncontrolled
- Provide a counselling service or enter into confidential relationships with young people
- Provide an address for young people



Young People and Hosts

Young People

- 16 to 25 year olds
- All have been risk assessed and found to be suitable to transport and place in a volunteers home
- No recorded incidents of violence against a host since the first Nightstop service began

Hosts

- Out of pocket expenses
- Training
- 24 hour support
- Part of a national network of Nightstops
- Lots of opportunities to get involved!



Nightstop Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5OmsFeEc38&feature=youtu.be>



What's next?

- Agreed approach within partnership
- Recruit hosts
- We hope to go live in August
- Interested in being a host?
- Visit our website at www.simonscotland.org
- Call us on 0141 418 6980
- Follow us on Facebook at Simon Community Scotland



Thank you



Nightstop!

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