



2010/11

31 young people

204 bednights

Spring 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

Nightstop sees record numbers in full-time education

Nightstop has been receiving an all time high run of referrals for students in full-time education. The misconception of homeless young people being NEETs (Not in Employment, Education or Training) is being challenged with hard facts. National homeless charity 'CentrePoint' has stated that there are 75,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 18 homeless in England and 61% of the 16-17 year olds that are homeless who contacted them want to remain in full-time education.

But what about locally, within the affluence of the New Forest National Park? Many agencies refer young people to us, including places of education. However, never before have we seen such a singular and consistent run of referrals originating from the New Forest colleges. Since January, 11 of 13 in Nightstop were in full-time education or training.

This reinforces the national figures and emphasises the tragic truth that any young person, from any background, can become homeless; caused by factors that are out of their control such as family breakdown, fleeing violence and abuse and more than ever now the strains in homes resulting from financial pressures. These young people want to work, they want to train and study, they are planning for their futures but out of the blue, hit by a curve ball: homelessness.

Nightstop is the last stop before the streets. There is no other service in the forest. Yet being a charity that has run for 8 years and provided over 1500 bednights, with Big Lottery funding running out in 2012, we need to secure a future for the service and these vulnerable and unwanted young people.

Jan - March 2011

- 16 referrals / 13 stayed
- 85 Bednights

Outcomes

- 3 returned home
- 6 accommodated
- 1 found friend
- 2 awaiting accommodation
- 1 went to foster family

Volunteer Update

We currently have 10 host homes, 8 drivers and 4 support volunteers. Induction training for 5 volunteers took place in January and we welcome to the team Ray & Catriona, new hosts in Ringwood. Several volunteers also received Child Protection training in February, here, at CFNF. A trainer for further young peoples topics is being sourced.

The idea of 'Open Roles' has had a positive response, with volunteers offering to give Nightstop presentations and promotion. We will be holding a Volunteers' Action Group, offering opportunity for volunteers to get involved with all sorts of activities and ideas, as so often, when a young person isn't with a host, things can feel very quiet.

There are many ways to be involved perhaps you are able to offer time, fundraising talent, volunteer liaison, marketing, events support and so on? We can discuss ideas at our first Action Group meeting! (See over for details)

Nightstop Ambassadors

With such a positive response to volunteers becoming more involved in Nightstop outside of the 3 core roles, we are developing a Nightstop Ambassador Pack containing a Nightstop PowerPoint, Nightstop Film, information and notes cards, Nightstop literature & local community group contacts.



A homeless person is 13 times more likely to be a victim of violence and 11 times more at risk of mental health problems



Miles went to live in Stonham Supported Lodgings, within a family home getting the support, mentoring and encouragement he needed to move towards adult independence. Through all his weeks of homelessness he has been able to continue his studies at college, helping him towards his future goals.

Miles' Story

When I became homeless I felt upset, **depressed**, hungry, fed up, **worthless and suicidal**. I was exhausted. I didn't know where to go. When I was told about Nightstop I felt happy but I wasn't sure if I would be accepted as I did have a home to go to but **my home felt unsafe** but Nightstop helped me. I wasn't worried about anything with Nightstop at all as I knew it would be supported, welcoming and friendly.

When I was first in Nightstop it felt weird walking into a stranger's home but when they said hello and took all my belongings for me, I immediately thought and felt as though **my strain on things had been lifted** and a few days in, my thoughts of loss, depression and paranoia all passed. The hosts started finding me things to do, then **I was fed, happy** that I was **safe and being looked after**.

The people were very respectful and pulled out all the stops to make sure I was safe. Things then started moving along with my housing needs and Jude was very kind to me, always keeping me informed of what to do next. It definitely gave me the **breathing space I needed** to progress.

I have been able to **continue my college** course by having Nightstop to stay with. My stay with Nightstop has allowed me to get the ball rolling in reference to longer term accommodation and if Nightstop had the necessary means to help more people then it would be much stronger, **I feel as a young person that we need Nightstop**.

Looking back, I would sum it up by saying it was **relaxing and peaceful**. Nightstop is a **worthwhile charity**, in my opinion it should have more funding as to accommodate more people. **Without Nightstop the world would be an unhappier place** as we young people need Nightstop. Please keep it running. Thank you.

You all got me through tough s**t. thanks guys, girls, sons and daughters. **I don't know where I would be right now without Nightstop**. Thank you so so much Ray, Catriona, Alex, Callum, Jude, Millie, Dave and Christine. **I hope and pray it works out for you all**.

Miles

VOLUNTEERS' ACTION GROUP MEETING

7 pm on TUESDAY 10th MAY

LYNDHURST COMMUNITY CENTRE

Information

- Depaul Nightstop UK will be doing New Forest Nightstop's Quality Audit in May to ensure that services are being delivered according to the Depaul Nightstop UK Quality Standards and also to help identify the good work carried out by Nightstop services and to share that across the whole Nightstop network.
- Listen to Nightstop on BBC Radio Solent and Forest FM. Simply visit cfnf.org.uk/Nightstop plus read our latest press releases.
- Donations of £605 have been gratefully received from Cllr Jan Hawker Christmas Appeal, Lymington St John Ambulance and Nightstop volunteers who returned their expenses via Gift Aid. Gift Aid forms are available on request.
- Nightstop is currently filming a promotional DVD for its service users, volunteer recruitment and prospective funders! Funding supplied by the Big Lottery Fund.
- Nightstop has a 'crisis furniture' account with Dorset Reclaim in Bournemouth. Funding supplied by the Big Lottery Fund.
- Agency referral training is booked for 4 Citizens' Advice Bureaux across the New Forest in the next 2 months



22 of the 28 Nightstop volunteers enjoyed a well deserved thank you dinner at the Sway Manor Hotel, organised by Jim Tebby, Nightstop Support Volunteer. This service is underpinned by the volunteering activities of local people and we are keen to show our appreciation of their dedication and commitment to such a valued service. Funding supplied by the Big Lottery Fund.

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