

Community First New Forest  
newforest  
nightstop\*

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the only emergency  
accommodation  
for homeless young  
people age 16-24  
in the New Forest

[www.newforestnightstop.org.uk](http://www.newforestnightstop.org.uk) Winter 2011

New Forest Nightstop provides emergency overnight accommodation for homeless 16 - 24 year olds in the homes of trained and approved households around the New Forest

October - December 2011

- 28 referrals / 9 stayed
- 44 bed nights taken

### Housing Outcomes

- 4 were housed in supported lodgings schemes
- 2 Bed & Breakfast
- 1 awaiting accommodation
- 2 found friends

### Those that didn't stay

- 7 unsuitable
- 7 didn't reappear
- 1 went to friends
- 1 too old
- 3 offered Nightstop-didn't arrive

## Homeless crisis as 400 youths a day face life on the streets of Britain

A new homeless crisis threatens Britain's "lost - generation" of young people with 400 more EVERY DAY facing life on the streets. A major study revealed by the Sunday Mirror found 13,000 youngsters went to local authorities in October to declare themselves homeless or seek advice on how to cope.

The survey of more than 500 charities and councils around the country found support workers can barely cope with the huge rise in homeless youngsters and one in five councils admitted they may not be meeting their legal obligations for looking after the most vulnerable 16 and 17 year-olds.

Teenagers in large families are being asked to move out because of swingeing benefit cuts and the soaring living costs in austerity Britain.

The grim findings are expected to be backed up in the latest Government figures - already showing a 15 per cent rise in youth homelessness.

November figures show that youth unemployment was at 1.02m - up from 991,000 in October.

Perhaps you have become used to hearing this in the news and it's something that happens elsewhere? Fact is, right now, in the New Forest, Nightstop is seeing this taking place on our doorsteps. Since November we have seen a 50% rise with 20 cases referred against the same period last year.

Sadly, some of these cases are not suitable for our service, run through volunteers' homes and with no priority for housing assistance, the only other option is to send them to city shelters. However, even they are now stretched beyond their means and cannot help those from out of area.

With the crisis only increasing, no other service within the forest and our funding ending in 2012, we need support to keep helping our own local youth.

## Nightstop launches new, dedicated website

New Forest Nightstop has just completed construction of its own, dedicated website through funding made available by the Big Lottery.

It's fantastic to have launched this website. We want to make the service accessible in every way possible to young people, volunteers and our local communities.

There is lots of information about what we do and how to access our service but also plenty of up-to-date news, events and activities. You can also take a look at some of the thank you letters and stories written by young people who have stayed in Nightstop.

We hope to inspire people to join in with our cause, get involved with our events and receive a valuable experience of helping their local youth one way or another.

Perhaps you have some time to give for admin support, maybe you have a talent for organisation and want to help with our 10 year anniversary events in 2012 or could offer some consultancy guidance with seeking corporate support?

**We are currently in great need of hosts to support the demand and ensure availability of a bed when the young people are in need.**



The young homeless of the UK would fill the Olympic stadium; figures have risen to 80,000 young homeless a year in the UK



## George's Story

George came into Nightstop after living in a tent, deep in the bushes near a wealthy New Forest Hotel and had managed to survive undetected for the last month. He has exhausted any help or concern from his family and was unable to maintain his employment. Having slept rough and hidden for several weeks, he broke the window to his Nan's shop to get some food but this simply left him being attended to by YOT.

He had been through the divorce of his parents, violence from a family member, moved from one parent to another until ending up living with his Nan. Sadly, this had taken a toll and he had dropped out of college and started trying cannabis. He ran out of friends to sofa surf with and ended up living in a mouldy tent.

Hungry, exhausted and now with the start of a criminal record, he entered Nightstop. Once fed, sheltered and cared for, he shared some of his story. He was an extremely well spoken, well mannered young man who had been educated in a boarding school and had one goal, to enter Sandhurst Royal Military Academy and train to be a British Officer. These are his words, his story...

'When I was made homeless I felt as though I had run out of options and had nowhere else to turn. When I was told about Nightstop I felt relieved and happy that I had somewhere to stay. When I arrived at my hosts, I felt happy and relaxed as well as comfortable and secure. I was treated extremely well, with kindness and caring. Nightstop helped by giving me somewhere to sleep and hot meals.

