

# SMART!

“Helping people to help themselves”

# NEWS BULLETIN

Charity Registration No. 1069087

Issue 4: July/August 2020

## Rewards for the SMART CJS Team



staff treats

# Welcome

## Why the SMART News Bulletin?

We have so many truly wonderful supporters, staff, volunteers, fundraisers, donors and people who make things happen and help to keep all the plates spinning. This lets you know what's going on and what your money, donations and volunteer support has gone towards. You pick the location you are MOST interested in (see panel RIGHT) and keep in touch!

## This edition is focused on achievements in July and August 2020.

Here's an update on what has been achieved by staff, supporters, volunteers and donors— it's amazing and awe-inspiring!

**Why Staff Treats?** Our people are a truly valued resource and it's a way of recognising the amazing contribution made to all our services and to the people helped by them. Alongside this, we also have an employee assistance programme which provides counselling, well-being and GP appointments.

This report has been compiled by Anita McCallum CEO, SMART CJS.

For any comments, questions or feedback – please email: [director@smartcjs.org.uk](mailto:director@smartcjs.org.uk) For other information visit [www.smartcjs.org.uk](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk)

SMART CJS's services continue to be influenced by the current pandemic and keeping everyone safe.

Thank you, as ever, for your work, donations and support - from all of us and from those who benefit from this kindness.

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# Bedford & Milton Keynes: Hotels for homeless convert into a longer term solution

The good news is that Local Authorities are working hard right now to develop solutions for the longer term to support the homeless and rough sleeping community. It's the beginning of the end of homelessness...

As readers will know, hotel accommodation for all homeless has been provided throughout COVID-19, but this is now being rethought, with Milton Keynes Council moving people into more sustainable accommodation in the community with SMART CJS's help during August.

In Bedford we are still using the hotel as a base for support for homeless and rough sleepers until a sustainable solution is found.

We are proud to be operating Somewhere Safe to Stay hubs and hostels, co-ordinating the multi-agency approach to homelessness in Bedford & Milton Keynes. Working closely with partner agencies such as probation, Milton Keynes hospital, Bedford Hospital and Milton Keynes Council and Bedford Borough Council.

The numbers of people who will have been unable to pay rent – as their income dropped or their jobs were lost – is not known exactly, but is believed to be significant. And so there may well be demand for emergency support and housing from this group as evictions proceed.

Big Issue founder, **Lord Goddard of Stockport** (pictured) spoke in the House of Lords in July and asked the Government to protect renters during Covid-19.



Goddard reminded of the importance of a “multi-agency approach” to tackling homelessness for good, one that “needs time and resources to get this right for people with complex needs” to prevent a return to the streets.

# Milton Keynes



**Milton Keynes Service Manager, Louise Ritchie**  
[Louise.Ritchie@smartcjs.org](mailto:Louise.Ritchie@smartcjs.org)

## **Welcome - New Starters**

With the rapid change during August from supporting homeless and rough sleepers in hotels; we have now re-opened a building in Bletchley for use as a hostel.

Joining the Somewhere Safe to Stay Hostel are:

- Jason Emms, Darrell Chapman, Lynsey Rush, Rosie Valentine & Jenny Martin

And Halette Johnson has moved from SStSH worker to Outreach Case Worker. Congratulations!

## **Congrats on Making a Smooth Move**

Lisa Harrison, Area Manager Homelessness and Fundraised Services, says: "A special thank you to the MK team for the hard work moving everyone out of the Travelodge. It was a hectic two weeks leading up to that time and everyone worked really hard to make it happen."

# SMART Wokingham

SMART Wokingham's Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service is seeking volunteers.

- This is a chance to use existing skills and learn new ones whilst working with our energetic multi-disciplinary team.
- Those interested will need a strong desire to work with people up to the age 18, supporting them to explore their substance use.
- Are you ready to do something positive to help the community?
- Do you have the skills we need to reach more young people in Wokingham?

