

What's a bed worth to you?

Summer 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 at the New Forest Show

We recently announced the support of Deacon Insurance from Bournemouth as part of a national initiative by the group to support homeless charities. With Deacon's support, we attended the New Forest Show.

Nightstop and Deacon staff manned the Nightstop stand with the dual objectives of raising the charity's profile and fundraising. The theme of the Nightstop stand was 'What's a bed worth?' £20 buys a bed, 3 meals, bath and laundry but also protection from rape, violence and drug addiction as well as giving a listening ear, hope, a sense of belonging and protecting a young persons employability and education.

The stand was created as a bedroom and members of the public were invited to consider what their own beds meant to them and writing their thoughts on the bed sheets. It was a powerful medium that collected

comments such as 'safety and warmth', 'it's lucky to be loved' and 'a bed is priceless, it helps me feel refreshed for the day ahead'. Sadly, our local homeless young people don't have this luxury.

Walls were lined with stark facts about the realities of homelessness and its existence on our doorstep, here, in the New Forest. The newly created Nightstop short film was shown with young people who have been helped by Nightstop sharing their personal experiences of homelessness and the impact Nightstop made for them.

Deacon also gave a BBC Radio Solent interview and secured regular donations. It is so encouraging to have the commitment of Deacon to try and secure a future for New Forest Nightstop as our funding ends in March 2012.

Jude

Nightstop Film

New Forest Nightstop has completed its film about homelessness within the New Forest aided by funds from the Big Lottery.

People think of the New Forest as an affluent, beautiful, peaceful National Park but we want to show that amongst this homelessness exists and is set to rise even more as financial pressures increase in family homes. As one agency stated 'The forest is saturated with homelessness and there is no where to put them' and yet another agency said 'I don't know what we would do without Nightstop'.

The film conveys that these kids are just like any other and their homelessness is mainly forced on them through family breakdowns,

fleeing violence and abuse. This can happen in any family home. They are not street hardened rough sleepers; Nightstop aims to catch them before they get that far and without Nightstop, they are extremely vulnerable.

Nightstop Ambassadors

The team of Nightstop Ambassadors are now equipped and available to go into our local communities and share the realities of homelessness and the work of Nightstop. They will also have the use of the new film.

If you are a local group who would like to hear more about Nightstop and its work, please contact us and we can arrange a visit.

April - July 2011

- 21 referrals / 8 stayed
- 63 Bednights

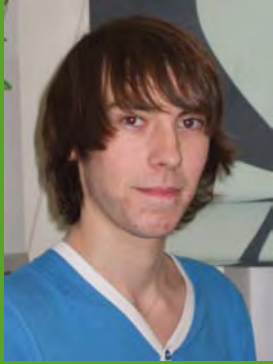
Outcomes

- 1 returned home
- 1 went to foster family
- 4 found friends while awaiting accommodation
- 2 were housed in supported lodgings schemes



75,000 young people will be homeless in the UK this year.

1/3 will get so low they attempt suicide.



Aaron was cared for and supported by Nightstop helping him to continue his full time college course whilst being homeless. Aaron chose the offer of foster care as the best support for him and moved in with a foster family within 6 days of fleeing home and becoming homeless.

Aaron is one of the 3 young people sharing their story in the new Nightstop film

Aarons' Story

When I found myself homeless I was **very scared** about where I was going to go and how my family would react and if they would find me but when I was told about Nightstop I felt **relieved**. I knew there was somewhere I could go that would be safe away from my family.

I found Nightstop **extremely helpful**. I felt safe and **relaxed all the time** while I was with my host. When I got to my host, they were very **welcoming**. They showed me around the house and made me feel very **comfortable**, I will miss being here. My host has made me feel relaxed and supported me emotionally. Staying in a host's home was very good. I could do my own thing when I wanted to or be part of the family whenever I wanted. The only drawback was when my host wasn't at home; I couldn't go in the house. But my host has been very **supportive** both emotionally and having me to stay.

I would say to another homeless young person if you are homeless, **Nightstop can help**. You will be **scared at first**; you will probably feel like you are on your own but **YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN**.

Looking back at my time in Nightstop I felt many emotions from joy and happiness to sadness and depression. At times I just wanted to cry but my host always made me feel happy, safe and secure. My host was **amazing** and I felt like I could talk with her - Aaron

JustTextGiving™

by **vodafone**

If you want to help homeless young people in the New Forest text

ABED41 to 70070

to give 1,2,3,4, 5 or £10

or visit Community First New Forest at



Information



Nightstop has entered its film into the short film category of the New Forest Film Festival held from 10 - 18 September.

- New Forest Nightstop has set up JustTextGiving and Virgin Money Giving accounts. Would you consider giving £20 for a night's accommodation or regularly donating? For £1 a month, you could support the work of Nightstop...Cheap as chocolate!
- Nightstop welcomes Mick Uffindel as the new support worker. Mick will be creating a dedicated website for New Forest Nightstop.
- Barbon Insurance Group Limited, parent company of Deacon, one of the UK's largest blocks of flats insurance specialists has donated a welcome cheque of £4,000.
- Other donations gratefully received are from Ringwood School students SPUD day, RMDS summer production proceeds and £100 from Nightstop volunteers.
- Deacon has entered a young person from Nightstop as an Olympic Torch Bearer for 2012. Look out for her story here...



Deacon Insurance staff (left to right) Penny Jepson, Head of Business, Samantha Cahill, Personal Assistant and Gemma Lindley, Claims Negotiator.

Events by Deacon underway in the near future are a sponsored bike ride, office block sponsored car washes & a sponsored sleep out.



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