My time with Nightstop has been good. It was a time for reflection in a pleasant environment. It has helped me resolve some important issues. If Nightstop hadn't been there for me I would still be in a tent with no clean clothes, no heating, no food and no one to talk to.

I have now been found a supported lodgings placement. I have been to see Connexions in the Jobcentre and they will notify me of any jobs. I plan to return to college next year to pass my A levels and then go to Sandhurst.

I think Nightstop is necessary in helping some people to take the next step in rebuilding their lives and resolving past problems'.

Nightstop is the last stop before the streets but with our Big Lottery funding running out in March 2012, Nightstop needs to secure a future.

If you can help in any way, whether through funding or fundraising, volunteering, promoting the service or you have skills and talents you want to invest please contact us by phone on 01425 478391 or email [nightstop@cnfn.org.uk](mailto:nightstop@cnfn.org.uk)

## Community Profile

- There are currently 5466 applicants registered on the Homesearch housing waiting list. Unfortunately due to the exceptionally high demand for a very limited number of available properties in the district, the wait on the register is now usually between 2 to 8 years. This situation is especially acute for all types of accommodation in the Fordingbridge, Ringwood, Lymington, Totton and Hythe areas, but, while still difficult, it is perhaps less acute in the South Waterside, (Blackfield, Fawley and Calshot) areas and for flats in the Pennington or New Milton areas.
- The Council was required to do an estimate of rough sleeping for a typical night in November. The chosen date of 2nd of November was agreed with other local authorities in Hampshire to achieve a single estimate for the county. NFDC needs to ascertain the likely numbers sleeping rough in the New Forest on that night and would like to make sure that any reports of rough sleeping in the first week of November are brought to their attention.
- Visit [facebook.com/newforesthomesearch](https://www.facebook.com/newforesthomesearch) for news & info

## Community Action

- Nightstop has been contacted by a Photography Degree student, Maria Nugent who would like to take the unnoticed reality of homelessness in the New Forest as the subject for her final degree assignment; her project concept - well known New Forest places containing a bed... the bed, representing real case studies, will convey the cause of homelessness to our Nightstop young people.
- We recently received a call from a local fitness instructor. Having been regularly passing a homeless person whilst commuting, she felt moved to make a difference here locally. She has offered to run a sponsored, fitness event in the New Year to raise funds for our local, homeless youth.
- We received a call from Ringwood Rotary Club on the 13th of December to say they have chosen to go out on the rainy, cold streets for 4 days over the week before Christmas and collect donations for Nightstop! The kindness and generosity of people is wonderful.
- A Bournemouth University Events Management student has enquired about volunteering opportunities with Nightstop

## 10K Marine Commando Run - where there's muck, there's brass



Penny Jepson, Head of Business at Deacon Insurance completed a 10km Marine Commando Challenge to raise funds for New Forest's Nightstop raising just over £2000.

Over 2000 people turned up to complete the challenging 10km course through obstacles of muddy pools, dark tunnels, 'sheep dip', running in streams, rolling in mud and a 4km run home. The team were dressed in black with pink shining capes and black masks which raised a smile from the other runners.

Penny says, "We took on this challenge for Nightstop because we need to raise as much awareness and support for the charity as possible so they can continue to run the service. Nightstop gives young people hope and saves them from living on the streets and the horrors that go alongside that. Nightstop is essential to those that are young, homeless and vulnerable. People's generosity in donations definitely inspired me to keep going and maybe next time it will be Mt Kilimanjaro!"

## Home from El Salvador - and a conditional offer received as Torchbearer!



Katie, our Olympic Torchbearer nominee has returned from 9 weeks volunteering in El Salvador. Katie managed a team of volunteers working in the Los Pozos community. Not long after her arrival, El Salvador was facing one of the biggest disasters in its history and left damage in its wake and families homeless and without food and clean water. Katie got stuck in with activities in the communities, building a local church, playing all sorts of games with young people, climbing the highest mountain in El Salvador and even digging toilet holes.

Katie called from Heathrow, having only just landed back in the UK, to share the fantastic news of a conditional offer from the 2012 Olympic Torchbearer committee. She has been selected out of tens of thousands of exceptional nominations. We think Katie is truly exceptional and we all keep our fingers crossed as the final and conclusive decision is released in March 2012. The nomination was submitted by Tom Clowes, from Deacon Insurance, our corporate supporters.