Find out more <https://smartcjs.org.uk/exciting-volunteering-opportunity-in-wokingham/>

Over 75% say that volunteering improves their mental health and well-being 😊 DO IT!

**Want to help young people  
make positive choices?**



**SMART!** Wokingham

We are looking for a **VOLUNTEER** to become part of SMART Wokingham's Young Person's Drug and Alcohol Service.

This is a fantastic opportunity to help under 18's make informed choices and stay safe.

Wokingham Service Manager, Vikki Lake [vikki.lake@smartcjs.org.uk](mailto:vikki.lake@smartcjs.org.uk)

# SMART Wokingham

## The Service Manager at SMART Wokingham writes:

Special recognition goes to **Rachael Kerrigan, Young Persons Recovery Facilitator** for her outstanding work on improving and developing all aspects of the Young Persons Service during the Summer.

Rachael has not only demonstrated excellent innovation through her ideas around how to improve the service, but worked collaboratively to bring these ideas to life.

In the last few months Rachael has facilitated the design of a new Young Persons web page for Wokingham, created and implemented an online substance use diary.

This enables young people to log their daily use and has overhauled the pathways and support packages available to them. All this with a view to better helping them achieve their goals.

**Meet Rachael Kerrigan, SMART's dedicated young person's worker.**

Rachael can help with anything to do with substance use and young people.



Rachael is a highly valued member of the Wokingham team and it is a pleasure to work alongside someone with so much commitment and enthusiasm.

Well done, Rachael!

You can see some of the revamped web content on the SMART's Young Person's pages here:

<https://smartcjs.org.uk/wokingham-young-person-drug-alcohol-help/>



Wokingham Service Manager, Vikki Lake [vikki.lake@smartcjs.org.uk](mailto:vikki.lake@smartcjs.org.uk)

# Oxford – Howard House

**Safe Hugs At Howard House** - We are delighted that visiting got back to near normal in July and a shower curtain with plastic arms was deployed to make hugging possible with one resident and their child (pictured). This kind of care and thoughtfulness from the team makes all the difference when someone with addiction issues is making the commitment to a 12-week programme of abstinence and support.

**Fab New Furnishings for Residents** - The team and residents at Howard House are extremely grateful for the donated furniture and furnishings for inside and out! It has really made the dining room, lounge and outdoor sitting area much more comfortable for all.

Thank you to staff, community partners and volunteers who gave their time and energy in achieving this transformation!



**Howard House Service Manager, Niki Rowlands**  
niki.rowlands@smartcjs.org.uk

**SMART!** Howard House

**PLEASE HELP US TO REACH  
MORE PEOPLE BY INVITING  
YOUR FRIENDS TO LIKE &  
FOLLOW OUR PAGE**

Mostly funded 10 bed residential drug & alcohol detoxification service for residents of Oxfordshire

<https://www.facebook.com/SMARTHowardHouse>



# SMART CJS needs you!

## Trustee Recruitment 2020

- Fancy giving something back to the community during COVID-19 & beyond?
- Want to be a part of making our homeless and rough sleeper provision stick?
- And ensure that people get professional support with substance misuse?
-  Ever thought about being a Trustee for SMART CJS to make beneficial changes to your community? 

### For more information about:

- **SMART** – [www.smartcjs.org.uk](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk)
- **Volunteering** – [www.smartcjs.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer)
- **Fundraising** – [www.smartcjs.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise](http://www.smartcjs.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise)
- **Donating to SMART**

<https://smartcjs.charitycheckout.co.uk/cf/covid-19-appeal>

It's been challenging times for us all - but especially if you have no home and need support through difficult times. And particularly if you have addiction problems with no-one to turn to.

SMART CJS is looking for committed, caring and curious Trustees to serve on our Board. They provide oversight, checks & balances and a perspective which ensures that we are running the charity in the best way possible. And that we are here in the community, first and foremost, for the benefit of those who need us, right now.

Interested? Please email:  [director@smartcjs.org.uk](mailto:director@smartcjs.org.uk)  for an information pack.