## Young people compete in Ringwood School Lion's Den - and win £450!



Alex, Ed & Jo took part in the Ringwood School Lion's Den facing a panel of the Mayor of Ringwood, the President of Ringwood and Fordingbridge Lions Club and a member of Chernobyl Childrens Charity and came in at 1st place with a significant award of £450.

Alex Wadlow, a student at the school had the idea to enter Nightstop, as he is part of a Nightstop host family. Alex said 'I had had preconceptions of these young people before we started hosting. I thought they would come in and steal my stuff but I was so wrong. They are simply everyday, young people, just like me.' Joined by fellow student, Ed Tindall, Ed said 'I had met one of the Nightstop young people at Alex's house but it wasn't until weeks later I found out they had been homeless. I had absolutely no idea; they were so normal and friendly'.

The third member of the group was Jo Leigh, a young person who had previously stayed with Nightstop. Jo wanted to get involved and share her story with other young people across the New Forest and say what a difference Nightstop had made to her.

## Online shopping - raise funds for Nightstop from the comfort of your home



New Forest Nightstop has teamed up with [ethictrade.com](http://ethictrade.com) and [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) to enable people to raise money while they shop! With the new online shopping options people can now raise money for homeless young people in the New Forest at no cost to themselves and avoid long queues in the high street shops at the same time.

Our [newforestnightstop.ethictrade.com](http://newforestnightstop.ethictrade.com) shop gives you the option of buying some beautiful gifts online and the charity will receive 20% of all pre-VAT purchases. Nightstop are encouraging people to have a look at their website and see all the great things available this Christmas.

For even more shopping options visit [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nfnightstop](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/nfnightstop) and raise money through online purchases with many well known companies including, Amazon, Argos, Asda, B&Q, Comet, Debenhams, eBay, Halfords, John Lewis, Marks and Spencer, PC World,

## Updates & News

- NatWest Community Force Voting - Thank you for all your votes. We finished in 6th place but that's a really amazing achievement out of 57 projects! It's down to all of you and spreading the word about, to people, who now know a bit more about Nightstop and our work and from experience, one can't underestimate the value of that and how it may unfold in the future
- Nightstop was one of the featured charities in the Ringwood Waitrose branch during October. Deacon Insurance submitted applications to different stores on behalf of Nightstop and Nightstop gratefully received a sum of £365 from Ringwood Waitrose!
- Recent donations gratefully received are £87 from Ringwood School students, £2023.75 from Penny's Commando Run, £450 from Ringwood School Lion's Den and £100 from Nightstop volunteers. £99.38 from Beaulieu Sponsored Walk, Deacon Halloween Fun Day raised £356.50 and Deacon 5K Charity run raised £622.
- Deacon Insurance also sponsored the ARMA (Association of Residential Management Agents) Annual Dinner on 4th October in London. They sold raffle tickets before the meal & raised £480 for New Forest Nightstop.
- Nightstop volunteers will be getting together for a bring & share social evening in January. It will be great to relax, laugh and spend sometime together..plus have a Nightstop quiz!!
- David Eley, a Nightstop Support Volunteer will be giving a Christmas presentation about Nightstop to St Saviour's Church in Brockenhurst on 18th of December where they will also be taking a Christmas collection for Nightstop.
- Nightstop has just sent in an application for StreetSmart funding. At participating restaurants, with the benefit of a tablecard, a voluntary £1 is added to the table bill at the end of the meal during the months of November and December.

## BBC3 - Britain's Hidden Homeless



Nightstop has been speaking with BBC3 during November. They are looking to film a 1 hour documentary on ' Britain's Hidden Homeless', following young people who are currently suffering some form of homelessness and documenting how this impacts on their lives, employment prospects, relationships etc.

Several of the homeless referred to Nightstop recently have said they would like to be involved. The filming will begin the week before Christmas and following them over a couple of months. The young people will also get a small video camera to record video diaries.

## Support or Donate ?



Scan the QR code to direct you straight to our all new, brand new Nightstop website... join our mailing list to ensure you receive our latest newsletters



Feel inspired to run your own fundraising activities? Link them to our Virgin Money Giving page to donate to Nightstop via the QR code



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## Support and contact

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## Community First New Forest



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